



Türkiye Barolar Birliđi Başkanlıđı

Sayı:2495

Ankara 03 / 03 / 2015

**His Royal Highness Deputy Crown Prince Mohammad
Bin Naif bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud
Ministry of the Interior
P.O. Box 2933, Airport Road, Riyadh 11134
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

Your Royal Highness,

The Union of Turkish Bar Associations (UTBA) pay attention to the profession of lawyers and their rights, considering the related articles in UN Havana Rules, European Convention on Human Rights and Council of Europe Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on Principles Concerning the Legal Protection. The UTBA has reiterated recently its grave concern about the harsh sentence against our colleague and human rights activist Waleed Abu al-Khair.

I also draw your attention to the 1990 UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers. This states that Saudi authorities have an obligation to ensure that lawyers can perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference and that they do not suffer, or be threatened with, prosecution for any action taken while carrying out their duties. (Principle 16)

I remind you that the UN Basic Principles were adopted by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in 1990, have a normative value under customary international law, and should be respected by Saudi Arabia, which was present at the Congress and voted in favour of their adoption.

Hereby, I strongly believe that the situation of Mr Abu al-Khair will be resolved through the guidance of international law. Personally, I would like to sincerely express that Saudi Arabia should be making extraordinary efforts to solve this problem.

Sincerely Yours,

**Professor Metin Feyziođlu, Esq.
President of the Union of Turkish Bar Associations**

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