

December 22, 2011

Av. Metin FEYZIOGLU
Chairman of the Ankara Bar Association
Adliye Sarayi 5.Kat Sihhiye
Ankara Turkey

Object : Letter of support to the Ankara Bar Association

Mister Chairman,
Dear colleague,

The members of the Barreau du Québec were informed about the difficulties encountered by Criminal Defence Lawyers in your country, most specifically, Human Rights Defenders and lawyers representing individuals accused of being members of an illegal organisation.

The Barreau du Québec is deeply concerned about the situation. We believe that these alleged pressures against those members of the Ankara Bar might jeopardize the rights of the accused to a fair trial and a full defence. Moreover, we wonder whether these arrests and threats against the Ankara Bar members may constitute a violation of the *United Nations' Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers* :

" Governments shall ensure that lawyers (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference; (b) are able to travel and to consult with their clients freely both within their own country and abroad; and (c) shall not suffer, or be threatened with, prosecution or administrative, economic or other sanctions for any action taken in accordance with recognized professional duties, standards and ethics. "

The Barreau du Québec would like to express to you personally, and to all lawyers practising in Turkey, its full support to the defence of the lawyers' right to perform his/her professional duties without intimidation.

Av. Metin Feyzioglu
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Mister Chairman, Dear colleague, please rest assure of our full commitment and devotion to the lawyers' right to professional independence.

Best regards,

Le directeur général,

Claude Provencher, LL.B., MBA

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