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SNJ, SNJ-CGT, CFDT-Journalists (France)

Solidarity with Turkish and Kurdish Journalists

The IFJ Congress meeting in Angers from 7 – 10 June 2016,

noting that week after week, month after month, Turkish and Kurdish journalists are victims of the authoritarian regime in Ankara which resorts to unacceptable intimidation measures in order to silence independent media using a battery of laws to prosecute and imprison opponents of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his ruling party,

considering that press freedom in Turkey is largely flouted in deathening silence of European leaders and of the European Commission who prefer to sign shameful agreements with Ankara at the expenses of war refugees from the Middle East or Africa, turning in the process Europe into a fortress,

believing that the European Convention on Human Right is being violated by a country which is a candidate for admission into the EU when two journalists, Can Dündar et Erdem Gül, working for the opposition newspaper Cumhuriyet have been sentenced to jail terms for having exposed the supply of arms by Turkish services to djihadist groups in Syria. They have been threatened by the President himself for having done their job.

further noting that the EU reacted formally only after the Zaman group, an opposition meda was taken over by the government because of the multi media group's links with Cumhuriyet, a former ally of the Turkish President who has become the target of the Islamic conservative regime.

pointing out that, to date, over thirty Turkish and Kurdish journalists remain in Turkish prisons, awaiting trials, which makes the country one of the biggest jailers of journalists in the world.

Congress calls for :

- the release of all journalists detained,
- solidarity with Turkish and Kurdish journalists,
- support to the Turkish union of journalists (TGS) and to all trade unions which fight against the politics of repression

Requests the Executive Committee :

- to contact EU and 28 member states' leaders urging them to end violations of the right to inform and of journalists to do their job without hindrance, in line with the relevant Convention on Hulan Rights,
- to propose the creation of a solidarity Fund in order to continue the observation and solidarity missions conducted by the EFJ in TURkey to stand by our colleagues at their trials.