

Helsinki, 13th of October 2017

To the Government of the Republic of Turkey

The Finnish National Committee of the International Press Institute (IPI) – a global network of editors, media executives and leading journalists dedicated to media freedom – writes this open letter to the Government of the Republic of Turkey to condemn the prison sentence imposed by a Turkish court on the Finnish reporter Ayla Albayrak, who works for the Wall Street Journal. We urge Turkey to review her conviction. We find the criminal charges unfounded and conviction inappropriate.

The conviction is a sign of an escalation of attacks against press freedom and journalists providing independent and objective reporting on events in Turkey.

We stand with our global community in solidarity with Ms Albayrak and other journalists targeted by the actions of the Turkish Government. We therefore again urge that the Turkish Government ends its abuse of emergency powers and ends its crackdown on Turkey's media and frees our imprisoned colleagues.

More than 150 journalists are currently behind bars in Turkey and more than 170 media outlets have been shuttered under the ongoing state of emergency declared in the wake of the failed July 2016 coup.

The press freedom situation in Turkey is intolerable.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kaius Niemi', written in a cursive style.

On behalf of the International Press institute, Finnish national committee

Kaius Niemi, Chair of IPI Finland