



Zentrum Bundesrepublik Deutschland des Internationalen Theaterinstituts e.V.

Federal Republic of Germany Centre of the ITI • Centre de la république fédérale d'Allemagne de L'IIT

ITI Zentrum Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Mariannenplatz 2. D-10997 Berlin

To the Turkish Government

Regarding the dismissal of professors and research assistants of the theatre department

It has come to our knowledge that our colleagues, professors of the theatre department Prof. Dr. Selda Berk Öndül, Prof. Dr. Tülin Sağlam, Prof. Dr. Beliz Güçbilmez, Dr. M. Elif Çongur, and the research assistants Ceren Özcan and Şamil Yılmaz have been dismissed from their positions by the new Decree-law No 686. With Assoc. Prof. Dr. Süreyya Karacabey, who had been dismissed before by the Decree-Law No. 679, seven of our colleagues have been expelled from work in government offices.

We are very worried about the consequences of this decision that will have serious effects on the possibilities for studies at the theatre department in your country.

We are convinced that these colleagues and professors are in no way threats to the national security and we urge you to give them a fair treatment.

We, representing the international theatre community in many countries, express our deep concern about these dismissals of colleagues - professors as well as all the many Turkish artists and intellectuals being suspected and threatened within the past months.

We urgently ask your government to reconsider this decision.

Ann Mari Engel
Vice president ITI worldwide

Thomas Engel
Secretary ITI Action Committee for Artists Rights