

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS
Green Party

for the South East of England

Mr. Akin Alptuna
Turkish Embassy
43 Belgrave Square
London
SW1X 8PA.

June 15th 2005

Dear Ambassador,

I am writing to you on behalf of Mehmet Tarhan who is detained in the military prison of Sivas. He is a conscientious objector, a status not recognised under your law, and as such he will stand military trial.

However, evidence and witness reports show that Mr. Tarhan is being mistreated and tortured in prison by his fellow inmates. Moreover, the same evidence points to prison officials not only failing to protect him against such violence but actually inciting it. Whilst under the principle of due process he will have to stand trial, this same principle makes you and any other state official responsible for ensuring that that he can do so physically and mentally unharmed.

I am concerned that, as a representative of a democratic state, you uphold democratic principles - among which are the due process of law and the freedom of speech. Mr Tarhan and others like him are conscientious objectors and, whilst it is the responsibility of Turkey to legislate on such matters, I am concerned that citizens be allowed to express dissent and opposition to existing legislation.

I would, therefore, ask you to do all that you can to ensure the safety of Mr Tarhan - both prior to him standing trial and afterwards. Furthermore, I would respectfully request that you ask the Turkish authorities to investigate claims of police violence being used against supporters of Mr Tarhan and his fellow conscientious objectors.

I look forward to hearing your response to the matters I have raised and look forward to working closely with Turkey as a future member of the EU.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.