



**NORSK JOURNALISTLAG**  
NORWEGIAN UNION OF JOURNALISTS

**Thomas Spence**  
president

Oslo August 6th 2013

Ambassador Şanivar Olgun  
Turkish Embassy  
Halvdan Svartes Gate 5,  
0244 Oslo

Dear Ambassador

Norwegian Union of Journalists (NJ) are protesting to the ruling of The Silivri Court with heavy sentences for a large number of fellow journalists, among them Tuncay Özkan which is adopted by NJ. The ruling of the court appears to be politically motivated and a violation of the journalists' human rights and freedom of speech.

NJ has in a previous statement to Turkish Authorities expressed our concern for the large number of detained journalists in the country and called for the release of these colleagues and recognition of their right to perform critical journalism. Independent and critical journalists are a crucial element in a healthy democratic society.

We anticipate that all the sentences against journalists will be appealed and urge your Government to release them in the first place, and furthermore give their appeals a ruling which acknowledge their right to independent and critical journalism.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Spence  
president

Copy to:  
The Norwegian Government  
The Foreign Committee of the Norwegian Parliament  
The Norwegian Embassy in Turkey  
Council of Europe

The Norwegian Union of Journalists (NJ) represent close to 10 000 journalists in Norway and the Union is an affiliate of International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) and Nordic Federation of Journalists.