

**A Direção do SMMP divulga a mensagem de apoio que lhe foi remetida pela da YARSAV (Turkish Association of Judges and Prosecutors) a propósito do processo instaurado ao Presidente do SMMP:**

“Dear colleagues,

Turkish judges and prosecutors who are regularly subjected to corrupt public officials derogatory, offensive and threatening statements support Portuguese colleagues and kindly remind Portuguese public and government that reputation of judiciary is a vital element for a democracy, peace and safeguarding fundamental rights and freedoms.

First and foremost, it is incumbent upon judges and prosecutors to defend dignity of their profession by using maybe the most fundamental right of all which is freedom of speech on behalf of the people that they serve. Portuguese people have to support members of the judiciary in their fight against any form of undue influence and pressure especially exerted by politicians who try to manipulate corruption related judicial proceedings which is conducted against them by using close media outlets uttering remarks which is offensive and derogatory.

Additionally institutional responsibility for protection of independence and impartiality of prosecution rests on the shoulders of Superior Council of Portuguese Public Prosecution and it must act in accordance with its constitutional duties to create an environment conducive to believe that justice has been done.

As a nation who suffers a lot from collapse of prosecution due to similar most grave attacks, we would like to remind you that if reputation of the prosecution service diminishes not the prosecutors but Portuguese people will suffer the most. Everyone must realize that prosecutors are not defending their privilege status as always alleged by corrupt public

officials but they defend an institution which is indispensable for stability, peace, welfare, rights and freedoms.

Sincerely

**Murat Arslan**

**President of YARSAV (Turkish Association of Judges and Prosecutors)”**