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## **Declaration by the President of the University of Strasbourg**

# **Raising support for PhD. student Pinar Selek**

**Pinar Selek will reappear before the Turkish authorities on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013. The President of the University of Strasbourg, Alain Beretz, is calling on the University community to back his support for her cause and has announced that the University will be represented in Istanbul on 24<sup>th</sup> January.**

In a press release published on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, Alain Beretz claimed, "By virtue of the fundamental and human values we defend, University of Strasbourg cannot conceive that freedom of speech, a fundamental condition of research, should be flouted and trampled underfoot. By standing at Pinar Selek's side, University of Strasbourg and the entire University community are determined to uphold the fundamental rights of every student, every citizen and every person."

The trial, which should have been held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, was deferred to 24<sup>th</sup> January. Today the President asserted, "Pinar Selek, who risks life imprisonment, can count on our support in defending her cause. We are at her side to pronounce loud and strong that research will not be exploited for political or ideological ends and that the values of humanism and freedom will ever be defended by our University." **This is why the University of Strasbourg will be represented by a Vice Chancellor in Istanbul on 24<sup>th</sup> January, the day of the trial, together with everyone supporting Pinar Selek.**

"The entire University community is called on to **support our colleague by taking part in the various demonstrations** which will be organised. Today, like yesterday, University of Strasbourg will stand side by side with all victims of persecution," Alain Beretz asserted forcefully.

To rally people to the cause, **the University's in-house e-journal published an article on 11<sup>th</sup> January - [lactu.unistra.fr](http://lactu.unistra.fr)** - to inform the entire University community about Pinar Selek's research, life history and combat. This is a decisive act to give media coverage to her situation and help rally round our community.

11<sup>th</sup> January 2013