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### **Turkey: Death threats against woman human rights defender and lawyer Jiyan Tosun**

After the bombing in Istanbul on 13 November 2022, woman human rights defender and lawyer **Jiyan Tosun** is being falsely accused of carrying out this attack. The woman human rights defender and her family are receiving death threats and are fearing for their security. With the spread of this fake news, they are unable to stay in their homes for fear of their safety.

[Jiyan Tosun](#) is a woman human rights defender, lawyer and a member of Human Rights Association. She provides legal support to women and LGBTI+ survivors at the Legal Assistance Office against Sexual Abuse and Rape in Detention. Jiyan Tosun is the daughter of Fehmi Tosun, who was forcibly disappeared in 1995. The woman human rights defender has been seeking justice for her father and the other enforced disappearances together with [Saturday Mothers/People](#).

On 13 November 2022, shortly after the deadly explosion that killed eight and wounded 81 people, a member of the Zafer Partisi (Victory Party), posted a tweet with the alleged attacker's photo, saying that "the bomber is a PKK lawyer, Jiyan Tosun". Although the tweet was deleted later on, the fake information spread quickly on social media and various online platforms. The woman human rights defender started receiving a high volume of death threats which prompted her to file a complaint with the public prosecutor. Jiyan Tosun also requested to be put under a protection scheme, as she is worried for her safety and security. She spent the night on that day at the courthouse due to fear for her safety.

A comprehensive list of personal details of all extended family members, containing their phone numbers, address and registry information was also shared on the internet websites, particularly on online gaming platforms, which resulted in the escalation of death threats by phone calls to all family members, including children. The woman human rights defender believes that this information could only be circulated by a public officer. Fearing for their security in light of the ongoing death threats, Jiyan Tosun and her family members are currently avoiding to stay at their own home addresses.

Front Line Defenders strongly condemns the targeting against the woman human rights defender Jiyan Tosun and her family, as well as the death threats. It expresses its deep concern for her physical security and emotional well-being and that of her family members.

#### **Front Line Defenders calls upon the Turkish authorities to:**

1. Ensure the security of Jiyan Tosun and her family against any possible physical attack;
2. Investigate who serviced the private information of her and her extended family to online platforms and bring the responsible to justice;

3. Take necessary measures to take down the private information from the Internet;
4. Issue a public statement assuring that Jiyan Tosun has been a victim of fake news and that all who threaten and spread fake news will be brought to justice;
5. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in Turkey can carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear from all kinds of attacks, including targeting, intimidation, physical or online attacks, and free from all restrictions and reprisals.

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