

Your Excellency
Mr. Yılmaz TUNÇ,
Minister of Justice,

Adalet Bakanlığı 06659 KIZILAY / ANKARA-TURKIYE

Vienna, 28th May 2024

Honorable Minister Tunç,

On behalf of the Vereinigung der österreichischen Richterinnen und Richter (RIV), the Austrian Judges Association, I would like to address the matter of Mr. Murat Arslan, the esteemed president of the Turkish Association of Judges and Prosecutors (YARSAV). Our association is deeply committed to safeguarding democracy, upholding the rule of law, and ensuring the independence of the judiciary, principles that we hold dear and that form the bedrock of a just and equitable society.

Mr. Arslan, a distinguished recipient of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize in 2017, has been subjected to a 10-year prison sentence due to his dedication to an independent judiciary and human rights. We would like to bring the recent developments regarding his conditional release to your attention.

It has been brought to our attention that despite meeting all legal prerequisites for conditional release, Mr. Arslan's right to a conditional release has been denied by the Committee. A troubling trend where certain prison committees are wielding their discretionary powers arbitrarily, rejecting applications for conditional release without valid justification, seems to have taken place. Every individual's request for conditional release should be subject to fair, transparent, and impartial evaluation, in accordance with established legal criteria and human rights principles.

We respectfully urge Your Excellency to intervene in this matter and ensure that Mr. Arslan is afforded a fair interview and decision regarding his conditional release. It is imperative that these decisions are made in a manner consistent with the rule of law and respect for human rights, free from any form of bias or discrimination.

Respectfully submitted for your attention and consideration,



Dr. Gernoth Kanduth
President of the Austrian Association of Judges

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