



eğitim ve bilim emekçileri sendikası
EĞİTİM SEN
23 OCAK 1995



Ref No:2011/600/2310

Subject: Eğitim Sen Court Case-The Verdict

30.11.2011

Dear Colleagues,

On 28th October 2011, the verdict about Eğitim Sen-KESK court case was announced by the court in İzmir. 25 of 31 defendants, including our womens' secretary Sakine Esen Yılmaz, our former womens' secretaries Gulcin İsbert and Elif Akgul and KESK (Confederation of Public Employees) president Lami Özgen was inflicted imprisonment of 6 years and 5 months. Our lawyers are going to apply to the upper court and appeal the decision. 6 of the defendants were acquitted.

During the proceeding court case, they tried to impute the guilt of being a terrorist organizations' (KCK) member to the trade unionists by somehow indicating so-called evidence like public meetings of the unions, books found in their houses which you can find in an ordinary bookstore in Turkey. Our country under AKP power, in which the books are accepted as a "proof of crime", is living the days which resembles the days of 12th September 1980 military strike.

Moreover, the court openly written in its indictment that there is no connection between this court case and the seperately proceeding KCK court case in Diyarbakır. Eventhough it was understood that the claims asserted about our friends are totally void, 25 people were arbitrarily punished. After it was understood that the assertions of the court are not reasonable, there was a general expectation among the circle of lawyers that the decision would be an acquittal but suddenly an "invisible hand" intervened and two judges working on the case were replaced just before the last hearing. And it was this decision of infliction given by the majority of the court in spite of the opposing decision of the chief judge. The judges composing the "majority" is therefore questionable in terms of independence and objectivity.

KESK and its affiliates adopt independent trade unionism, reject the racist, discriminating attitudes and take their power from workers' united struggle. Our confederation KESK and our trade union are of the most serious opposition centers towards AKP power which is passing through a period in which it implements the harsh neoliberal policies and is incapable of developing policies that can establish peace in Turkey. Also, it is not a coincidence that we're facing these repressions when it is being discussed a legal ammendment which is averting our right to strike and collective agreement and we're struggling against it. From the beginning, we say that this case is against KESK's and Eğitim Sen's public esteem.

Since the beginning, EI and many comrade unions from all around the world have shown their solidarity. We'd like to tender our thanks to all and remind that your support will also be

appreciated hereafter. Our union and confederation are organizing events, demonstrations throughout Turkey to bring this issue to the public attention and highlight the injustice. Also, our executive board is planning a visit trip to the leading World and European Institutions and Unions as EU Parliament, ETUC, etc. We'll announce it and update you when there's a concrete program. We may ask your assistance and support when we launch requesting appointments. It is also important for us to be able to say that we still have a strong international support and this event is known and condemned by many people around the world.

Best Regards,



Mehmet Bozgeyik

Egitim Sen
Secretary General