



EVALUATION OF THE PRESENCE OF CONFEDERACIÓN INTERSINDICAL IN THE OBSERVATION DELEGATION ON DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS IN TURKEY AND KURDISTAN

On the 11th of May, a delegation of 10 people from different parts of the Spanish State went to Kurdistan in response to an invitation from the HDP (Peoples' Democratic Party), the third largest parliamentary organisation in Turkey. The aim of the visit was to verify the conditions under which democratic elections are held in Turkey, especially in the Kurdish-populated areas.

The process of outlawing the HDP, as happened on previous occasions with other Kurdish parliamentary parties; the mass arrests of lawyers and political leaders, denounced by the press, to make them difficult to denounce possible complaints of fraud; the implementation of a state of emergency justified by the impact of the earthquake last February, were data that made us fear that we were facing a situation far removed from the parameters that are considered democratic in the different states of our European area.

The Confederación Intersindical (CI) decided to accept the invitation and appointed our colleague, Tino Brugos, responsible for trade union policy, as our representative in the aforementioned delegation. What happened during the course of the meeting has been in the news throughout the week. The obstacles to the free movement of people, the illegal and unjustified detentions, the disproportionate deployment of military personnel in the few polling stations we were able to visit, the continuous drawbacks to the work of the dedicated teams of lawyers who accompanied the international delegation at all times, the mistreatment of a person who had accompanied us as our driver the day before, who was also illegally detained at the Siirt police station, are all data that our delegate has transmitted to us in the report presented to the organisation.

The case of our colleague, Tino Brugos, is special because he is the only person who was expelled from the Delegation, after having been registered with photos and fingerprints as if he were a criminal, despite not having committed any illegality during his presence on Turkish domain. The legal team of the Confederación Intersindical and the Kurdish lawyers who accompanied her will open proceedings with the aim of restoring her honour. The central government of the Spanish State condemns this action, expressly citing our comrade, and we are taking action with European parliamentarians and organisations such as Amnesty International to ensure that this outrage does not go unpunished.



Unfortunately, our fears have been realised. Turkey is a state that has a dangerous anti-democratic drift and enjoys a high level of impunity for the continuous violations of human rights that take place on its territory against its own citizens. These events will serve to reinforce our commitment to accompany the Kurdish people and left-wing organisations in Turkey in their struggle to achieve minimum levels of democratic quality which, we understand, does not exist there today. We will promote, with all our strength, those initiatives that help to break the existing information and mediatic silence in our country about the events taking place in Turkey and Kurdistan, which is only justified by the desire to secure investments and economic interests. For our organisation, the rights of the people will always come before economic interests.

May 19th, 2023.
Confederación Intersindical