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### **EPSU (European Federation of Public Service Unions)**

My name is Gülüzar Ateş. I am one of the manager in KESK (Confederation of Public Employees Trade Unions), which is organized in the public sector and accepted as one of the centers of social struggle in Turkey.

I would like to explain the situation as a citizen who was directly experienced a painful and jerky period after the coup attempt on July 15, 2016 in Turkey,

Following the unsuccessful coup attempt, the government launched a wave of assaults on punishment and liquidation of coup plotters. However, this attack has essentially turned into a struggle against to the opposition groups. All the progressive-democratic-revolutionary sections have become the target of this attack.

The unions and social organizations were the main targets who affected from this intense attack. The members of KESK who has big contribution in the trade union struggle have been dismissed and their rights were extorted.

I also faced with these attacks as BES (Bureau of Laborers' Union, a member of KESK) Kocaeli branch representative. I have been a public employee for 22 years and have been working as a manager in BES for 14 years. During these 14 years, I faced the state's pressures and sanctions in various ways because of my activities in the union. An exile penalty, which was contrary to the law, was executed in 2010. As a result of my resistance, they had to take back the decision of exile and return me to my post. I spent countless investigations due to the actions taken by my union.

The coup attempt was the excuse of getting me out of the business. I was fired from the civil servant role by a Decree Law. It isn't based on a concrete blame, an evidence or any legal frame work in a manner that is contrary to the law. In addition to my rights to work and produce has been taken away, my retirement benefits have also been lost.

AKP government has carried out several attacks using the situation of coup attempt and OHAL (State of Emergency).

1. The job assurance is a right of the public employees in Turkey, which was earned by many years of struggle. This method is to disposal of the job assurance by Decree Laws.
2. The important part of the dismissals are deprived from the severance pay and retirement bonuses. The state clearly seizes our economic gains. In these conditions, where the economic crisis is so deep, our earning is transferred to the state account.
3. The most of our social rights, especially the cancellation of special passport, are taken from us. Beside that the re-hiring of the people, who has been dismissed, are inhibited in another area.
4. The main purpose is to end KESK activities, thus destroying a social struggle.

As of today, 97,679 public employees were removed from their jobs and 2,550 people of these employees are a member of KESK. A significant part of these are public workers who have management roles in the union affiliated to KESK.

Before the coup in our country, the government was putting great pressure on the opposition. It is officially published in the reports prepared by the international institutions and the statistics they have created. From the May 1st bans to the number of journalists arrested, there are many reports of international institutions and court decisions.

After July 15th, this picture got deeper and widespread and the government's attacks were reckless. The effort to silence the opposition in general has become one of the most important action by AKP government.

Today, AKP government is moving to create a system in which all the authority is gathered in one hand and the oppression is increasing under the name "Constitutional amendment". If it is achieved, the lawlessness will be increased and the pressure will be intensified.

My dismissal the summary of the pressure environment in our country. I am an ALEVI, WOMEN and UNION REPRESENTATIVE. I face various pressures for each of them. I don't have a connection with the terrorist group of FETÖ, BYLOCK (FETÖ's communication software) and any institution of their congregation (bank, school, etc.). I do not have any political activity other than the union activities. In spite of these, my dismissal is striking.

The Minister of Labor and Social Security openly declared that the dismissal of public laborers is carried out by the "swearing" of the informer. There is no more striking example of not taking into account the illegality, the lack of job assurance, the innocence carina.

I want the right to return back to work and fight for it. Since the dismissal decision has been announced, the social organizations, communities, trade unions and women's associations have carried out numerous press statements and support visits in Kocaeli city. All of these activities have found wide availability at local media. CHP deputy, Fatma Hürriyet Kaplan issued a

proposal of questionnaire regarding to my situation to the parliament.

In this regard, I am looking forward to get the support and solidarity of the international trade union organizations.

Our union, BES is a member of Public Services International. This attack is also against to our global community. Under these circumstances, I kindly invite you to come to Turkey and communicate directly with the government to review problems in place.

Best regards

**Gülözar Ateş**

**BES- Büro Emekçileri Sendikası / Trade Union of Public Administration Employees**

**Kocaeli Şube Başkanı/ Manager of Kocaeli BES**