



Public Services International
Internationale des Services Publics
Internacional de Servicios Publicos
Internationale der offentlichen Dienste
Internationell Facklig Organisation for Offentliga Tjanster
国际公務勞連



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Dear Colleagues,

PSI and EPSU Support Voluntary Health Care Workers in Turkey, who defended the Right to Life and Right to Health in Cizre

We salute the courageous steps taken in 2016 by the members of TTB and SES to help injured persons trapped for over a week in the basement Cudi neighbourhood of Cizre, during a curfew that lasted 79 days in the city. They put the lives of people first, as health care professionals and in the finest traditions of solidarity which distinguishes the trade union movement.

It is condemnable that the Turkish government stopped the 14 health workers including nine doctors, four nurses and an ambulance driver, members of Turkish Medical Association (TTB) and Trade Union of Public Employees in Health and Social Services (SES), and subsequently charged them to court. This is despite the fact that relevant authorities were notified before the workers embarked on their life-saving mission.

PSI and EPSU stand in solidarity with TTB and SES as these gallant workers appear in court on 28 September, for the first hearing of the case by the 3rd Assize Court in Mardin, a Southeastern city in Turkey. And we will seize this moment to call on the Turkish government to drop all charges against the 14 workers.

Health workers delivering emergency services in conflict zones and situations should be supported and not prosecuted. The Turkish government should commend the voluntary health workers and your union(s) for its efforts at defending the right to life and right to health including access to medical services for the poor people trapped at the time in Cizre.

We will stand by TTB and SES through this trying moment and call on EPSU and PSI affiliates across the world, and the international labour movement, to demand of the Turkish government that it drops all charges.

The workers united cannot be defeated. Stand firm, we are with you.

In solidarity

Rosa Pavanelli
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