



Mr. Recep Akdağ
Minister of Health
Republic of Turkey

Via email: eposta@saglik.gov.tr

File Reference: RP/CR/CDT
Contact Name: rights@world-psi.org

12 August 2016

Dear Minister,

Arrests and dismissal of public service workers

I am writing on behalf of Public Services International (PSI), the international trade union federation representing public sector workers in 153 countries, including Turkey, and its more than 20 million affiliates around the world.

Following the failed coup attempt of 15 and 16 July, the Turkish authorities have been looking for those directly and indirectly involved to hold them accountable. PSI is an organisation that embraces democratic values and the rule of law, thus, we firmly believe that those responsible must face justice through fair trials and impartial tribunals.

However, we are witnessing thousands of public service employees being dismissed for their alleged participation or involvement in the coup. Some of them have been detained and arrested without justification. The list is long, but it includes many workers from PSI-affiliated Trade Union of Employees in Public Health and Social Services (SES), who were employed in the Ministry of Health and other public hospitals.

We are concerned about these latest developments in Turkey. When public service employees and other workers are suspected of wrongdoing they should have recourse to a fair trial and access to a defence attorney. Currently this appears not to be the case, based on how these dismissals were decided and carried out.

Accordingly, we ask respectfully for your intervention and the review of these dismissals, to make sure that sanctions against workers are implemented after due process and within a framework of respect of labour and human rights. The credibility of the Turkish government is at stake.

Sincerely,

Rosa Pavanelli
General Secretary