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## European doctors condemn the prolonged detention of leading Turkish doctor

**The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) condemns the prolonged detention of Prof. Şebnem Korur Fincancı, President of the Turkish Medical Association, following a hearing in Istanbul today.**

Prof Fincancı has been in pre-trial detention since 26 October, when she was imprisoned on charges of 'propaganda for a terrorist organisation' following an interview in which she called for an independent investigation into allegations of the use of chemical weapons. A further hearing will take place on 29 December 2022.

CPME President Dr Christiaan Keijzer said "European doctors are deeply concerned by the ongoing detention of Prof. Şebnem Korur Fincancı and we continue to call for her unconditional release. Her imprisonment is a violation of her freedom of speech, and we appeal to Turkish authorities to drop these arbitrary charges immediately.

"It is vital that the autonomy and independence of the medical profession is safeguarded, and we fully support her human right and professional duty to highlight allegations of breaches of international law."

Having attended the hearing in Istanbul, CPME Vice President Dr Ole Johan Bakke, added "Today's ruling to prolong Prof. Fincancı's imprisonment does not represent the delivery of fair and impartial justice. It is deeply unjust that she continues to be detained after expressing her opinion in line with her commitment to the ethical values of the medical profession."

CPME, together with the World Medical Association and four European Medical Organisations, this week [wrote](#) to Turkish authorities urging the immediate release of Prof. Şebnem Korur Fincancı on behalf of millions of physicians across the world.

*The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) represents national medical associations across Europe. We are committed to contributing the medical profession's point of view to EU and European policy-making through pro-active cooperation on a wide range of health and healthcare related issues.*