



COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Adam Bodnar

Warsaw, 7 December 2015

H.E.
Prof. Dr. Yusuf Ziya Özcan
Ambassador
of the Republic of Turkey to the
Republic of Poland

Your Excellency,

It is with deep shock and profound sorrow that I have learned of the tragic death of a well known lawyer and brave human rights defender Mr Tahir Elçi.

In regard to the murder of a leading Turkish human rights activist I feel urged to express my sympathy over this great loss and deepest solidarity with human rights defenders who fight in different parts of the world against injustice and violence regardless of threats and danger of death.

I strongly believe that there is no justification for the use of violence against defenders committed to stand for those whose dignity and fundamental rights are being violated and continually endangered.

I am convinced that Mr Tahir Elçi's struggle for prohibiting torture and for compliance with international legal norms in defending human and civil rights in Turkey will be not forgotten.

In my capacity as the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Poland I avail myself of this opportunity to offer my heartfelt sympathy to the family of Mr Tahir Elçi and his colleagues and friends.

Yours sincerely,
