

Mr Ahmet DAVUTOGLU
Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey
Başbakanlık Merkez Bina
B Kapısı Zemin Kat
No:38 ANKARA TURKEY

Brussels, September 4th 2015

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: Unfair dismissal of Mr. Levent Üzümcü, Municipal Theatre of Istanbul

The International Federation of Actors (FIA) expresses its outmost indignation following the shocking dismissal by the Disciplinary Committee of the Municipality of Istanbul of Mr. Levent Üzümcü, professional actor and Chairman of the Association of Actors of the Municipal Theatre of Istanbul (AAMTI), on the grounds that *"his actions during Gezi Park protest and his several speeches, interviews and statements in the written and visual media about high level state officials have exceeded the limits of the right for freedom of speech"*.

FIA strongly condemns such a shameful denial of freedom of expression, in general, and freedom of artistic expression in particular. This decision appears to be a clear violation of Article 26 of the Turkish Constitution, which states that *"everybody has the right to express and diffuse his/her ideas and convictions, individually or as part of a group, orally, in written forms, with images or with any other medium"*.

FIA stands in solidarity with fellow artists, journalists and intellectuals in Turkey and beyond that are calling for the reversal of this decision and urges an immediate review of the judgement by the Disciplinary Committee of the Municipality of Istanbul, in order to reinstate Mr. Levent Üzümcü in his previous functions.

The International Federation of Actors is an international non-governmental organisation representing performers' trade union guilds, and associations around the world. It voices the professional concerns and interests of actors, broadcast professionals, dancers, singers, variety and circus artists, among others.

Yours faithfully,



Dominick LUQUER
General Secretary of FIA