



Education International  
Internationale de l'Éducation  
Internacional de la Educación  
Bildungsinternationale

## EI Executive Board Condemns Unjust Prison Sentences on Trade Union Activists in Turkey

### Sede

5, Bd du Roi Albert II  
1210 Bruselas, Bélgica  
Tel +32 2 224 06 11  
Fax +32 2 224 06 06  
headoffice@ei-ie.org  
http://www.ei-ie.org

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The Executive Board of Education International, the organisation which represents 30 million teachers and other education workers throughout the world, at its meeting in Brussels on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2011, learned with great regret that 25 Turkish trade unionists, members of EGITIM Sen-KESK, which includes the EI affiliate in Turkey, had prison sentences imposed on them by the Turkish courts for engaging in what would be regarded elsewhere as legitimate trade union activities.

The EI Executive Board

- (i) Condemned in the strongest possible terms the prison sentences meted out to members of its affiliate EGITIM SEN, including Gulcin Isbert, its former women's secretary, who was awarded the EI Human and Trade Union Rights Award at the recent EI Congress in Cape town, for engaging in legitimate trade union activities;
- (ii) Declared that the imposition of such harsh and unjust sentences on trade union activists is an affront to democracy and a breach of the human and trade union rights of the individuals concerned;
- (iii) Demanded that the sentences be rescinded by the Turkish courts and that the Turkish Governments acts to ensure that the human and trade union rights of its citizens are protected in accordance with ILO and UN Conventions;
- (iv) Encouraged EI member organisations throughout the world to contact the Turkish authorities to protest at these outrageous sentences through the nearest Turkish embassy or directly to the Prime Minister:

**His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**  
**Prime Minister of Turkey**  
**Istanbul**  
**Democratic Republic of Turkey**

*Fax: +90 312 417 04 76*  
*+90 312 419 20 71*

Fred van Leeuwen,  
General Secretary