

Dear Minister of the Interior Mr. Wolfgang Schäuble,

Based on incorrect proofs, the Turkish government has always been trying to link Kurdistan's Workers Party, the PKK, with the Kurdish TV-station ROJ TV. This pertinacious and undemocratic attempt has been employed ever since ROJ TV started broadcasting from Copenhagen. The Turkish Government contends that ROJ TV has been broadcasting "*inflamating terms calling for violent actions in Turkey and elsewhere*". ROJ TV has refused these accusations, which are based on insufficient facts and also on untenable arguments, as the independence of ROJ TV has been stated by the station itself and also by investigations done by Danish authorities. With this in mind, it is a totally unintelligible act by the German authorities to forbid ROJ TV in Germany, which also supports the Turkish regime that is not stepping backward on their suppression of the Kurdish people. Furthermore it is of interest, that the Turkish attempt to illegalize ROJ TV does not reflect in any way that democracy has found its way to Turkey so far and none of the "democratic steps" stipulated by the EU, have been implemented, just cosmetic changes have been made to the Turkish "democracy". Even though there is no legal justification for banning Kurdish broadcasting in Turkey, the Kurds experience trouble when they attempt to do so. Again, education in Kurdish is limited to private schools for adults only. So that Kurdish school children are barred from being taught in and about their own Kurdish mother tongue.

Your ministry justifies its way of acting alleging, that ROJ TV in its practice supports violence and the fight of the PKK. But apparently, the results of the investigations carried out by the Danish authorities have not have not come to the attention your ministry, since the Danish Radio and Television Board has acquitted ROJ TV of all charges and found no base for the accusations. The Board has concluded that the TV station is broadcasting in accordance with Danish regulations and that it does not practise the alleged offences of racism and instigation of violence – all documented by investigations done by the Danish Police authorities.

With this email, I protest the decision by Your Ministry to forbid ROJ TV in Germany, because I see this decision as a support of the Turkish Government and its attempts to suppress and annihilate the Kurdish people in an unjust and unilateral war. For this reason, I plea very much to your ministry to withdraw your ban on Roj-TV and thereby bring a contribution to global democracy.