



12 January 2018

**Subject: Hearings of legal cases against HDP co-chairs Mr. Selahattin Demirtaş (February 14, 2018) and Ms Figen Yüksekdağ (February 20, 2018)**

HDP's co-chair Mr. Selahattin Demirtaş was arrested on 4 November 2016 together with co-chair Ms. Figen Yüksekdağ and seven other MPs. Mr. Demirtaş has been in Edirne F Type Prison since his arrest. **The second hearing** of the main legal case for which Mr. Demirtaş has been under pre-trial detention will be **February 14, 2018 (three days after HDP Ordinary Congress in Ankara) at 10:00 a.m. at Sincan F Type Prison Campus in Ankara.**

This case of Mr. Demirtaş consists of the merging of 31 summary proceedings, each having separate criminal charges. All of these files consist of press statements and speeches that Mr. Demirtaş had made as a politician between 2016 and 2017. The indictment prepared for Mr. Selahattin Demirtaş accuses him with the following charges: Establishing or administering an armed terrorist organization, making propaganda of a terrorist organization, praising a crime or criminal, inciting people to hatred and enmity, inciting people to commit crime, inciting people to violate the law, organizing and participating in meetings and marches in violation of the law on protest and assembly. The prosecution has asked for the sentencing of Mr. Demirtaş up to 142 years in prison.

The fourth hearing of case against co-chair Ms. Figen Yüksekdağ will be held on **20 February 2018 (9:30 a.m.) at Ankara 16<sup>th</sup>. Heavy Penal Court.** The charges raised against Ms. Yüksekdağ are almost identical with those raised against Mr. Demirtaş: Establishing or administering an armed terrorist organization, making propaganda of a terrorist organization, inciting people to hatred and enmity, inciting people to commit crime, inciting people to violate the law, participation in unlawful meetings and demonstrations. Her indictment consists of 8 separate files that were later merged into one single case. Almost all of the files are about the speeches she made as the leader of a political party.

These cases of HDP co-chairs are surely of utmost importance for the political future Turkey. We would like to invite you to observe them to make it clear that the international community is keenly following and deeply concerned with the destruction of democratic politics in the country. Observing these hearings will provide you with the opportunity to bear witness to the political and arbitrary use of the law to silence democratic opposition, suspension of the rule of law, and destruction of separation of powers.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need assistance for the necessary arrangements to observe the hearings.

**Hisyar Ozsoy**  
**Deputy Chair of HDP Responsible for Foreign Affairs**  
**Member of Parliament**

---

**Contact:** [international@hdp.org.tr](mailto:international@hdp.org.tr) **Web:** [www.hdp.org.tr](http://www.hdp.org.tr)

**Address:** Barbaros Mah. Tahran Cad. Büklüm Sok. No: 117 06680 Çankaya, Ankara - Turkey

**Phone:** +90 312 427 17 80 **Fax:** +90 312 4288957