Dear Mr/Ms [...]  
  
You will know that in recent weeks the Turkish government has been under fire from the EU and the international public about their repeated violations of basic principles of press freedom [1]. In December, dozens of journalists were arrested and detained as part of a government crackdown on independent media, a move which provoked cries of hypocrisy when Turkish PM Davutoglu joined world leaders in Paris following the horrific attack on Charlie Hebdo.  
  
The latest operations against the media are not an extraordinary event in Turkey; often caught in a web of vague and inflated anti-terror legislation, journalists are most often charged with ‘membership to’ or ‘making propaganda for’ an illegal organisation, when in reality they have simply been doing their job as journalists. Turkey currently ranks 190 on Reporters Without Borders’ press freedom index, and was the world’s worst jailer of journalists in 2012 and 2013, when in one particular case prosecutors attempted to try 44 pro-Kurdish journalists, again accused of terrorism, in a huge and highly politicised mass trial [2]. The government even tried to ban Twitter and YouTube last year [3], and placed a ban on media references to investigations into alleged arms convoys to Syria that may been organized by Turkey’s National Intelligence Organization (MIT) [4].  
  
With all this in mind I urge you to sign EDM 719: Restrictions On Press Freedom in Turkey, tabled by Ann Clwyd MP (full text below). It is small but significant action that you can take to speak out in support of arrested journalists in Turkey and for freedom of the press in all parts of the world. I hope you will sign your name.  
  
Kind regards,  
[...]  
  
  
***Early Day Motion 719: Restrictions On Press Freedom In Turkey****That this House is concerned about widespread reports of state censorship, and the firing, imprisonment and wiretapping of journalists in Turkey; notes that about 20 journalists were arrested in a series of dawn raids in Turkey in mid-December 2014; further notes that one of the journalists arrested in December, television presenter Sedef Kabas, is facing a prison sentence of up to five years for a tweet about a corruption probe involving high profile names; welcomes the statement by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and the EU Commissioner for Enlargement Negotiations that the latest crackdown is against the European values and standards Turkey aspires to be part of; calls on Turkish authorities to remove the travel bans imposed on the journalists, drop all criminal charges against them and release all other journalists behind bars in the country; and further calls on Ministers in the UK Government to raise these concerns with their counterparts in Turkey  
  
Sponsors: Clwyd, Ann/ Osborne, Sandra / Corbyn, Jeremy / Farrelly, Paul / Durkan, Mark / Russell, Bob    /   House of Commons: 21.01.2015*[*http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2014-15/719*](http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2014-15/719)  
  
Notes.  
  
[1] <http://www.voanews.com/content/european-parliament-to-warn-turkey-on-press-freedom/2594988.html>  
[2] <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/09/10/us-turkey-kurds-idUSBRE88917C20120910>  
[3] <http://en.rsf.org/turquie-blocking-of-twitter-worthy-of-the-21-03-2014,46030.html>  
[4] <http://en.rsf.org/turkey-how-far-will-censorship-go-as-17-02-2014,45875.html>  
  
Further reading on Turkey’s press freedom crisis:   
<https://freedomhouse.org/country/turkey#.VMEy6mSsXoF>