



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES

STATEMENT

on

the release

of

MURAT ARSLAN

Turkish law provides for the release on probation of persons convicted to imprisonment when those persons have served three quarters of their sentence unless there are serious grounds why they should not be released.

Murat Arslan, President of YARSAV and winner of the Vaclav Havel Prize who received a 10-year sentence, has now been behind bars for almost 8 years after his application for release on probation was rejected without concrete grounds being provided for that refusal.

The European Association of Judges (EAJ) strongly objects to such arbitrary refusal of Murat Arslan's rights, considering that the decision prolongs the politically motivated persecution of Murat Arslan and, in particular, the effort to silence him in his brave fight for an independent judiciary.

The EAJ therefore urges the Turkish authorities to release Murat Arslan immediately and asks that the matter is also considered by the European authorities.