

The Council of Europe,  
Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić,  
Avenue de l'Europe,  
67075 Strasbourg Cedex,  
France

July 12th 2022

### **Gezi-trial and 18 years of prison for Hakan Altınay**

We are a group of friends of Hakan Altınay from Turkey. In April he was sentenced to 18 years in prison in the Gezi-trial.

We know Hakan as one of the kindest and wisest people in our lives. We are stunned that he is detained at a high security prison, which holds Islamic State leaders and other mass murderers. The judicial process which led Hakan and others in this bizarre state has been well documented by international media and reputable rights groups. Legal observers, politicians and diplomats from a number of countries, and human rights organizations, such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, the International Bar Association and PEN, have followed the case closely. They agree that the charges are unfounded, and the case is referred to as "a case without evidence."

We also understand that the verdict of 25 April has been widely criticized inside Turkey, herself.

We take note that Hakan directs the European School of Politics in Istanbul, one of the Council of Europe's Schools of Politics Studies. We urge you and the Council of Europe to do everything in your power to undo this gross injustice.

Sincerely,

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