

[ = ]

c i e m e n

centre internacional  
escarré per a les [ minorities ]  
ètniques i les nacions

## **We condemn the Turkish state's new aggression against Kurdish civil society**

Since the summer 2016 coup, a massive repression campaign has spread across Turkey, targeting opponents of the government, human rights defenders, defenders of the Kurdish people, journalists, members of the political opposition, and others, who are subjected to unfounded investigations, prosecutions, and convictions.

On 25 April, just three weeks before the 14 May parliamentary and presidential elections, approximately 110 people were arrested in an operation ordered by the Amed (Diyarbakir) Public Prosecutor's Office, targeting several Kurdish civil society organisations. Among those detained are artists, journalists, NGO members, and members of the pro-Kurdish HDP party. They include journalists from newspapers *Xwebûn* and *Yeni Yaşam* and news agencies Mesopotamia (MA) and Jin News. In addition, they include members of Göç-Der, an organisation with which CIEMEN has worked for more than five years, contributing to the Kurdish organisation's work with adolescents and women. Göc-Der has been working since 1997 (closed several times by the Turkish authorities, most recently in 2016, and reopened in 2019) to guarantee the rights of migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people in the city of Amed, with a special focus on working through culture and non-formal education.

CIEMEN denounces repeated arrests, interrogations, and imprisonments, which do not comply with international law. It also denounces the absurd reasons why hundreds of activists, journalists and volunteers are in Turkish prisons.

This latest wave of arrests shows that the Turkish authorities have no intention of stopping the brutal repression against independent civil society, dashes hopes that Turkey can normalise once the current state of emergency is lifted, and violates the freedoms of expression, assembly, and association with impunity, violating the rights of women, LGBT people, refugees and migrants, as well as the collective rights of the Kurdish people.

Barcelona, 26 April 2023