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**Human Rights Commission  
of the Polish Bar Council**

ul. Świętojerska 16,  
00-202 Warsaw

**His Excellency  
Tunç Üğdül**  
Ambassador  
of the Turkish Embassy in Warsaw

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Your Excellency,

The Human Rights Commission of the Polish Bar Council is deeply concerned to hear about the new events which are to be treated as arbitrary repressions after last year's attempted coup in the Republic of Turkey. On 6 June 2017 Taner Kiliç, President of Amnesty International in Turkey, and 22 other lawyers, were arrested and unjustly accused of being members of a terrorist organization which the state authorities consider guilty of last year's coup attempt.

It is to be emphasized that Taner Kiliç has been involved with Amnesty International in Turkey since 2002. Since 2014 Taner Kiliç is the President of the Board of Amnesty International in Turkey. His activities were concentrated on the defense of basic rights and freedoms which are being violated in Turkey for considerable time.

The Human Rights Commission of the Polish Bar Council is particularly concerned about further repressions against lawyers actively defending human rights. Recalling the resolution no. 132/2016 of the Presidium of the Polish Bar Council concerning repressions introduced by the authorities of the Republic of Turkey after last year's events we once again call upon the Turkish authorities to cease repressions against defenders of human rights, which we consider unlawful and contrary with the principles of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Human Rights Commission of the Polish Bar Council recalled on many occasions that the activities of lawyers in the area of human rights and freedoms are aimed to protect individuals, particularly to provide assistance to the victims of unfair treatment by public authorities. A situation where retaliation measures are applied against defenders of human rights as a result of their professional and social activity is unacceptable.

The Human Rights Commission of the Polish Bar Council once again points to the need to cease human rights violation in the Republic of Turkey and expresses its solidarity with lawyers engaged in protecting human rights in Turkey.

Advocate Justyna Metelska



President of the Human Rights Commission  
of the Polish Bar Council