

Statement about Levent Üzümcü

Levent Üzümcü, actor in the Municipal Theater of Istanbul and the Chairman of the Association of Actors of the Municipal Theater of Istanbul (AAMTI), is dismissed from his function as an artist working under the regulation for state officials, without taking into account his official status as the President of AAMTI, on the grounds that “his actions during Gezi Park protests and his several speeches, interviews and statements in the written and visual media about High Level State Officials (meaning mainly the prime minister of the time) has exceeded the limits of the right for freedom of speech”. However, as openly stated in Article 26 of the Turkish Constitution; “Everybody has the right to express and diffuse his/her ideas and convictions, individually or as part of a group, orally, in written forms, with images or with any other medium”. During the current process that Turkey passes through, the mentality which consists of not respecting any ideas other than their own, othering all different thoughts, showing their fascist pressures with exiles, dismissals, terrorizations, etc., is on action.

We are deeply worried.

Association of Actors of the Municipal Theater of Istanbul.