



OPEN LETTER

Mr Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of Republic of Turkiye (contact@tccb.gov.tr)

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Mr Ali Yerlikaya, Ministry of Interior (via bakanyrd.bturan@icisleri.gov.tr)

6 November 2023

Your Excellency,

Re: Hearing of Turkish Medical Association on 10 November 2023

We are writing to you on behalf of the [World Medical Association](#) (WMA) and the [Standing Committee of European Doctors](#) (CPME), representing together millions of physicians in Europe and across the world with the shared professional commitment to medical ethics, human rights and peace.

We have already drawn your attention to the proceedings under way against the Turkish Medical Association (TMA) that aims to dismiss the eleven members of its Executive Council from their elective functions on charge of terrorist propaganda. The next hearing is scheduled on the 10th of November.

TMA has been a trustworthy member of our organizations for many years, recognized for its commitment to serve public health interests, to protect patients and physicians with great respect of the ethical values of the profession. Charging our Turkish colleagues with conducting activities promoting the use of violence is incongruous and unfounded. We witness the integrity and loyalty of TMA and its representatives and consider that these allegations are an insult to the entire medical profession.

Rather than continuing threats, we strongly recommend considering TMA as an independent and constructive partner in addressing public health priorities for the benefit of the Turkish population. The delivery of healthcare by physicians is governed by ethical rules, professional norms as well as national and international law. A self-governing medical profession is vital for optimal healthcare delivery and the greatest impact on public health.

We therefore urge the Turkish authorities to take the required measures so that all charges against the Turkish Medical Association and its members are immediately dropped and to safeguard its autonomy as an indispensable overarching medical body fulfilling a crucial role not only for the medical profession, but for patients, the healthcare system and the population as a whole.

Your sincerely,

Dr. Lujain Al-Qodmani
WMA President

Dr Christiaan Keijzer
CPME President