



secretariat: adriaan@ifhhro.org

President of Grand National Assembly of Turkey
Mr Binali Yildirim
Binali.yildirim@tbmm.gov.tr

10 November 2019

Dear Mr Yildirim,

On behalf of IFHHRO | Medical Human Rights Network, I write to you to express our deep concern about a new bill related to health, submitted to the Grand National Assembly on 30 October and approved on 6 November.

The proposal includes the exclusion of doctors, who lost their jobs under the State of Emergency Law Decrees, from employment in private hospitals working in contract with the Social Security Agency. The law also means exclusion of newly graduated doctors without 'security clearance'.

Expelling thousands of doctors through this law, and depriving millions of people from appropriate medical care, is a violation of the Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health (General Comment 14 of Art 12 in the UN Convention of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), of which Turkey is a party.

Exclusion of doctors without 'security clearance' is in violation of medical neutrality and the World Medical Association Declaration of Geneva.

The Turkish Medical Association, one of our partners, is one of the world's leading medical associations in promoting the highest standards of health, defending the independence and integrity of the medical profession, and has a great track record in defending health related human rights.

We consider the law in violation of both international conventions, international human rights provisions and international codes of medical ethics.

We urgently demand that the law is withdrawn in the shortest possible period of time.

Yours sincerely,

Adriaan van Es, MD, secretary IFHHRO | Medical Human Rights Network

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Adriaan van Es' with a horizontal line underneath.