



Turkey: lawyers under attack

On June 6th, 2017, in Smirne, Turkish lawyer Taner Kiliç was arrested, together with 22 colleagues.

Kiliç, Head of Amnesty International Turkey, and lawyer of the Italian journalist Gabriele Del Grande, has been accused, with the other 22 lawyers, of cooperation with the alleged leader of the *coup d'état* Fethullah Gulen.

This attack, perpetrated against lawyers, takes place within a climate of high tension in Turkey, where the government has drastically restricted fundamental freedoms. Dissent and freedom of expression, indeed, are often subject to violent and arbitrary repression.

Starting with the protests in Gezi Park in 2013, moving to the murder of the lawyer Tahir Elci in Diyarbakir, (still unpunished), the situation has been further exacerbated by the *coup d'état* in 2016. The state of emergency is used as a tool for repression: members of Turkish academia, justice, journalists and HRDs have been threatened, fired, arrested or faced trials for terrorism charges.

These recent events provide further evidence of the fact that, currently, rights in Turkey are systematically disregarded, through the repression of whoever fights for rights themselves, lawyers included.

The Italian Union of Criminal Lawyers expresses serious concerns regarding the violations of human rights in Turkey, expresses solidarity in favor of Taner Kiliç and the other colleagues, wishes their release and, in general, advocates a less hostile attitude towards the defenders of human rights and fundamental freedoms.