



**YOUNG
EUROPEAN
SOCIALISTS**

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SOLIDARITY WITH NURIYE GÜLMEN AND SEMİH ÖZAKÇA

Submitted by CHP Youth Turkey, Labour Youth Ireland, JS Belgium, FGS Italy

Nuriye Gülmen (academic) and Semih Özakça (teacher) are only two people out of more than 120.000 who have been expelled from their jobs with an emergency decree issued by Turkish government since the failed coup attempt last year. Nuriye and Semih protested this decision each day in the streets of Ankara. Many of the protests ended with police intervention and detentions, which did not stop them from being there the next day.

When the government chose not to hear their voices, they turned their protest into a hunger strike with a very simple demand: they wanted their jobs back. Around the day 65, their health condition went worse. However, this did not stop the police from putting them into prison on the 75th day. According to the claims of Semih's family, they were tortured, too. They have been arrested ever since.

Now, as we are approaching to the 100th day of their hunger strike, the human rights statue in the very spot where Nuriye and Semih started their protest is still surrounded by the barricades of the police to prevent people from protesting there; the police uses tear gas and plastic bullets against the friends and family of Nuriye and Semih. Hunger strikers' number is increasing.

As Young European Socialists, we remind that these thousands of people were expelled from their jobs without any investigation or court decision. However, they are told by the government to be affiliated with terrorist organisations without any credible evidence. We, as Young European Socialists, call the international community and especially our member organisations to show solidarity with Nuriye and Semih, whose health conditions are becoming more serious every day, but also who need our solidarity more than ever.

As Young European Socialists, we demand respect for the rule of law and oppose any fascist system that takes away the hopes and future of young people by expelling them from their jobs without any proof and taking away their passports. Erdogan's ruling will not last, those who win will be the progressive ones who believe that another future is possible.