



***Permanent Representation  
of Turkey  
to the Council of Europe***

Strasbourg, 11 January 2016

Dear Director,

In response to the alert submitted by the European Federation of Journalists and the International Federation of Journalists, I am transmitting at annex the response of the Turkish Government.

Yours sincerely,

Sibel Erkan  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

Encl.:

- Information Note

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

**05 Oct 2015 - Note on the submission “Cumhuriyet journalist Canan Coşkun faces 23 years in prison for alleged insult” by EFJ/IFJ**

Canan Coşkun, a reporter at *Cumhuriyet*, a daily newspaper, published a news article titled “*Judge cannot afford this money – Sale of housing discussed by judicial authorities*” in the front page of the newspaper on 20 February 2015. It is claimed that the housings in the Başakşehir neighbourhood built by the Emlak Konut GYO A.Ş. were sold at lower prices to the members of the Platform of Unity in Jurisdiction, an unofficial association established by judges and public prosecutors. It was further claimed that such discounts were made in relation to the investigations conducted by the members of the Platform. The concerned judges and prosecutors filed a criminal complaint against Canan Coşkun on the grounds of libel. The complainants indicated that 750 dwellings, out of 1236 units built in the project, designated for the judges and public prosecutors, which were determined by lot and that no privilege was bestowed on anyone on account of their duties or of the investigations conducted.

Following the investigation, a criminal case was initiated against Canan Coşkun, on the grounds of insulting public officials in relation to the performance of their public duties. The hearing was held on 12 November 2015. The matter in question was submitted to the independent judicial authorities and is being investigated in detail. Proceedings are still continuing.

Meanwhile, the authorities of Emlak Konut GYO A. Ş. sent a reply letter to Cumhuriyet daily, stating that 750 housings out of 1236 were sold to judges and public prosecutors upon the request of the Ministry of Justice for meeting the housing needs of the said personnel. It was also noted that the sale transaction in question was made in accordance with the relevant legislation.