

I am writing to express my grave concern on 11 members of the Turkish Medical Association's Central Council detained as part of a criminal investigation launched following the association's statement calling for an end to Turkey's military operation in Afrin, northern Syria.

The authorities should ensure the immediate and unconditional release of Raşit Tükel and 10 members of the Central Council of the Turkish Medical Association. I am urging the Minister of Interior and the Governor of Ankara to provide immediate protection for TTB's members and offices, as requested by the organization.

I am also calling on Minister of Interior to ensure that a prompt, thorough, impartial and independent investigation is carried out into the threats of violence received by the TTB.

Sincerely,