

**Press Release**  
**International arrest warrant and new hearing for Pinar Selek**  
**16 January 2023**

On 21 June 2022, Turkey's state-run news agency announced that the Turkish Supreme Court had overturned Pinar Selek's fourth acquittal, handed down on 19 December 2014 by the Istanbul Criminal Court. Previously, Pinar Selek had indeed appeared in three criminal proceedings, all of which found her innocent, throughout the 25 years of political-judicial persecution she continues to endure. After imprisoning and torturing her for her sociological research on the Kurds, the Turkish authorities decided to make her a "terrorist" by fabricating the elements needed to prove against all evidence that an attack had occurred, whereas everything established that the 1998 Istanbul Spice Market explosion was the result of an accident.

Six months after the announcement in the press of the annulment of the acquittal, the Supreme Court's decision was finally notified to Pinar Selek's lawyers on 6 January 2023 by the Istanbul Assize Court. These six months of unbearable waiting and new psychological torture for Pinar Selek have resulted in a parody of justice. Pinar Selek is the subject of an international arrest warrant requesting her immediate imprisonment. This decision is taken by the Istanbul Criminal Court even before the judges of this court have pronounced themselves in a first hearing, set for 31 March 2023.

Such measures, which are grotesque from a legal point of view and particularly serious in their scope and consequences for Pinar Selek, are being taken in a context of restriction of freedoms and increasing violence by the Turkish authorities against all minorities and political opponents, in particular against the Kurds, whether in Turkey or in other countries. The upcoming elections in Turkey are conducive to all political diversions and manipulations.

The collectives in solidarity with Pinar Selek refuse to allow the writer and sociologist to be held hostage once again to an iniquitous policy that has resulted in a veritable judicial farce. They also refuse to allow her to become a collateral victim of the policy of complacency of European countries towards the authoritarian and repressive regime in Turkey. They ask all parliamentarians and political leaders who have shown their support for Pinar Selek in recent months to act energetically with the government so that it provides her with all the security and protection that the French state owes to one of its compatriots. Pinar Selek's French nationality is not enough to protect her. With the support of numerous personalities from the world of research, intellectuals and culture, the solidarity groups with Pinar Selek renew their request to the President of the Republic for firm and unconditional support as well as an official protest to the Turkish authorities.

Finally, they call on Pinar Selek's friends, artists, academics and activists to redouble their efforts, to extend their mobilisations in support of all the victims of the Turkish government and to prepare large delegations to go to Istanbul on 31 March to demand truth and justice for Pinar Selek!

**European Coordination of Solidarity Collectives with Pinar Selek**