

Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
President of the Republic of Turkey
Ankara
Turkey
By email: contact@tccb.gov.tr

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Dear President,

On behalf of UNISON's 1.3 million members working in public services in the UK, I am writing to express our deep concern over the continued violation of human and trade union rights in Turkey.

We are particularly concerned about several recent incidents of violence and repression against members of the DİSK/Genel-İş Union. On 14 December 2015 Mr. Ramazan Uysal was shot and lost his arm whilst working on water valves for the Cizre municipality. More recently, on 17 January Mr. Mehmet Kaplan, a sanitation worker for the Cizre municipality, was shot dead in front of his home.

We condemn these violent acts against trade union members, and urge your government to conduct a full, impartial investigation to ensure the perpetrators are brought to justice.

We are also concerned to learn of the arrest and detention of Mr. Mazlum Özmen, Mr. Mesut Ayık and Mr. Nedim Oruç, also members of the DİSK/Genel-İş Union, for carrying out trade union activities. This is in violation of ILO Convention No. 87, which Turkey has ratified, as well as several other international human and workers' rights instruments.

We call on your government to release them immediately and take steps to guarantee freedom of association and protection for trade unionists and workers in Turkey.

These recent incidents are the latest in a worrying decline in workers and human rights in Turkey. Your government has repeatedly banned trade unions from taking strike action, and has restricted numerous protests.

UNISON urges the government of Turkey to address the continued and systematic attacks on trade unionists and protect the rights of workers.

Yours faithfully,



Dave Prentis
General Secretary

cc: H.E. Mr. Abdurrahman Bilgic, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey.

