



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

Commission internationale de juristes - Comisión Internacional de Juristas

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COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE - COMUNICADO DE PRENSA

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Turkey: ICJ Releases Final Report on the Criminal Trial of 27 Turkish lawyers

The ICJ's Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers (CIJL) of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) today concluded in its final report that the criminal trial of 27 Turkish lawyers was political in nature. The lawyers, who had been charged with professional misconduct before No. 1 Ankara Heavy Penal Court, were openly identified as "terrorist lawyers" for representing political prisoners during a court proceeding in December 2000.

Nevertheless, the CIJL/ICJ is satisfied that the Court dismissed the charge against the lawyers on 31 October 2002 on the ground that it was not supported by sufficient evidence.

The CIJL/ICJ report covers all aspects of the trial, including the context within which it arose, an analysis of the applicable law and the charge, and an evaluation of the fairness of the proceedings.

The ICJ calls upon the Government to refrain from identifying lawyers with their clients' causes and allow lawyers to perform their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or prosecution in line with international standards such as the UN Principles on the Role of Lawyers.

The CIJL sent a trial observer, Paul Richmond, Barrister of England and Wales, to observe the 31 October hearing which had been previously adjourned twice. Mr Richmond observed the earlier proceedings which took place on 9 May and 11 July.

Note: For further information please contact Linda Besharaty-Movaed at 41 22 979 38 09, and refer to the [ICJ's Final Report](#).

The ICJ is an international non-governmental organisation comprising sixty of the world's most eminent jurists and has a worldwide network of national sections and affiliated organisations

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