



*International Association of People's Lawyers
Asociación Internacional de Abogados del Pueblo
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STATEMENT ON THE ASSASSINATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER TAHIR ELÇI

November 30, 2015

The IAPL mourns the loss of the highly respected leader of the Bar in Diyarbakir. Tahir Elçi was assassinated in public while bravely speaking in a way unacceptable to whom who attack the rights of Kurdish people. He had been arrested in last October for his speeches deemed threatening by the Turkish state. In that moment, IAPL supported an Open Letter signed by Lawyers for Lawyers Foundation (The Netherlands), Fair Trial Watch (The Netherlands) and Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, demanding to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey and its respective Ministry of Justice his immediate release.

A brave and conscientious man of peace, he stood against Turkish state terrorism and for the human rights of the Kurdish people. His death is a great loss to the human rights movement in Turkey and the region.

We ask that an independent inquiry into his murder be convened as soon as possible, with the participation of international figures of integrity, in order to establish the culpability of those who perpetrated this heinous act.

***Board of Directors,
International Association of People's Lawyers***