Greetings,

I am writing to express Advocates of Silenced Turkey's concern of

Victims of Erdogan’s regime are increasing everyday, as there has not been an effective mechanism preventing him. On November 21, 2017, Greek media reported that Greek authorities have found bodies of five, including three children, short time ago on the Greek Island of Lesvos. Identities of the bodies were revealed through the ID cards found on them, which were handed out to the Turkish police to check the records. On the other hand, relatives of the Maden family have not heard from them for some time. Reportedly, the bodies were the Maden family who has been trying to flee from Erdogan’s Turkey. The father, Huseyin Maden, and mother, Nur Maden, were allegedly linked to the Gulen Movement that has been blamed for everything going wrong in Turkey just like a scapegoat. According to the gathered information, both were sacked from their jobs as a result of the government’s actions targeting everyone in connection with the Gulen Movement. Moreover, there were detention warrants on their names accusing them of being a terrorist, therefore, it was speculated that the family was trying to escape from Erdogan’s autocratic regime in the search for freedom. The Greek police presume that the family was a part of a larger refugee group escaping from the country and thus questioning recently arrived refugees. The investigations are still on going to lighten the case.

The Turkish government has been violating human rights and fundamental freedoms for a long time now increasing the number of victims each day. Core rights enshrined both in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights such as the right to life, freedom from torture, right to liberty and security, right to a fair trial as well as freedom of expression and religion were violated by the government on a large scale. Unfortunately, no mechanism to alleviate the situation in the country has been effective enough so far.

I am calling all the international and non-governmental human rights organizations to raise awareness about the drowned Maden family and also to take immediate action as regards the problems in Turkey to prevent other families and children from suffering as such.

Yours Sincerely,

[First name, Last name]