



Stockholm, 29:th of January 2010

Ambassador Zergün Koratürk  
The Embassy of Turkey  
Box 241 05  
104 51 STOCKHOLM

Excellency,

We are writing on behalf of the Swedish Newspaper Publishers' Association, which represents newspaper and media companies in Sweden, to express our serious concern of the situation for the Dogan Media Group in Turkey.

According to the information we have received, not only from our Turkish colleagues but also from independent parties, threats have been made from public authorities against the Dogan Media Group, calls for an boycott of its publications, and attempts to deter it from publishing articles concerning a matter of clear public interest.

The articles published by the Dogan Group concern an investigation by German prosecutors into alleged illegal payments by the Deniz Feneri e.V. charity, which has collected almost EUR50 million in humanitarian aid, mainly from Turks living in Germany.

According to reports, the Dogan Media Group has also been imposed a fine of TL 3.75 billion (1.74 billion Euros) for tax irregularities. The Dogan Group, which was fined 345 million Euros last year for an alleged overdue tax payment, denies all charges.

We are concerned that the Dogan Media Group is being targeted for political reasons. The enormity of the fine is disproportionate to any offence that may have been committed and suggests it is punitive in nature.

We respectfully call on you to do everything possible to ensure that this fine is withdrawn and that tax laws are applied fairly and transparently. We urge you to do everything possible to ensure that in future your country fully respects international standards of press freedom.

Our association has also written to Prime Minister Reinfeldt, drawing his attention to our serious concern about these matters, both in the light of the good relations Sweden enjoys with your country and in the context of the ongoing discussions about the possible admission of Turkey to the European Union.

We look forward to hearing from at earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

THE SWEDISH NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

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Tomas Brunegård  
Chairman of the board

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Anna Serner  
CEO