



OPEN LETTER

To the attention of:

President of the Republic of Türkiye, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (contact@tcgb.gov.tr)

Minister of Justice, Mr. Yılmaz Tunç (info@adalet.gov.tr)

Minister of Health, Mr. Fahrettin Koca (ozelburo@saglik.gov.tr)

Minister of Treasury and Finance, Mr. Mehmet Şimşek (info@hmb.gov.tr)

12 June 2023

Your Excellency,

Re: Hearing of Turkish Medical Association on 22 June 2023

We are writing to you on behalf of the World Medical Association (WMA) and the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), representing together millions of physicians in Europe and across the world with the shared professional commitment to medical ethics, human rights and peace.

We are deeply concerned by the hearing of the Turkish Medical Association (TMA) to be held on 22 June 2023 that aims to dismiss the eleven members of TMA's Executive Council from their duty. We do not see any evidence supporting the arbitrary charges they are accused of.

The TMA has been a trustworthy member of both our organizations for many years, recognized for its commitment to serve public health interests, to protect patients and physicians with great respect of the ethical values of the profession.

The delivery of healthcare by physicians is governed by ethical rules, professional norms as well as national and international law. Their autonomy allows the best delivery of healthcare, thus fostering more robust public health policies for the benefit of all. An independent representation of the medical profession is paramount in the implementation of these unchallenged principles. It can furthermore act as a unique voice of the civil society, fostering the democratic integrity of a country and complementing the work of elected officials and administrators.

Hence, independent, autonomous and democratic national medical associations, such as the TMA, constitute indispensable overarching medical bodies fulfilling a crucial role not only for the medical profession, but for patients, the healthcare system and the population as a whole.

The global medical community therefore urges you to unconditionally safeguard the autonomy and independence of the TMA, to deliver justice fairly and impartially and drop all charges against its members.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'O' with a vertical line through it and a horizontal line at the bottom.

Dr. Osahon Enabulele
WMA President

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a stylized 'C' and 'K' with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Christiaan Keijzer
CPME President