



13.12.2016

### **On the Detention of HDP MPs Ms. Çağlar Demirel and Ms. Besime Konca**

The deputy chair of HDP Parliamentary Group Ms. Çağlar Demirel (MP for Diyarbakır) and HDP Women Assembly spokeswoman Ms. Besime Konca (MP for Siirt) were detained in Ankara around midnight on 12 December 2012.

Ms Demirel and Ms Konca were detained under physical harassment and sent to Diyarbakır and Batman, respectively. Today Ms Konca was released with the condition of judicial control, while Ms Demirel is still under custody. Ms Konca has informed our lawyers that she was physically harassed during the detention process; she was also handcuffed all the way to Batman. Ms. Konca stated that she had marks of handcuffs on her wrists.

Just before these detentions, HDP MPs were attacked in the parliament during the annual budget talks. While our female deputies were exposed to sexist swearwords from the governing AKP's MPs during the debates, HDP's Adiyaman MP, Mr Behçet Yıldırım (a physician by profession), was physically attacked (punched in the face) and hospitalized.

Since 4 November, 16 of our deputies have been detained and ten of them, also including our co-chairs Mr Selahattin Demirtaş and Ms Figen Yüksekdağ and deputy chair of HDP parliamentary group Mr İdris Baluken, have been imprisoned. If Mr Demirel, too, is sent to prison, our parliamentary group will be left without a chair or deputy chair.

HDP's lawyers have informed us that there is an unlawful court decision about the detention of several other HDP MPs; namely, Ms Dirayet Dilan Taşdemir (MP for Agri), Mr Alican Önlü (MP for Dersim/Tunceli), Mr Ahmet Yıldırım (MP for Muş), Mr Osman Baydemir (MP for Urfa), Mr Nadir Yıldırım (MP for Van), Ms Selma Irmak (MP for Hakkari - arrested on 4 November and sent to Silivri prison). These MPs may be detained very soon.

The detention of Ms Demirel and Ms Konca came amidst a broader and still ongoing wave of detentions targeting HDP party executives members. Only over the last two days, at least 311 HDP executives and members were detained in at least twelve different cities.

Using the coup attempt as an opportunity to repress all political opposition in the country, the Erdoğan-AKP regime seems to be committed to totally paralyzing the HDP before the possible referendum on the presidential system in the spring of 2017. The HDP could block Erdoğan's ambitious presidential system in June and November 2015 elections by preventing his party to win sufficient number of parliamentary seats to make the necessary constitutional amendments for a system change. Despite all unlawful pressures on the HDP, we are committed to stopping the Erdoğan-AKP regime again in the possible referendum.

We would like to emphasize that this totally unlawful attack of the Erdoğan-AKP regime on the HDP would only narrow down the already limited democratic political space, increase social and political polarization, escalate political violence, and further drag the country into chaos and instability.

**Hişyar Özsoy**

**Deputy Co-chair of HDP Responsible For Foreign Affairs**

**Member of Parliament**

---

**Contact:** [international@hdp.org.tr](mailto:international@hdp.org.tr) **Web:** [www.hdp.org.tr](http://www.hdp.org.tr)

**Address:** Barbaros Mah. Tahran Cad. Büklüm Sok. No: 117 06680 Çankaya, Ankara - Turkey

**Phone:** +90 312 427 17 80 **Fax:** +90 312 4288957