

# The Arrested Lawyers Initiative

VOLUNTEER ORGANISATION TO DEFEND THE DEFENDERS

To: Mr. Plosnita Emanoil  
President of Moldova Bar Association

Dear Honourable Mr. President

We - The Arrested Lawyers Initiative - are a group of Turkish lawyers who are forced to live in exile after the government mass crackdown on human rights defenders and lawyers across Turkey. We have currently set up a network of lawyers to defend and advocate the rights of our colleagues jailed in Turkey.

Today, it has been reported six Turkish nationals **who have legal residence and ongoing asylum procedure in Moldova** have been apprehended (like being abducted) on demands of the Turkish regime. Victim Turkish nationals alleged to be affiliated with the Gulen Movement.

<https://twitter.com/ArrestedLawyers/status/1037623571516977152> (Footage of the incident)

The Arrested Lawyers Initiative is concerned that;

1. The number and extend of detentions may increase during the day;
2. The detained may be subjected to unnecessary interrogation and extradition to Turkey where their chances of receiving neutral and just treatment is very dim;
3. The family members of the detained may also be detained and extradited to Turkey.

Turkey is not a safe country for alleged and real affiliates of the Gulen Movement. As mentioned our report entitled "[Extradition to Turkey: One-way Ticket to Torture and Unfair Trial](#)" anyone (principal) who may be extradited to Turkey,

- i. will most likely be subjected to torture and ill-treatment,
- ii. will not be able to enjoy his right to freedom in the absence of undue government approval even when released by a competent court of law
- iii. will not be able to enjoy the right to fair trial, iv. his right to counsel will be unlawfully hindered

Several other international organizations have reported on torture and mistreatment in Turkish prisons of the alleged members of the Gulen Movement including a most recent condemnatory report by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Under such conditions, we kindly urge our Moldovian colleagues express their concerns about these detentions and prospective extraditions of Turkish nationals to Turkey and provide them legal counsel.

Yours sincerely. 6 September 2018.

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Kind Regards,

The Arrested Lawyers Initiative

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