

TURKISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

March 10, 1983

No. 118.636/452/133

Paul E. Healy
City Clerk
City of Cambridge
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Healy,

I was deeply dismayed to be made aware of the fact that the City Council of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts at its regular meeting held on December 20, 1982 adopted a resolution with regard to possible human rights violations in Turkey.

With all due respect, I was amazed to realize that such an action was taken by the honorable members of the City Council without indicating any source of information or presentation of facts with regard to allegations of human rights abuses in Turkey. With this in mind, allow me to bring the following facts in relation to the so-called "Turkish Peace Committee" to your attention:

The members of the "Turkish Peace Committee" had been charged with violating certain articles of the long-established Turkish Criminal Court and Turkish Law of Associations. Among the charges were carrying out illegal activities contrary to the purpose of their association, disseminating subversive and secessionist propaganda aimed at violent overthrow of the democratic system, diffusing pro-Soviet communistic propaganda at their meetings and conferences and finally urging individuals to commit crimes by commending such acts.

Presently, all the members of the said "Committee", includ-

ing Ahmet Isvan, Reha Isvan and Mahmut Dikerdem, have been freed on their own recognizance, awaiting trial.

As I mentioned earlier, the foregoing were in contravention of some specific articles of the Turkish Criminal Court and Turkish Law of Associations which were in existence prior to September 12, 1980. Undoubtedly, as you are well aware, on that date the military in Turkey was compelled to assume the duties of the state in the face of imminent civil war. Even though the circumstances were grave, no extraordinary tribunals have been established.

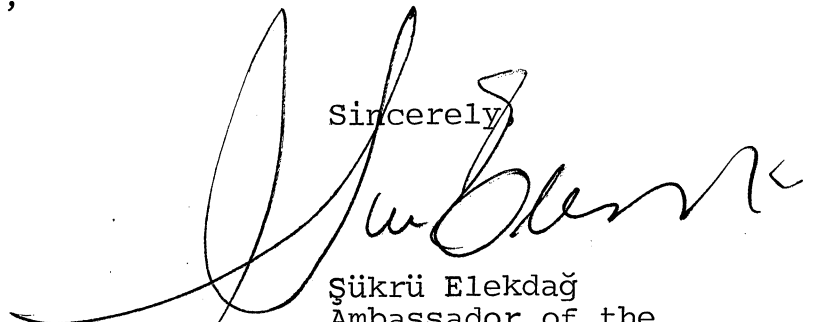
Furthermore, I am sure you have been following the positive developments in Turkey in the path to a genuine democracy which will eventually lead her to regain an honorable place among the democratic club of the nations of the world. In this respect, let me remind you that the previously announced schedule for restoration of democracy in Turkey had so far been diligently implemented and the free elections will be held in the fall of this year.

Let me finally add that the fundamental human rights are indeed being respected in Turkey and the people in detention are given fair treatment contrary to the misinformed and distorted statements emanating from some circles unfriendly to Turkey.

I hope the above information will be helpful in putting aside your concerns. Furthermore, I strongly urge your disclaiming the resolution adopted by the City Council.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



Şükrü Elekdağ
Ambassador of the
Turkish Republic

3.

S-745

Comm. from Sukru Elekdag, Turkish Ambassador
Re: resolutions adopted by the City Council
on December 20, 1982 regarding possible human
rights violations in Turkey.

*Copy sent to Council for World Affairs, Chairman,
American International Subcommittee 3/22/83
/mh*

In City Council,

March 21, 1983

3/21/83

Referred to Council

on

Foreign Affairs