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File Reference: RP/SV/chm

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23 January 2014

Prime Minister,

### **TURKEY: Trials against trade unionists**

We are writing to you on behalf of Public Services International (PSI) to once again strongly denounce the Turkish government's anti-union attacks as well as the continued abuse of the Turkish legal and judicial system by the authorities, in particular against the Public Sector Workers Union KESK, a PSI affiliate.

In January, PSI/EPSU has joined the international trade union delegations attending the court hearings of cases targeting members of KESK.

On January 13<sup>th</sup>, the first hearing of the case of 502 persons, including the President and general Secretary of KESK, was held in Ankara. They are accused of causing damage to public properties and using inappropriate violence during a strike and demonstration on 28-29 March 2012 in Ankara. This demonstration attended by thousands of public employees aimed at protesting against the law N° 4688 on Public Employees Trade Unions and a draft amendment to the Law on Education.

On January 23-24, the first hearing of a lawsuit against KESK members and leaders will be held in Istanbul. They were arrested during a police raid carried out on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013 in the whole country. More than 150 persons were arrested on that same day, and 47 of them were kept in prisons pending trials, including 27 in Istanbul.

Turkey has been a long-standing member of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). PSI would like to remind you that your government is violating the ILO Convention 87 on freedom of association and Convention 98 on collective bargaining, both ratified by your country.

PSI calls your government to immediately release all trade union members arrested under unproven connections to illegal organisations, to lift all bans on meetings and demonstrations, and also calls Turkey to abide its international obligations to secure human and trade union rights in the country.

PSI expresses solidarity with the Turkish trade unions and will support them in their struggle.

Yours sincerely,

Rosa PAVANELLI  
PSI General Secretary