

**Question for written answer E-000900/2016**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Notis Marias (ECR)**

Subject: VP/HR - Measures to secure the immediate release of the Turkish journalists Can Dunder and Erdem Gül

On 27 January 2016, the Turkish public prosecution service informed journalists Can Dunder and Erdem Gül, who have already been detained for 65 days, that they were accused of 'gathering secret state documents for the purposes of political and military espionage', 'attempting to topple the government of the Republic of Turkey or attempting to stop the government from fulfilling its duties' and 'deliberate support for a terrorist organization', charges which carry life sentences.

The charges stem from a report published by Can Dunder in the Turkish *Cumhuriyet* mass circulation daily newspaper, of which the Ankara office is run by Erdem Gül, containing evidence that a consignment of arms belonging to the Turkish secret services that were seized at Turkish-Syrian border in January 2014 were on their way to Islamist groups in Syria.

The imposition of such sentences, normally sought for the perpetrators of violent crimes, will undoubtedly undermine press freedom and freedom of expression in Turkey, aggravating an already unacceptable situation.

In view of this:

What measures does the High Representative intend to take to secure the immediate release of the journalists Can Dunder and Erdem Gül?