



Brussels, 19 February 2016

His Excellency Selim YENEL, Head of the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the EU

CC: Ms. Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Vice-President of the European Commission

Subject: Detention of Syrian journalist Rami Jarrah in Turkey

Your Excellency,

We are writing to express our utmost concern regarding the detention of Syrian journalist Rami Jarrah, currently detained in an unknown location in Turkey, while he was first detained on Wednesday in Gaziantep, for no apparent reason.

Since the beginning of the Syrian conflict Rami Jarrah has been a leading source of information on Syria, winning numerous awards including the 2012 International Press Freedom Award. We invited him to the European Parliament in December 2014.

We have been informed that Rami Jarrah personally met with your President in January to facilitate the work of journalists covering Syria. We trust Turkish authorities will make all the necessary efforts to guarantee his safety, inform his lawyer of his detention location, and secure his release. We would like to reiterate our call on Turkey to guarantee freedom of the press to all journalists.

Yours sincerely,

Alyn SMITH MEP (Greens/EFA), Pier Antonio PANZERI (S&D), Marietje SCHAAKE (ALDE), Ana GOMES (S&D), Javier NART (ALDE), Ivo VAJGL (ALDE), Vincent PEILLON (S&D), Barbara LOCHBIHLER (Greens/EFA), Petras AUSTREVICIUS (ALDE), Judith SARGENTINI (Greens/EFA), Fabio Massimo CASTALDO MEP (EFDD), Brando BENIFEI (S&D)