

**LETTRE OUVERTE AU PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE TURQUE**  
**S.E.M. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**

March 16, 2016

**Object** : Arrest of several Turkish lawyers

Dear President,

As secretary-general of the International Conference of common legal tradition Bars (known as CIB), which includes 45 bars of French-speaking countries, I am writing you to express our deep concerns about the arrest of several of our Turkish colleagues.

The state of emergency and the risk of terrorist attacks can not justify such an arrest, furthermore on the eve of an important trial, without causing a serious blow to the rights of defense.

Lawyers are essential to the proper functioning of democracy and respect of the rule of law which both are conditions of the accession of Turkey to the European Union in accordance with its fundamental principles.

We remain confident in the rapid resolution of this situation.

Yours faithfully,



**Bernard Vatier**  
Secretary-General of the CIB