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Mr Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
Prime Minister
Ankara
Republic of Turkey

Fax: +90 312 417 0476

E-mail: receptayyip.erdogan@basbakanlik.gov.tr

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Contact Person: Chidi KING – Tel: +33450401170

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Dear Prime Minister,

Continued detention of Ms Seher Tümer

Public Services International (PSI) wrote to you last October concerning the arrest and imprisonment of Ms Seher Tümer, Branch Secretary of PSI's affiliate Sağlık ve Sosyal Hizmet Emekçileri Sendikası (SES) the trade union of public employees in health and social services.

Ms Tümer has now been detained in an F-type prison for almost a year, with no clear charges being brought against her. We are convinced that her arrest is linked to her trade union activities.

PSI reminds your government of its obligations under ILO Conventions 87 and 98, ratified by Turkey, to ensure workers' rights to freedom of association and their right to organise.

PSI has already written to your government on various occasions concerning the harassment and violence inflicted on members of its affiliate, SES, including the curtailment of the rights to freedom of expression and association. PSI calls once more on your government to secure the immediate release of Ms Tümer and to take any necessary steps to guarantee her safety.

PSI once again underlines the fundamental importance of the rights of freedom of expression and association which the Turkish government has an obligation to guarantee to all its citizens. The release of Ms Seher Tümer would be a clear indication of the Turkish government's will to apply these values.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Waldorff
General Secretary

Cc: President, Mr Abdullah Gül - Fax: (+90) 312 427 13 30 - Email: cumhurbaskanligi@tccb.gov.tr.
Ministry of Justice, Mr Sadullah Ergin - Fax: +90 312 419 33 70 - Email: sadullahergin@adalet.gov.tr
ITUC Geneva & Brussels
Turkey Mission in Geneva
EPSU - PSI South East Europe

Public Services International (PSI) is a global trade union federation that represents 20 million women and men working in the public services around the world. It has 693 affiliated unions in 156 countries and territories. PSI is an officially recognised non-governmental organisation for the public sector within the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and has consultative status with ECOSOC and observer status with other bodies such as UNCTAD and the WTO. EPSU is the European Federation of Public Service Unions and the recognised European regional organisation of Public Services International (PSI). It is the largest federation of the ETUC and comprises 8 million public service workers from over 250 trade unions.