

President

John Hendy QC
Lawyer, UK

Vice Presidents

Kurshid Ahmed
General Secretary, All Pakistan
Workers Confederation

Professor Jan Buelens
Advocaat, Progress Lawyers'
Network, Belgium

Dr. Anita Chan
Academic, Australia

Dr. Ericson Crivelli
Advogado, Crivelli Advogados
Associados, Brazil

Professor Keith Ewing
Academic lawyer, UK

Fathi El-Fadl
Director, Trade Union Rights
Centre (independent NGO), Sudan

Esther Lynch
Confederal Secretary,
European Trade Union
Confederation

Lornts Nagelhus,
Advokat, LO Norway

Yoshikazu Odagawa,
Secretary General,
Zenroren, Japan

Jeffrey Sack QC
Lawyer, Canada

Jitendra Sharma
Senior Advocate,
Supreme Court of India

Jeff Sissons,
General Counsel,
New Zealand Council
of Trade Unions

Surya Tjandra,
Lawyer and Director of the
Trade Union Rights Centre,
Indonesia

Ozlem Yildirim,
Policy Officer,
International Department
CGT France

Director

Daniel Blackburn, MA,
barrister

Researcher

Ciaran Cross, LL.M.



International Centre for Trade Union Rights

Centro Internacional para los Derechos Sindicales
Centre International pour les Droits Syndicaux

Address: 177 Abbeville Road, London SW4 9RL , UK
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7498 4700
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7498 0611
E-mail: ictur@ictur.org
Web: www.ictur.org

ICTUR was founded to
defend and extend trade union rights and
to raise awareness of these rights and their violations
around the world

By e-mail:

ozelkalem@basbakanlik.gov.tr
receptayyip.erdogan@basbakanlik.gov.tr
contact@tccb.gov.tr
cumhurbaskanligi@tccb.gov.tr,
By fax: (+90 312) 422 10 00

Attn:

**President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan,
Cumhurbaşkanlığı Külliyesi 06560
Beştepe-Ankara, Türkiye**

**Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım
Çankaya Mah. Ziaur Rahman
Cad. Çankaya / Ankara, Türkiye**

CC:

TÜMTİS
TÜRK-İŞ

April 2017

Dear President Erdoğan, Prime Minister Yıldırım,

The International Centre for Trade Union Rights is gravely concerned about the continuing repression of trade unionists in Turkey.

ICTUR understands that criminal sentences against fourteen officials of Turkish union TÜMTİS' Ankara branch were upheld in March 2017 by the appeal court. The fourteen are Nurettin Kılıçdoğan (Branch President), Hüseyin Babayigit, Süleyman Demirtaş, Serdal Cenikli, Cihan Türe, Atilla Yılmaz, Selahattin Demir, İhsan Sezer, Metin Eroğlu, Candan Genç, Binali Güney, Halil Ketten, Satılmış Öztürk and Erkan Aydoğan. TÜMTİS firmly maintains that the charges, which date back to November 2007, were politically-motivated: seven branch officials were originally arrested in a night-time raid after TÜMTİS' undertook an organisation drive at the Horoz Kargo logistics company. They were originally sentenced in 2012 by Ankara 11th Criminal Court for 'founding an organisation for the purpose of committing crime, violating the right to peaceful work through coercion in order to obtain unfair pecuniary gain and obstructing enjoyment of union rights'. Their

sentences range from one to six years; these were upheld by the Penal Department No 16 of Supreme Court. It is further understood that the special assize court which originally sentenced them has since been abolished and the judges dismissed because of “being a member of a terrorist organisation”.

ICTUR urges the government to take steps to ensure that this case is properly reviewed and that the trade unionists concerned receive a fair hearing in accordance with Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), such as to respect the rule of law and ensure the fundamental freedoms of workers to join and form unions and to take action in defence of their interests. ICTUR recalls that trade union rights are protected under Convention 87 of the International Labour Organisation, under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and under the ECHR, all of which have been ratified by Turkey,

ICTUR will report this situation in the journal *International Union Rights*, which was established in 1993, and which enjoys a readership in more than 100 countries.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Blackburn', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel Blackburn, Director