



## **The Opening Speech of Turkish Minister of Justice Mr. Bekir BOZDAĞ at the International Istanbul Law Congress**

**17.10.2016**

Mr. President,

The International Istanbul Law Congress is held with the participation of very esteemed and distinguished members of the judiciary, Ministers of Justice, lawyers, academicians and precious invitees from 48 different countries and from inside the country. Taking such an opportunity as the Istanbul Law Congress, we are very pleased and honored to welcome and host such very esteemed and distinguished audience in Turkey, especially in Istanbul which is one of the most prominent centers of culture, civilization, science and history. I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude separately to the Ministers of Justice, the president and deputy presidents of the supreme courts, the heads and members of the judicial institutions, the president and representatives of the educational institutions which provide the education and training for judges and prosecutors, academicians, lawyers, politicians and all participants for attending this congress. In the three-day congress, presentations and criticisms will be made and negotiations will be held by specialists and well-trained esteemed and distinguished members of the judiciary and again lawyers under 12 separate titles, notably legal problems of the refugees, victim rights, alternative dispute resolution methods, prosecution institution and effective investigation. I believe that very significant views will be expressed and will provide benefits to the international community and all participants in these fields. Indicative results will be yielded concerning the steps to be taken in the following years in the field of law and will be presented to all the participants and those who follow this event even though they do not participate in the congress. I take this opportunity to say that I wish this congress will be very beneficial and successful.

Mr. President, Esteemed Participants,

This congress is held in Istanbul following the failed coup attempt on 15 July 2016 which aimed to force the elected President to step down, to overthrow the elected government, to close the elected parliament and to eliminate the democratic state of law and national will.

Therefore, this is of utter importance for us that so many esteemed and distinguished invitees attend this congress.

During the 15 July coup attempt, our President and his family were the target of an assassination attempt; the security units of the parliament and the Presidential Complex were bombed by the F16 war crafts and shot by the helicopters; the tanks and armored vehicles were driven towards people and the people were also shot by automatic weapons and 241 citizens lost their life and 2,144 citizens were wounded. The coup attempt failed thanks to our President, parliament, government, political parties and media that protected the democracy and the state of law, the elected president, government and parliament, leaving aside all political views and differences of opinion and due to the successful fight conducted for this purpose. Our people undertook a very important fight for democracy and law and succeeded to protect their law and democracy and those who attempted to stage this coup were defeated.

Mr. President, Distinguished Invitees,

The FETO has an identity of secret terrorist organization which provided for the employment of people it raised in the army, security units and other public institutions, used these people as the members of the delegation when it needed and, by doing so, transformed the money, weapons, materials, laws and other means of state to those of the organization. Turkey got to closely know this structure, through bitter experience, which tried to attain a presence in the society and the state by using sensitive issues like religion and education. After starting to serve in public office, the people raised by this structure started to convey all the confidential information, secrets, means and capabilities of the state to the leader of the organization under his instructions. I think you had better evaluate to what extent they were all conveyed to the leader of the organization.

The adjutant of the Turkish General Chief of Staff places a bug in the office of the General Chief of Staff every day, records all the conversations in the evening and sends them to the higher-ranked person in the organization. Then, he sends them to Pennsylvania. Can any state place its own citizen to serve in the office of Turkish General Chief of Staff? It is impossible. However, can any kind of information be provided through an established organization in Turkey which uses Turkish citizens? Yes. It is the very example of this situation.

Therefore, the FETO does not only pose threat to Turkish national security but it is also a big threat to national security of all countries where it is present in this sense. If those raised through information and works conducted through religion and education in the opened schools start to serve in public office, it is possible that a lot of classified information and documents will be provided to the organization and transferred to somewhere else through the organization since the members of this organization have a high level of loyalty to the leader of the organization and the organization itself rather than the Constitution and laws of the mentioned country. These organizations act just like intelligence schools. I wanted to remind this esteemed community of this fact one more time.

Mr. President, our congress will last 3 days and will end with a final declaration at the end of three days. I would like to thank you once again for your honoring participation.