

**Your Excellency Mr. Yılmaz TUNÇ,
Minister of Justice**

Adalet Bakanlığı 06659 KIZILAY / ANKARA-TURKIYE

Budapest/Hungary - 23.05.2024

Honorable Minister Tunç,

I am writing with the utmost respect on behalf of the Hungarian Association of Judges (MABIE) on a matter of grave concern regarding 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 are the foundation of a just and fair society.

Mr Arslan, who was awarded the 2017 Vaclav Havel Prize for Human Rights, was sentenced to 10 years in prison. He endured nearly eight years of imprisonment. We would like a heavy heart to draw your attention the recent developments regarding his conditional release.

Despite the fact that Mr Arslan meets all the legal requirements for conditional release, the committee rejected his application for parole. His next hearing is scheduled for July next year, prolonging his difficult situation.

On 26 April 2024 at a conference of the European Association of Judges in Warsaw we were informed that some prison committees were arbitrarily exercising their discretion and rejecting applications for conditional release without giving detailed reasons. We believe it is important that each individual's request for conditional release is assessed in a fair, transparent and impartial manner, in accordance with relevant legal criteria and human rights principles.

We respectfully request Your Excellency to take action as soon as possible to ensure that Mr Arslan receives a fair hearing and a well-founded decision on his next conditional release. It is essential that these decisions are taken in accordance with the rule of law and respect for human rights, without bias or discrimination.

We appreciate your attention and prompt action on this matter.

Yours sincerely:

Dr Katalin Boros

President of the Hungarian Association of Judges

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