



International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations  
Unión internacional de trabajadores de la alimentación, agrícolas, hoteles, restaurantes, tabaco y afines  
Union internationale des travailleurs de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture, de l'hôtellerie-restauration, du tabac et des branches connexes  
Internationale Union der Lebensmittel-, Landwirtschafts-, Hotel-, Restaurant-, Café- und Genussmittelarbeiter-Gewerkschaften  
Internationella unionen för livsmedels-, njutningsmedels- och lantarbetareförbund samt förbund inom hotell- och restaurangbranschen

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**Subject: OPEN LETTER TO DIVAN HOTEL, TAXIM HILL HOTEL, POINT HOTEL, AND HYATT HOTEL**

During June this year, the whole world witnessed thousands of Turkish citizens holding peaceful demonstrations demanding a more free and democratic State. These legitimate expressions of democracy were brutally repressed by the police forces.

In my capacity as General Secretary of the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF), I was in Istanbul to express the solidarity of affiliated unions and to support the aspirations of these mostly young protesters.

During the clashes with police, the State authorities obstructed the administration of medical care to injured demonstrators. However, I personally witnessed the actions of your hotel and its staff in giving shelter to protesters and allowing them to receive medical support while preventing police from entering your property, most likely with the intention of arresting these citizens. I consider these brave and principled actions by your hotel and its staff. I have subsequently heard of some thinly-veiled threats from the Turkish Government towards your enterprises as a result of your actions.

I personally witnessed the crude actions of police days after their attacks on Taksim Square and Gezi Park to prevent customers entering Divan Hotel and was personally stopped from entering and purchasing refreshments at the Divan Hotel coffee shop by a totally unnecessary police presence blocking and filling your public business spaces.

The IUF stands together with all who demand, promote and protect civil and union rights and expresses the gratitude and solidarity from all its affiliates and all hotel workers to you for providing shelter and relief to the protestors in Istanbul during these days of action in defence of human rights.

On behalf of our global membership in the hotel, restaurant and tourism business I congratulate your staff and your hotel for taking a courageous stand in support of tolerance, human rights and democracy in a country where these things sadly remains far from guaranteed.

Yours sincerely,

**Ron Oswald**  
**General Secretary**

The International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF) is an international federation of trade unions representing workers employed in agriculture and plantations; the preparation and manufacture of food and beverages; hotels, restaurants and catering services; all stages of tobacco processing. The IUF is composed of 388 affiliated organizations in 124 countries representing a combined membership of around 10 million.