

URGENT ACTION

TURKISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FACING THREATS

The Turkish Medical Association (TTB) and its prominent members have been subjected to threats of violence, following a statement they issued on 24 January, calling for an end to the ongoing military operation by the Turkish armed forces in Afrin, northern Syria. The TTB lodged a request with the Ankara Governorship to provide protection for its offices and members, but they have received no response.

On 24 January 2018, the **Turkish Medical Association (TTB)** issued a statement calling for an end to the Turkish armed forces' operation in Afrin, northern Syria. The ongoing military offensive began on 20 January 2018 and is directed at the Kurdish Autonomous Administration's military wing, the YPG (the People's Protection Units) in Afrin, northern Syria. Turkish government cites YPG's links to the armed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a proscribed organisation which the Turkish armed forces have been involved in armed clashes with for decades.

Following the publication of their statement, the Ankara head office of the TTB received a large number of threats of violence by email and phone calls, as well as on social media which included anonymous threats that the office would be invaded. Individual members of TTB's executive committee have also been targeted on social media, threatened with physical violence (e.g. 'we will eradicate you'), and called 'traitors'. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan also attacked the TTB during a speech on 26 January 2018, calling them the 'so-called Turkish Medical Association, the terrorist lovers'. On the same day, two trade unions known to be close to the government, Sağlık-Sen and Memur-Sen, called a protest outside the offices of the Istanbul branch of TTB for Monday 29 January. As a precaution, TTB evacuated its Ankara head office on 26 January, and has requested Ankara governorship to provide protection to the organisation and its members.

1) TAKE ACTION:

Write a letter, send an email, call, fax, or tweet:

- Expressing concern for the safety of members and staff at TTB's offices in Ankara, Istanbul and elsewhere in Turkey;
- Calling for a prompt, thorough, impartial and independent investigation into the calls for the invasion of TTB offices and threats of violence;
- Calling on the authorities to provide immediate and effective protection for TTB's members, staff and offices, as requested by the organisation.

Contact these two officials before 9 March, 2018:

Minister of Interior
Mr Süleyman Soylu
Devlet Mahallesi
İsmet İnönü Blv. No: 4, 06580
Çankaya/Ankara, Turkey
Email: mustesarlik@icisleri.gov.tr; bakanlik.musavirligi@icisleri.gov.tr
Salutation: Dear Minister

Ambassador Serdar Kiliç, Embassy of the Republic of Turkey 2525
Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20008
Phone: 1 202 612 6700 OR 202 612 6701
Fax: 1 202 612 6744
Email: embassy.washingtondc@mfa.gov.tr
Contact Form: <http://washington.emb.mfa.gov.tr/Mission/Contact>
Twitter: [@SerdarKilic9](https://twitter.com/SerdarKilic9)
Salutation: Dear Ambassador

2) LET US KNOW YOU TOOK ACTION

[Click here](#) to let us know if you took action on this case! *This is Urgent Action 16.18*

Here's why it is so important to report your actions: we record the actions taken on each case—letters, emails, calls and tweets—and use that information in our advocacy.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**

