

Kanra

Cicek Yagci
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West Berlin, 8.12.1987

WFTU
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Tschechoslowakei

15. 12. 87

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Dear sir/madame,

My husband Haydar Kutlu is the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Turkey and he is now in civilian prison in Ankara where he was put after a long police interrogation under torture.

He, together with Dr. Nihat Sargin, the General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Turkey, returned voluntarily to Turkey on November 16th, 1987 with the aim to establish the United Communist Party of Turkey which would be organized as a result of the merger of the two parties. However, both of them were immediately detained at the airport and were interrogated by the police and the special prosecutor of the State Security Court in Ankara for 19 days. During this period they were not allowed to have access even to their lawyers. They were kept in complete isolation from the outside world. Meanwhile, the press reported that my husband had a heart attack. In spite of the various appeals made to the prosecutor, they were not allowed to be checked by independent doctors.

After having been in police custody for over two weeks without any contact with the outside world, they could find the first chance of getting themselves heard on 5th of December, 1987 when they were being transformed from the State Security Court to the civilian prison. While they were being driven into a police van, they loudly told the journalists and the lawyers that they had been tortured during their detention. Later they described the details of the torture they had been subjected to in a written complaint submitted to the court through their defence lawyers who were allowed to visit them only on their third day in the civilian prison.



These unlawful practices did not even stop there. Two of the lawyers were detained without any reason following this visit to their clients. Furthermore, the defence counsel has been denied to have access to the files containing statements of their clients, the statement of the prosecutor and the consideration of the charge. This is a clear violation of the fundamental right to defence.

I am very much concerned that in the absence of the protection of law as exemplified by these practices, my husband can arbitrarily be taken away from the prison and tortured again. Now that the assurances given by the prosecutor and the government officials to the effect that the interrogation was conducted humanely have been proved to be untrue as a result of the revelations of the two leaders, it is not possible to have trust in such statements which may be made by the authorities in future. The only real assurance in this situation can be their immediate and unconditional release from the prison pending their trial.

Allow me to urge you to make use of all your influence to secure the freedom of my husband Haydar Kutlu and Dr. Nihat Sargin.

Sincerely yours,

Cicek Yagci