



We, the AED-EDL European Lawyers' Association, have come to know that on the 25th of October, lawyer Bedirhan Sarsilmaz was taken into custody. At the moment of his detention, lawyer Bedirhan Sarsilmaz, had just finished his plea as part of the defense counsel of his client and was exercising his profession.

Lawyer Bedirhan Sarsilmaz of the Istanbul bar association, is member of the ÖHD, an Association of Lawyers for Freedom, member organization of the AED-EDL, a confederation of lawyers' associations sharing the same democratic ideals: to defend the rights of citizens by preserving the independence of lawyers.

The AED-EDL condemns this arrest, which is in clear violation with the fundamental principles of law and a direct intervention in the right of the defense as set out in the Havana Principles of 1990. These *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers* were adopted to protect lawyers during the exercise of their profession. The principles further provide, "*Lawyers shall not be identified with their clients or their clients' causes as a result of discharging their functions.*"

The AED-EDL considers the conditions of arrest of our colleague Bedirhan Sarsilmaz unacceptable and asks for his immediate release. We will continue to follow with attention.

Wednesday, 31st October 2024
Madrid, Paris, Berlin, Amsterdam,
Rome, Brussels, Athens

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Founded in 1987, the Association of European Democratic Lawyers (AED) is a confederation of trade unions and lawyers' organizations with the same democratic, modern and humane ideals in Europe. The AED intends to defend the rights of citizens by preserving the independence of lawyers with regard to any political, social, economic or ordinal power. As a professional organization, its international purpose is to ensure respect for the rights of the defense and, in particular, to safeguard the physical integrity and political and economic freedom of lawyers. The association also works to ensure that all individuals have access to national and international judicial appeals, particularly those who are in the most precarious situations and whose basic rights are not recognized or poorly recognized.

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- Republikanischer Anwälten und Anwälteverein (RAV – Germany)
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- Özgürlük için Hukukçular Derneği Genel Merkezi - Komeleya Hiqûqnasên Ji Bo Azadiyê (ÖHD)

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