



SIXTH CONFERENCE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN BAR PRESIDENTS

“Immigration and Human Rights’ Protection in the Mediterranean”

6 and 7 September 2013

Taormina (Messina – Italia), Hotel Imperial

DECLARATION FOR TURKEY

We, the representatives from the National Bar Councils of Mediterranean countries, gathered in Taormina on the 6th and the 7th September 2013 on the occasion of the sixth CONFERENCE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN BAR PRESIDENTS

Acknowledge the situation of Turkish lawyers who are confronted to major difficulties. Attorneys are being investigated and prosecuted because of their professional activities. They are being forced out of the courthouses and courtrooms, and being prohibited from performing their duty.

We do believe that this amounts to a violation of the fundamental principles of democracy and the Rule of Law.

We strongly support Turkish colleagues in this process of defending human rights and access to justice and approve the Union of Turkish Bar Associations initiatives for promoting the Rule of law and for insuring the correct application of the universal right to a fair trial. Therefore we stress the need for independent and impartial judiciary.

Finally, we hope that the National Bar independence is guaranteed against any interference from political pressure.

The Presidents,

Taormina, September 7th 2013