

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Brussels, 30 August 2019

We acknowledge with great sadness and concern the arrest of four healthcare professionals for providing medical care to a wounded child in Turkey during a curfew earlier this month.

Instead of being praised for performing their professional and human duty and acting under the medical oath, Dr. Nesim Sayın and three nurses are currently imprisoned in Şırnak Prison on charges of providing support to terrorist activity.

This adds up to the growing pressure under which healthcare professionals in Turkey are constrained to lately, affecting their well-being and professional performance as well as endangering patient safety.

We stand by other international and European medical associations, such as the World Medical Association and the Standing Committee of European Doctors in the request for the Turkish authorities to release these healthcare professionals immediately and drop the charges against them, in accordance with the international human rights laws that Turkey should be observing as part of the international treaties and conventions.