

	<p>TÜRKİYE İNSAN HAKLARI VAKFI</p> <p><i>Human Rights Foundation of Turkey</i></p> <p>Mithatpaşa Cad. 49/11 6. Kat Kızılay/Ankara Tel: +90 312 310 6636 Fax: +90 312 310 6463 e-mail: tihv@tihv.org.tr www.tihv.org.tr</p>
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04.09.2016

Urgent call: The dismissal of Academics for Peace, including Prof. Dr. Ümit Biçer, Member of the HRFT Directors Board, from their posts at the universities, is completely unacceptable and should be immediately revoked!

Dear Madame/Sir,

Upon the declaration of the State of Emergency, we have urged, “we cannot cope with the current extraordinary conditions by the “State of Emergency Law” enacted on October 27, 1983 by the Bulend Ulusu Government during the period of the 12 September military coup, and with the aim of consolidating the coup regime. The coup attempts and their repercussions cannot be eliminated by laws and mentality of military coup periods. On the contrary, such laws reinforce the pro-coup mindset.” We have also expressed our concerns that within the scope of the State of Emergency “the Government will be able to issue decrees having force of law, and immune from judicial control, and thus, will completely disable the legislative power (the Grand National Assembly of Turkey), which has already been severely eroded”; and that “the democratic principles such as the rule of law, judicial independence, separation of powers, and respect of human rights, which have been seriously violated by the current Government in the recent period will be further demolished.”

Unfortunately, those who are using the failed coup attempt as a pretext confirmed our concerns and warnings. The decree having force of law published within the scope of the State of Emergency on September 1, 2016 -the World Peace Day- led to an “academic massacre” that is even worse than the dismissal of the progressive and democrat scientists -known as 1402s- from their posts at the universities by the 12 September military junta.

The decree having force of law with a number 672, removed from office and dismissed from public service for life, 2346 academics, including those who called for peace by saying “We will not be a Party to This Crime”. The attempts conducted with the pretext of the failed coup, to move away from academia 44 Academics for Peace

are completely unacceptable. Among these academics is Prof. Dr. Ümit Biçer, Member of the Board of Directors of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey, and faculty member of the Forensic Medicine Department at the Kocaeli University, Faculty of Medicine.

The decree dismissing, on the World Peace Day, the Academics for Peace, who are struggling for peace and whose academic works have been already obstructed by several threats imposed –i.e. investigations, testifying at the Police and the public prosecution office, hindrance of work at the international scene, cancelation of abroad assignments, etc.- will remain as a document of shame in our history.

The real crime is the attempts to move the progressive, democrat, and pro-peace men and women of science away from academia, by using the failed coup attempt as a pretext. It should be recalled that as we fight against the crimes against humanity, we will continue to support those who are struggling for the humanitarian values. We have no doubt that these unacceptable practices will be revoked with the contribution of the solidarity we will create, as we always did.

As the HRFT, we stress that;

- the acts leading to the dismissal of the Academics for Peace, including Prof. Dr. Ümit Biçer, member of the HRFT Board of Directors, from their offices at the universities should be urgently revoked,
- such decrees having force of law leading to unlawful practices should be terminated,
- all oppressions on those pursuing a struggle for human rights should be ended.

We kindly ask your solidarity in our struggle for the Academics for Peace to be reinstated to their posts at the universities. We also kindly ask you to take action to urge authorities to revoke the acts leading to the dismissal of the Academics for Peace, and to reinstate them to their posts.

We thank you in advance and remain at your disposal should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Şebnem Korur Fincancı
Chairperson of HRFT

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Secretary General of HRFT

List of Authorities in Turkey

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