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October 27, 1997

Minister of Justice
Oltan Sungurlu
Adlet Bakanligi
Cankaya, Ankara
Republic of Turkey

Dear Mr. Minister:

The American Bar Association (ABA), one of the largest volunteer organizations in the United States with over 391,000 members in the legal community, is deeply committed to the preservation of the rule of law throughout the world. These rule of law principles are encompassed in the most recent "Rule of Law Resolution" adopted by the ABA's House of Delegates in August 1997.

Pursuant to that resolution, the ABA is deeply concerned about the ongoing charges against Mr. Hasan Doğan. According to reports, Mr. Doğan was detained on May 6, 1997 after answering a summons to appear before the State Security Prosecutor in Malayta, Turkey. Also, he was held on suspicion of support for a proscribed terrorist organization, the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), a violation of Article 169 of the Turkish Penal Code. The charges against Mr. Doğan are allegedly based on the unsubstantiated testimony of a convicted prisoner who allegedly cooperated in order to obtain more favorable treatment from the government. Mr. Doğan was released after a court hearing.

The ABA has been informed that Mr. Doğan's case is still pending. Allegedly, the investigation of Mr. Doğan is directly related to the clients that he represents who have been critical of the government. Moreover, reports state that some Turkish lawyers have alleged that the Turkish authorities' tend to present evidence against them using informers whose testimony cannot be challenged.

If these allegations prove to be true, such harassment violates the rule of law in Turkey. The independence of lawyers, which includes the ability to represent their clients, is fundamental to maintaining the international norms of equal justice and due process.

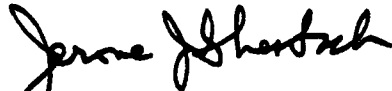
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The ABA further urges the Turkish Government to promptly investigate the aforementioned allegations, and if verified, bring those responsible to justice and drop all unwarranted charges against Mr. Doğan.

We are anxious to inform our more than 390,000 members of your action. Many of our members have legal business and other relationships with Turkey and are concerned with preservation of the rule of law. We look forward to your response.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Jerome J. Shestack

cc: The Honorable Madeleine Albright, U.S. Secretary of State
Mr. Francis Riccardone, Deputy Charge
His Excellency Nuzhet Kandemir, Ambassador of Turkey to the U.S.

Turkey Letter cc List

1. The Honorable Madeleine Albright, Secretary of Department of State
2. Mr. Francis Riccardone, Deputy Chargé of U.S. Embassy in Turkey
3. His Excellency Nuzhet Kandemir, Ambassador of Turkey to the U.S.
4. The Honorable John Shattuck, Assistant Secretary Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Department of State
5. Mr. Eric Schwartz, NSC Special Assistant to President & Senior Director, Democracy, Human Rights & Humanitarian Affairs
6. The Honorable Sam Brownback, Chairman, Subcommittee on Near Eastern & South Asian Affairs, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate
7. The Honorable Charles Robb, Ranking Minority Member, Subcommittee on Near Eastern & South Asian Affairs, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate
8. The Honorable Christopher H. Smith, Chairman, Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, Committee on International Relations, U.S. House
9. The Honorable Tom Lantos, Ranking Minority Member, Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, Committee on International Relations, U.S. House
10. Amnesty International
11. Lawyers Committee for Human Rights
12. Human Rights Watch
13. Gary A. Hengstler, Editor of ABA Journal
14. Office of the President (Alpha Brady, Ed Yohnka and Veronica Muñoz)
15. Virginia Russell, Director of International Liaison Office
16. Penny Wakefield, Director of Individual Rights & Responsibilities
17. Pat Hanrahan, Director of World Order Under Law
18. Director of International Law & Practice
19. Holly McMahon, Law and National Security
20. Muriel Morisey Spence, Chair of Individual Rights & Responsibilities Section
21. Jay M. Vogelsson, Chair of Standing Committee World Order Under Law
22. Tim Dickinson, Chair of International Law & Practice Section
23. Paul Schott Stevens, Chair of Law & National Security
24. Baxter Hunt, Desk Officer of Turkey, U.S. State Department
25. Rhonda McMillion, Information Services-Washington Letter
26. Diane Carr, Media Relations