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Mr Recep Taiyyip Erdogan
President of the Republic of Turkey
Cumhurbaşkanlığı Külliyesi
06560 Bestepe, Ankara, Turkey

The Norwegian Psychological Association is deeply concerned at the information that Dr. Şebnem Korur Fincancı, a prominent human rights defender, medical doctor engaged in care and documentation regarding persons exposed to torture and other human rights violations, and the president of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey, has been sentenced to two years and six months in prison. We are informed that the sentence is given in connection with her strong dedication for human rights and in particular for initiatives in relation to peace work.

Dr. Şebnem Korur Fincancı is one of the academics who signed a petition for peace in 2016. The group, who called themselves “Academics for Peace” have spoken out against violence between the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party and Turkish security forces in the southeast of Turkey, and have called for a peaceful solution to this situation. The petition, signed by more than 2200 individuals, has also pointed to the violence carried out by the Turkish security forces against Kurdish citizens, including bombardment of predominately Kurdish cities and the enforcement of curfews.

A large number of those who have signed the petition are being charged for this, and some are sentenced. We are shocked at this situation and in particular at the information that Dr. Fincancı is given a sentence that is markedly longer and stricter than others. We see this as an

indication that she is intentionally targeted for her high profile in domestic and international human rights work.

We find this situation extremely disturbing and unacceptable in a democratic society. We will strongly urge that the charges against Dr. Fincancı and others who engage against violence and injustice are dropped and that these sentences are revoked.

Best regards

Norwegian Psychological Association



Tor Levin Hofgaard

President

Nora Sveaass

Chair of Human Rights Committee