

GEW Vorsitzender

His Excellency Abdullah Gül  
President of Turkey

29. Mai 2009  
ut/mb

**Police action against KESK and EGITIM SEN,**

Dear Mr President Abdullah Gül,

On behalf of the German Education Union (GEW) and our 250.000 members I want to express my concern about the police action against democratic trade union organisations that took place today in Ankara and other cities of your country.

We were informed by our partner organisation Egitim Sen that Turkish policemen have launched this morning an operation at KESK (Confederation of Public Employees' Unions) headoffice in Ankara and KESK local branches in Izmir, Istanbul, Van and Manisa too. More than 30 members of Egitim Sen are under arrest now, including Egitim Sen executive board member Gulcin Isbert.

The attack of the Turkish police against trade union offices and the harassment and detention of trade union leaders and activists because of their legitimate democratic activities are serious violations of international trade union rights and can not be accepted. GEW demands the immediate release of Gulcin Isbert and all other KESK and Egitim Sen trade unionist that have been arrested for political reasons today. We also demand that the Turkish authorities stop to constrict legal organisations like KESK and Egitim Sen and start to value trade unions as necessary parts of a democratic society.

With regards



Ulrich Thöne  
President of GEW

