



**ASSOCIATION OF DEFENCE COUNSEL  
PRACTISING BEFORE THE ICTY  
- AND REPRESENTING COUNSEL BEFORE THE MICT -**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**THE ADC-ICTY REQUESTS THAT TURKEY IMMEDIATELY RELEASES  
JUDGE AKAY, JUDGE AT THE MECHANISM FOR INTERNATIONAL  
CRIMINAL TRIBUNALS (MICT)**

THE HAGUE - On or around 21 September 2016, Judge Akay, who is currently assigned to proceedings at the MICT was detained by Turkish authorities. This was allegedly arising from the events of July 2016 directed against the constitutional order of Turkey. Nearly two months later still little is known about his whereabouts or safety.

The ADC-ICTY condemns arbitrary detention without lawful reason which is in contravention of the international standards which Turkey is legally obliged to follow as a State Party to international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights.

As a result of the arbitrary detention, the proceedings to which Judge Akay is assigned have effectively been halted, infringing on the fundamental rights of the applicant to a final determination of his claims. The ADC-ICTY believes strongly that judicial independence is paramount to protect the rule of law and we express our concern that the continued detention will unfairly delay judicial proceedings before an international tribunal.

MICT President, Theodor Meron, reported to the UN General Assembly on 9 November 2016, that the UN Office of Legal Affairs had formally asserted Judge Akay's diplomatic immunity and requested his release from detention. The ADC-ICTY respectfully also calls for the immediate safe release of Judge Akay.

The Association of Defence Counsel practicing before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ADC-ICTY) is an independent professional association which represents all defence counsel practicing before the ICTY and the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT). The ADC-ICTY works to promote and protect the interests of defence counsel and ensure the proper function of defence is respected in proceedings before international courts and tribunals.

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