



12<sup>th</sup> August, 2023.

## Press Release

### **JSI demand Turkiye to abort imprisonment order on Baris Pehlivan**

Journalists Sanctuary International is deeply concerned about the latest imprisonment order issued by authorities in Turkiye to its prominent investigative journalist Baris Pehlivan.

JSI acknowledges security concerns expressed by authorities but those concerns do not constitute legitimate grounds for putting the journalist behind bars.

The imprisonment is a breach on the fundamental human right of Baris Pehlivan to free speech as a critical journalist.

Journalists Sanctuary International therefore appeal to authorities in Turkiye to as a matter of urgency, and in the spirit of article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, end the prosecution of Pehlivan and all critical journalists in Turkiye, and allow reporters the freedom and liberty to do their work without persecution.

The apparent trend of throwing journalists into prison in Turkiye for critical reportages is worrying. Eleven percent (11%) of the three hundred and sixty-three journalists imprisoned worldwide in 2022 alone were in Turkiye.

And for a country notorious for jailing journalists, JSI is even more concerned about the peculiar case of Baris Pehlivan who has been in and out of prison simply for doing his work.

No journalist should go to jail for doing their legitimate work particularly in a country that pride itself as a democratic state.

We repeat our call for immediate end of the prosecution of Pehlivan.

END.

SIGNED

Latif Iddrisu  
Founder/President