

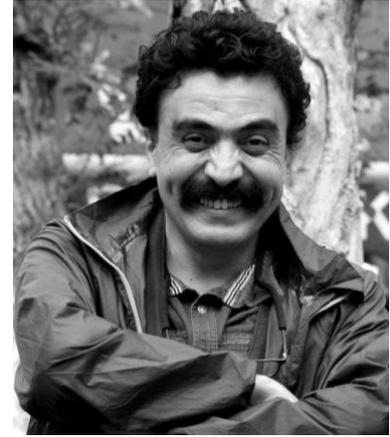
## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER FROM TURKEY TO RECEIVE LAWYERS FOR LAWYERS AWARD 2019**

**AMSTERDAM, 10 April 2019 – Selçuk Kozağaçlı, a human rights lawyer from Turkey, will receive the Lawyers for Lawyers Award 2019. On 23 May the Award will be presented at the Rode Hoed in Amsterdam.**

#### **Jury remarks**

“By awarding Selçuk Kozağaçlı the Lawyers for Lawyers Award the jury wants to applaud the unwavering dedication of both Selçuk Kozağaçlı and his colleagues to defending the basic human rights of their clients. With this award, the jury also honours the many Turkish lawyers that have been prosecuted in Turkey for doing their job”.



#### **High-profile human rights cases**

Selçuk Kozağaçlı is a lawyer and member of the People’s Law Office who worked on many human rights cases. Selçuk Kozağaçlı is well- known for working on the “Soma Mine” disaster, the worst mine disaster in Turkey’s history, in which 301 miners were killed. He is also president of the ÇHD, an association which focuses on the right to life and advocates for the prevention of all types of attack on fundamental rights and human dignity. On 22 November, 2016 the CHD was closed down by a government decree issued under the State of Emergency.

#### **Arrest and hunger strike**

Selçuk Kozağaçlı was arrested in November 2017 and charged with “membership of a terrorist organisation”. It was reported that during his pre-trial detention, he was kept in solitary confinement for a long period of time. Together with four other lawyers, Selçuk Kozağaçlı started a hunger strike on 24 January, 2019 to protest the irregularities in their trial and serious concerns about judicial independence. On 20 March, 2019, the İstanbul 37th Heavy Penal Court in Silivri Courthouse convicted him together with 17 other lawyers of terrorist related crimes. Selçuk Kozağaçlı was sentenced to 11 years and 3 months of imprisonment.

#### **Shortlist**

Human rights lawyers from across the world were nominated for the Lawyers for Lawyers Award 2019. The expert jury (Ms Heikelien Verrijn Stuart, Mr Cees Flinterman, Mr Egbert Myjer, Ms Els Swaab and Ms Channa Samkalden) selected Selçuk Kozağaçlı as the laureate.

The Jury chose lawyers **Ramazan Demir**<sup>1</sup>, **Veysel Ok**<sup>2</sup> and **Ali Yildiz**<sup>3</sup>, also from Turkey, as the lawyers for the shortlist.

### **Lawyers for Lawyers Award**

The Lawyers for Lawyers Award aims to honour lawyers who have made significant contributions to the protection of the rule of law and human rights in challenging environments. Through the Award, Lawyers for Lawyers generates public recognition for their work. The prize is a special token as well as a donation of €10.000.

Former laureates are: Alec Muchadehama from Zimbabwe (2011), Magamed Abubakarov from the Russian Federation (2013), Jorge Molano from Colombia (2015) and Sirikan Charoensiri from Thailand (2017).

### **For more information please contact:**

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### **About Lawyers for Lawyers**

Lawyers for Lawyers (L4L) is an independent, non-political and not-for-profit lawyers' organization established in 1986. Our mission is to promote the independent functioning of lawyers and the legal profession across the world in accordance with internationally recognized laws and standards, including the ICCPR and the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers. Our work to support lawyers who are at risk as a result of discharging their professional duties, seeks to protect them from threats, risks and reprisals, strengthen their international recognition and protection in laws, policies and practices, and empower them to fulfil their role in the protection of the rule of law and human rights. Lawyers for Lawyers was granted special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council in July 2013.

**END PRESS RELEASE**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://lawyersforlawyers.org/en/lawyers/ramazan-demir/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://lawyersforlawyers.org/en/lawyers/veysel-ok-2/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://lawyersforlawyers.org/en/lawyers/ali-yildiz/>