



*Permanent Representation  
of Turkey  
to the Council of Europe*

Strasbourg, 08 January 2016

Dear Director,

In response to the alerts submitted by the European Federation of Journalists, the International Federation of Journalists and the Index on Censorship, I am transmitting at annex the responses of the Turkish Government concerning these two submissions.

Yours sincerely,

Erdoğan İşcan  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

Encl.:

- List of alerts
- Information Notes (2)

**Mr. Matjaž Gruden**  
**Director**  
**Directorate of Policy Planning**  
**The Council of Europe**

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**List of Submissions**

- On 12 November 2015 under the title of “Journalist Beyza Kural Briefly Detained and Threatened with Violence by Police While Covering Protest”,
- On 12 October 2015 under the title of “‘Today's Zaman' Journalist Bülent Keneş Arrested”.

**12 Oct 2015 - Form Concerning “Today’s Zaman journalist Bülent Keneş Arrested”  
submitted by EFJ/IFJ**

An investigation has been launched against Bülent Keneş on charge of defaming the President of the Republic of Turkey by way of persistently posting tweets which exceeded the limits of criticism and insulting the honour and dignity of the person. On 8 October 2015, he was put under conditional bail measures as his detention was deemed unnecessary at that point.

However, the suspect continued posting defamatory tweets against the President of the Republic of Turkey and issued a press release including threatening statements. On 10 October 2015, taking into account the intensity of criminal intent and recurrence of the act, the court deemed that conditional bail measures were insufficient and decided to detain him on remand.

It should be noted that the reason for his detention was neither the news he made nor his criticism.

Having regard to the nature of the offense, the suspect was released on 14 October 2015 and put again under conditional bail on remand.