
WMA, General Assembly, Reykjavik 2018

***Turkish Medical Association
Recent developments...***



Prof.Dr. Sinan ADIYAMAN

President

Turkish Medical Association

The lawsuits against TMA

After a press release titled “War is a Public Health Problem”,

- TMA Central Committee members had been detained for 8 days.
- The Ministry of Interior filed a criminal complaint against the leaders of the TMA.
- In addition, the Ministry of Health filed a lawsuit with the allegation that the TMA was “engaged in activities incompatible with its mandate” and asked for the removal of all CC members.

The lawsuits against TMA

Criminal lawsuit: We are still being on trial for:

- “Making propaganda in favour of a terrorist org.”
(*imprisonment from one to five years*)
- “Instigating hatred and enmity among people or insulting people” (*imprisonment from one year to three years*)

As for the lawsuit for removal of TMA CC members:

- The case was dropped since the date of the election for TMA CC was before the trial date. (*TMA CC members were re-elected with the support of 80% of the physicians*)
- So the court concluded that “*no decision is needed on the essence of the case since the Central Council whose removal from office is demanded has already ceased to exist upon completing its term.*”

• 3

Recent developments

- Besides those lawsuits,
- The governmental bodies have started a disciplinary procedure for
 - *removal of TMA Secretary General Dr. Bülent Nazim Yılmaz from his duty as a public servant*
 - *termination of family medicine contracts of two TMA Central Council members.*

I would like to thank to WMA for its press release, urging Turkish government to campaign against physicians

• 4

WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

WHAT WE DO POLICY PUBLICATIONS NEWS & PRESS WHO WE ARE JUNIOR DOCTORS

News & Press / Press Releases / Turkish president urged to end campaign against physicians

TURKISH PRESIDENT URGED TO END CAMPAIGN AGAINST PHYSICIANS

A call for the leaders of the Turkish Medical Association (TMA) to be reinstated following their dismissal by the Turkish Government has come from the World Medical Association.

This follows the removal of the TMA Secretary General Dr. Bülent Nazım Yılmaz from his duty as a public servant and the termination of family medicine contracts of TMA Council members.

WMA Secretary General Dr. Otmar Kloiber said: 'We urge the President of Turkey to intervene to stop these unwarranted attacks on leading members of the medical profession. In issuing its press statement earlier this year declaring that 'War is a Public Health Problem', the Turkish Medical Association was simply stating the self evident fact that war causes major health problems. This is in line with WMA policy and the belief that war should be avoided wherever possible because of its impact on health.

'We are appalled at the way leading members of the TMA have been treated over the past few months. The Turkish Medical Association has a proud record of upholding human rights and denouncing all violence and we call on President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to end the malicious state campaign of harassment against them'.

END

Recent developments

The latest issue:

- A criminal proceeding brought against 14 volunteer healthcare workers - including Dr. Halis Yerlikaya, a member of the TMA Central Committee- who, during 79 days of curfew in Cizre in January 2016, tried to reach dozens of civilians by an ambulance who were stuck in a basement and needing urgent healthcare.
- The government forces didn't allow the ambulance to reach the area.
- Those healthcare workers, including physicians and nurses, are prosecuted for being members of a terrorist organization and engaged in propaganda for that organization.

Recent developments

WMA reacted immediately, and sent letters to Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice and to the Court, calling them to support the healthcare workers who were trying to exercise their professional duty.

THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
L'ASSOCIATION MEDICALE MONDIALE, INC.
ASOCIACION MEDICA MUNDIAL, INC.



Dr. Fahrettin Koca
Minister of Health
T.C. Sağlık Bakanlığı
Bilkent Yerleşkesi, Üniversiteler mah. Dumlupınar Bulvarı
6001. Cad. No:9
Cankaya/Ankara 06800
Turkey
disabgm@saqlik.gov.tr

20 September 2018

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you on behalf of the World Medical Association (WMA), the global federation of National Medical Associations representing millions of physicians worldwide. Acting on behalf of patients and physicians, the WMA endeavours to achieve the highest possible standards of medical care, ethics, education and health-related human rights for all people. As such, the WMA plays a key role in promoting good practice, medical ethics and medical accountability internationally. The Association supports doctors at risk worldwide.

We have been informed of a criminal proceeding brought against 14 volunteer healthcare workers - including Dr. Halis Yerlikaya, a member of the Executive Committee of the Turkish Medical Association - who, during 79 days of curfew in Cizre in January 2016, tried to provide care to patients in need of urgent health interventions. According to our sources, those healthcare workers, including physicians and nurses, are prosecuted for being members of a terrorist organization and engaged in propaganda for that organization.

Penalizing those merely providing health care to injured people in a context of civil unrest on the ground of terrorism propaganda is an aberration and mostly a flagrant infringement of medical ethics and human rights standards. Not only the healthcare workers were prevented by security forces from pursuing their professional duties in safe conditions, they have even been sanctioned for such attempts, while injured civilians were left without care. Some, including children, died without medical intervention.

This is therefore a matter of grave concerns to us. We deplore any practices threatening the safety of physicians and the provision of health-care services. The protection of health professionals, which

● 7

Recent developments

- After the first trial on Sept 28th, the court has decided to gather more information about the case.
- The second trial will be held on December 26th.



● 8

***Once again, I would like to thank to
WMA leadership
and NMA's from all around the world
for their continuous support...***

