

**Resolution by the Presidents of the Associations of Judges of Denmark, Finland, Iceland,
Norway and Sweden Concerning the Purge of Turkish Judiciary**

In Turkey – a member of the Council of Europe and signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights – 3 500 judges and prosecutors have been dismissed, 1 700 of these have been arrested and their assets seized. This has been carried out without the assurance of sufficient legal safeguards. Furthermore the Turkish Association of Judges and Prosecutors, YARSAV, has been dissolved by the Turkish Government.

We note that the situation of the Turkish judiciary has been deteriorating for several years as in particular demonstrated by arbitrary detention of some judges and transferral of hundreds of judges against their will.

The recent actions taken by the Turkish Government, which can only be described as a purge of the Turkish judiciary, took place in the aftermath of an attempt to overthrow the Government and during a declared state of emergency. These measures are not in conformity with the principle of independent judiciary and the effective protection of Human Rights and Rule of Law and can never be justified by a state of emergency.

We urge our Governments through contacts with Turkish authorities and through other international relations, to take immediate action with the strongest possible means.

Bergen, August 26 2016


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