

Brussels, 27 November 2017

**Abdulhamit Gül**, Minister of Justice

Ministry of Justice  
Vekaletler Caddesi No: 6 Bakanliklar  
06659 Kilizay, Ankara

Dear Minister,

I am writing to respectfully request access to meet Şahin Alpay, former columnist for the shuttered newspaper *Zaman*. He is currently held in Silivri Prison.

My name is Tanja Fajon and I am a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) from Slovenia. I am a member of the *Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats*.

I am writing out of concern for the ongoing detention of Şahin Alpay. I would like to personally meet him to discuss his physical health, the legality of his detention and his psychological well-being.

I am writing this request in line with the EU Human Rights Guidelines on Freedom of Expression Online and Offline. These guidelines highlight the high priority that the EU attaches to the safety of journalists and other media actors.

The Guidelines also allow the EU to reaffirm its determination to promote, in its external human rights policy, the freedoms of opinion and expression as rights to be exercised by everyone everywhere, based on the principles of equality, non-discrimination and universality.

I thank you in advance for taking my request into consideration and look forward to receiving further information on any additional requirements for a future visit to Silivri Prison.

Yours sincerely,

Tanja Fajon

