



PETITION



Abolish Article 318 in Turkey!

Stop the judicial harassment of Halil Savda

Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
Office of the Prime Minister
Başbakanlık
06573 Ankara
Turkey

Dear Prime Minister,

We, the undersigned, are deeply concerned at the unfair prosecution of Halil Savda and 18 others under Article 318 of the Turkish Penal Code, which criminalizes "alienating the public from military service". They are being prosecuted for their participation in a demonstration in support of conscientious objector and Amnesty International prisoner of conscience Enver Aydemir, at the time imprisoned due to his refusal to perform military service. In June 2010, Halil Savda was convicted under Article 318 and sentenced to six months in prison. Three others were also convicted and received suspended sentences.

Halil Savda, himself a conscientious objector, was previously prosecuted under Article 318 in 2007 as a result of his public support for two Israeli conscientious objectors. He was convicted and sentenced to five months in prison in June 2009. This Both convictions are currently pending at the Supreme Court of Appeals.

Article 318 represents an unfair limitation to freedom of expression in Turkey. Amnesty International considers prosecutions under Article 318 to be in direct breach of Article 10 of the European Convention of on Human Rights and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which protect the right to freedom of expression and to which Turkey is a party.

We urge you to repeal Article 318 as a matter of urgency. Please intervene to stop the unfair prosecution of Halil Savda and others who are frequently targeted, including human rights defenders and journalists.

Yours sincerely,

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