

Chief Public Prosecutor
Aykut Çelik
Hacı Bayram Veli Mahallesi
Atatürk Bulvarı No:40 Sıhhiye
06050 Ankara
TÜRKİE

copy to:

Botschaft der Republik Türkei
S.E. Herrn Gökhan Turan
Tiergartenstr. 19–21
10785 Berlin

Fax: 030-2759 0915

E-Mail: botschaft.berlin@mfa.gov.tr

Sehr geehrter Herr Generalstaatsanwalt Aykut Çelik,

seit dem 12. September 2026 gehen die türkischen Behörden mit Polizeirazzien gegen LGBTI-Aktivist*innen vor. Mindestens 23 Aktivist*innen sitzen seitdem in Untersuchungshaft, darunter auch die Mitglieder der größten türkischen LGBTI-Organisation KAOS GL Janset Kalan, Nedime Erdoğan, Umut Derin, Selin Berghan sowie die Journalistin Tuğba Tekerek. Die fünf Festgenommenen wurden verhört und zur Untersuchungshaft in das Sincan-Gefängnis in Ankara gebracht. Ihnen wird "Obszönität" und "Verstoß gegen das Vereinsgesetz" vorgeworfen. Ihre Inhaftierung ist jedoch willkürlich und diskriminierend. Zudem gibt es Berichte über Gewalt und schlechte Bedingungen in der Untersuchungshaft.

Ich bitte Sie, die Anklagen gegen die Menschenrechtsverteidiger*innen und die Journalistin fallenzulassen und diese sofort freizulassen. Sorgen Sie dafür, dass ihre Haftbedingungen bis zu ihrer Freilassung internationalen Standards entsprechen und alle Misshandlungsvorwürfe wirksam untersucht werden.

Sorgen Sie bitte auch dafür, dass ihre Rechte auf Meinungs- und Vereinigungsfreiheit umfassend geschützt werden, in Übereinstimmung mit den menschenrechtlichen Verpflichtungen der Türkei.

Außerdem müssen alle anderen Personen freigelassen werden, die nur aufgrund ihrer Identität festgenommen wurden oder weil sie ihre Rechte wahrgenommen haben.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

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Dear Chief Public Prosecutor,

I am writing to express my serious concern regarding the pretrial detention of at least 23 LGBTI rights defenders, including board and oversight committee members from Türkiye's foremost LGBTI rights organization KAOS GL, Janset Kalan, Nedime Erdoğan, Umut Derin and Selin Berghan as well as journalist Tuğba Tekerek. They were detained in the context of the "My Family is Safe" police operation targeting LGBTI people and organizations, which began on 12 September. They have been deprived of their liberty in connection with their work as board members and, in the case of Tuğba Tekerek, her journalistic work. The abovementioned human rights defenders and journalist were questioned and remanded in pretrial detention on charges of 'obscenity' and 'violating the Law on Associations.' The decision to deprive them of their liberty pending prosecution is arbitrary, punitive and discriminatory. The accusation of obscenity relates to drawings alleged to be present on KAOS GL's website and to be accessible for children even though the website has been inaccessible in Türkiye since June 2025. The journalist Tuğba Tekerek remains in pretrial detention for allegedly "being responsible for the organisation's Instagram account," which she is not. In any event, managing or contributing to an LGBTI organization's social media account is a legitimate exercise of freedom of expression and association and cannot justify deprivation of liberty. LGBTI rights organizations have reported alleged instances of physical and verbal abuse, degrading strip searches and threats inadequate healthcare and medication, and inadequate food while in pretrial detention, raising serious concerns about the well-being and safety of those detained. I respectfully urge your office to drop the charges against the human rights defenders and journalist and ensure their immediate release. Pending their release, they must be held in conditions that meet international standards and all allegations of ill-treatment must be effectively investigated. I further urge you to ensure that their rights to freedom of expression and association are fully protected in line with Türkiye's obligations under international human rights law. I also call for the release of all others detained during the "My Family is Safe" operation solely for exercising their rights or because of who they are.

Yours sincerely,