

20.01.2015- Istanbul

**Dear Member of Turkish Parliament,**

**The ballot about the investigation on four ministers, of which you will take part in the General Assembly of Grand National Assembly of Turkey, is closely related to the principles such as state of law, superiority of law, right to legal remedies, and fair hearing. Your vote has critical importance in terms of strengthening the perception of rendering responsables of such important alleges accountable in front of law, and not creating another case of impunity, which has been normalized in Turkish politics and society.**

**Please use your vote in the General Assembly with the awareness of your role in either voting for immunity and impunity, or superiority of law and fair hearing!**

The investigation that has started on 17 December 2013, the date serious allegations were made, has been continuing in an extraordinary manner, first with the nonsuit decision, then Parliamentary Research Commission's decision not to refer the four ministers to the Supreme Court. The ballot about the referral of these ministers to the Supreme Court that will take place in the General Assembly, stands as a test for Turkey to prove "state of law" principle.

17 December investigation has not only become an exemplary case that demonstrates how corruption cannot be investigated in Turkey, but also increases existing question marks about tackling corruption. Keeping the ministers, who have been mentioned in serious corruption alleges, out of independent judiciary procedures to create accountability, directly contributes in the emergence of impunity and political immunity culture.

"Impunity" practices are not restricted to certain human rights violations such as persecution, police violence, hate crimes, child abuse, but widely observed in issues that relate to public welfare and interest of the whole society, such as corruption.

Following up on the corruption and bribe alleges, dating December 17 and 25, the constables and prosecutors, who had carried out investigations, got dismissed, sued and broadcasting on the investigations were banned. None of 185 people, whose names were mentioned in the investigations, were taken to trial and the file was closed due to the final nonsuit decision.

According to Turkish Penal Code's chapter on "Crimes Against the Reliability and Function of Public Administration", crimes such as corruption, bribery, embezzlement lead to serious damage in the reliability of public administration. Considering the principle of law protected by our Penal Code, the victim of such crimes is the whole society.

Referral of the four ministers, alleged with corruption, to the Supreme Court will shed light on the reality behind these alleges. However, blocking the investigations may lead to violation of the principle of state of law, protected by the constitution, and the right to lawful protection of all citizens, vicims of these crimes.

Therefore, as Transparency International Turkey, we would like to believe that your vote will not contribute in the emergence of a culture of impunity and political immunity, but in opening the way for a fair jurisdiction process in a state of law.

Yours Sincerely,

Transparency International Turkey