22 January 2019

Mr. Abdulhamit Gül

Ministry of Justice

Adalet Bakanlığı

06659 Ankara

Turkey

Dear Minister,

As a member/supporter of ACAT-Switzerland, the Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture and the Death Penalty, I am writing to you on behalf of

Mr. Selçuk Kozağaçlı

On 8 November 2017, prominent human rights lawyer, member of the People’s Law Office, Selçuk Kozağaçlı, was taken into custody and brought to Istanbul Security Directorate’s Anti-Terror Branch. Selçuk Kozağaçlı is falsely charged with membership of an armed terrorist organization, namely the Revolutionary People’s Liberation Party (DHKP-C), whereas he was purely exercising peacefully his work in defending fundamental human rights in Turkey. He and 11 of his colleagues are still detained and awaiting their trial.

His arbitrary arrest, detention and trial violate the International *Convenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCP*R) and the *UN* *Convention against Torture (CAT)*, which the Republic of Turkey is Party of, and thus is bound to respect. The arbitrary treatment of Selçuk Kozağaçlı also breaches the *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers*, adopted by the United Nations in Havana in 1990, in which the governments commit themselves to guarantee lawyers the free practice of their profession.

I am deeply concerned about the fate of Selçuk Kozağaçlı, and urge you to:

* Order his immediate and unconditional release and drop all charges against him, as he is a prisoner of conscience detained solely in connection with his legitimate and peaceful human rights work;
* Take all necessary measures to guarantee his security and his physical and psychological integrity;
* guarantee in any circumstances that human rights defenders in Turkey can exercise their work without fear of being restricted or harassed, including by the judiciary.
* ensure that Turkey complies with its international Human rights obligations, especially the ones mentioned above.

I thank you for the attention you will give to this concern.

Yours respectfully,

Copy**:** Mr. Ilhan Saygili, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, Lombachweg 33, P.O. Box 34, 3000 Bern 15