İn memory of Mustafa Koçak, Helin Bölek, Ebru Timtik, İbrahim Gökçek

Symposium Paris 2021

WE WANT JUSTICE!

A DEATH FAST TO DEMAND JUST JUDGMENT –

THE CRIMES COMMITTED BY TURKEY

Symposium: 02-04. April 2021

Concert: 05th April 2021

Mustafa Kocak, Helin Bölek, Ebru Timtik and Ibrahim Gökcek fought for justice and against the destruction of their revolutionary struggle with the commitment of their lives.
They became a barricade againnst the attacks of fascism and imperialism. At a time when the slogan, shoulder to shoulder against fascism was forgotten, they became an occasion to redefine solidarity.
They showed that solidarity is the most powerful weapon of the people.

Fascism tried to stifle their voice with censorship, isolation and state terror. Resistance to justice has overcome all obstacle.

Worldwide were:

* 7.865 actions, rellies held, statements published
* 1881 video recordings published
* 3000 people carried out solidarity hunger strikes
* 2951 revolutionaries, parties, organizations, artists, poets and have shown international solidarity worldwide.
* Association of Lawyers (UIA), which has more the 2 million members in 110 countries
* Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), which is representing millions of lawyers across Europe.
*In Turkey, 39 out of 79 bar associations called for a fair trial and supported the demands of their colleagues Ebru Timtik und Aytac Ünsal

Why the Symposium will be organized? There have been so many

IN 2020, FOUR PEOPLE LOST THEIR LIVES DEMANDING JUSTICE.
How did this happen, how did we reach this point?

1 TRAITOR – 344 COURT CASES

An informer by the name of Berk Ercan was detained on July 7, 2017 while in possession of heavy weapons. Because of that he risked getting a "heavy" sentence of 10 to 12 years. Not wanting to face up to that and to save himself he made statements against 344 people, harming them to save himself.

He gave statements against hundreds of people, claiming to know their information and "positions in the organisation". Berk Ercan read and signed the files prepared for him by the police.

Berk Ercan explains all these things, including his years of detention, as though he were there personally.

- Among the people that Berk Ercan gave statements about were those who lost their lives in the Death Fast – **Ebru Timtik, Mustafa Koçak, Helin Bölek** and **İbrahim Gökçek**.
- They had the same demand – **Fair trial**.
- We are organising this Symposium in memory of these four people to make their demands known and to struggle against injustice in the world.

WHY DID THESE PEOPLE LOST THEİR LİVES?

Mustafa Koçak

Ebru Timtik

Helin Bölek

İbrahim Gökçek

- **1. DAY**

MUSTAFA KOÇAK
29 YEARS
28 KILOS
DYİNG FOR JUSTICE

- **A 21st CENTURY SACCO AND VANZETTI CASE, a 21st CENTURY DREYFUS CASE**

He was on the Death Fast for 297 days..
The demand – to be judged justly.
He started a hunger strike on July 3, 2019.
He turned his hunger strike into a Death Fast on October 1, 2019
He lost his life on April 23, 2020.

- Mustafa Koçak was detained on September 23, 2017 in connection with the prosecutor Mehmet Selim Kiraz file. He was in detention for 12 days and experienced severe torture during those 12 days, including being suspended by his handcuffed hands behind his back, his head was put in a container and cold water poured on him, his clothes were removed and he was made to remain under an air conditioner. His sisters were threatened with rape if he did not confess and turn informer.
- **What did the police want from Mustafa Koçak**? They put a list in front of him and tried to get him to make statements against the people listed and to turn informer. He refused. He was removed from the police station and the last words of the police to him were: **AFTER THIS YOU WILL NOT SEE THE FACE OF THE SUN AGAIN.**
- **What sentence did he get?** Aggravated life imprisonment plus 43 years.
- **What does an aggravated life sentence mean?** This was introduced into Turkey's legal system in place of the death sentence. People with life sentences can receive amnesty and be released, but those with aggravated life sentences cannot be released and have to spend 23 hours of the day in their cells and can only be visited by one close relative at a time. For example a mother and father cannot visit at the same time.
- **What was the evidence against him?** Absolutely none. Even in Berk Ercan's FIRST STATEMENT ABOUT THE PROSECUTOR ACTION, THERE IS NOT A WORD ABOUT MUSTAFA. In the prison where Berk Ercan was staying, he petitioned to the prosecutor Can Tuncay, "MY PSYCHOLOGY IS HARMED AND I AM SEEING HALLUCINATIONS. LET ME GIVE A STATEMENT AND BE RELEASED FROM HERE." In return for this Berk Ercan made perjured statements. For example, "We were sitting in a kebab place in Okmeydanı and he said that he gave the gun to Şafak that he used in the prosecutor action." But there was no such kebab place. Nor were there camera images of a kebab place and no telephone records. Actually nothing that can be considered evidence.
- **According to the laws of Turkey, what sentence is there for supplying a weapon?** Even if Mustafa Koçak had supplied a weapon to Şafak Yayla the sentence he would get should have been five years or ten at the very most.
- **So why such a severe sentence?** Three reasons. 1) The state's policy of getting someone to turn informer failed. 2) The state wanted revenge for the case of prosecutor Selim Kiraz. Those who carried out the action, Şafak Yayla and Bahtiyar Doğruyol had lost their lives so they needed to pick someone else and Mustafa was their scapegoat. 3) Mustafa was from a poor family and the state assumed nobody would show solidarity with him.

➨ 2. DAY

SHE PUT HER LIFE AT STAKE FOR THE SAKE OF BEING A LAWYER

She was on the Death Fast for 238 days.
Her demand: **To be justly judged.**
She was jailed on September 12, 2018.
She started a hunger strike on January 5, 2019, to support Grup Yorum members who are her clients.
On April 5, 2019, world lawyers' day, she turned it into a Death Fast.
On August 27, 2020, she lost her life.

DEMANDS:
1) The Constitutional Court should cancel the Supreme Court verdict and give just rulings.
2) The Turkish state should be judged in the International Court.
3) The day Ebru was martyred, August 27, should be declared "the day of resistance of the world's peoples and of just judgment" and this should be commemorated everywhere.
4) Every bar association should have a picture or a statue of Ebru.
5) On August 27 visitors should come to Istanbul from all parts of the world and visit Ebru's grave.
6) In Paris, London, Berlin, Rome etc. and other cities a street should be named after Ebru Timtik.

*On September 12, 2017 there were "simultaneous" operations in Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Diyarbakir and Ordu against 10 houses and lawyers' offices. There were raids and searches. Computers and hard disks were illegally confiscated. Sixteen lawyers were detained. It was claimed in charges that 18 lawyers were "members of an organisation" and 17 were jailed.

***Among the grounds of the charges** are digital materials that are also used as evidence in another case, which are disputed whether they can be considered valid evidence, also they were illegally obtained and falsified, thus creating false evidence.
Under the direction of the political police; pressure, threats and blackmail have been used with witnesses, secret witnesses and fake evidence from secret police collaborators for statements and confessions, and a large part of the documents and digital evidence "remind clients detained of the right to remain silent" or "get your clients to tell of their exposure to torture, ill-treatment and arbitrary practices so as to fight against these practices" or "to attempt to ensure that your clients are released immediately" and the lawyers' professional activities, actions and procedures similar to this are treated as evidence against them.

*Moreover in the trials concerning Berkin Elvan, Dilek Doğan, Yılmaz Öztürk, Günay Özarslan and other children of the people killed by the police, the 301 miners killed in Soma, leaving 432 children without fathers, the trial in relation to Karaman-Ermenek in which 18 miners had been killed, the case of Hasan Ferit Gedik who was murdered by narcotics gangs, lawyers pursued these cases of interest to society, the trials defending the rights of massacred Kurdish people or of workers whose rights were taken away, the support for Nuriye and Semih who resisted for hundreds of days in the heart of Ankara to get the jobs back that were taken from them by the state of emergency – in short all these attempts to practice legal advocacy for the people are targeted with charges.

*Seventeen imprisoned lawyers appeared before a judge for the first time between September 10 and 14, 2018 and were released.
In the case of 12 of the lawyers, a day later on Saturday September 15, 2018, despite it being a day off, an "arrest order" was issued and that same day six lawyers were imprisoned again.
Then the judge's bench that had released them was broken up and the personnel were punished by transferring them elsewhere.
The lawyers were not judged justly and the only aim was to prevent them from acting as lawyers. Ebru Timtik and Aytaç Ünsal were determined to be lawyers even if they put their lives on the line. The two lawyers started the Death Fast to have the Supreme Court rulıng overturned but the Supreme Court procrastinated.
After Ebru lost her life the 16th Penal Office of the Supreme Court approved the sentence.
But as though as a form of ridicule the sentences for Ebru, Barkın Timtik Selçuk Kozaağaçlı and Ezgi Çakır were quashed.
The other lawyers were sentenced to a total of 159 years.
The process of tryıng to have the sentences set aside in the Constitutional Court because of irregularities in the Supreme Court continues.

3. DAY

Grup Yorum is an association that seeks to use art to change the world

Helin Bolek
288 days on the Death Fast
She started it on June 21, 2019
She died on April 3, 2020

İBRAHİM GOKÇEK:
324 on the Death Fast.
He started it on June 17, 2019
He was released on February 24, 2020
On March 12, 2020 he and Helin were both taken away for force-feeding.
On May 7ü 2020 he lost his life.
All the world's melodies are based on eight notes.
But now Helin is the ninth.

All the melodies in the world are made up 7 notes.
However not the 8th note has been addes to music.
This is Helin Bolek.

İbrahim Gokcek:
'They took my bass guitar and now I have made myself into an instrument.'

In November 2016, the Idil Cultural Centre was raided, members of Grup Yorum were detained and arrested.
Idil Cultural Centre, where Grup Yorum performed its work, was raided 11 times in 3 years, concerts were banned, 300,000 TL prize money was placed on the heads of its members, they were tried unfairly, members of Grup Yorum were imprisoned.

Why? Why are such pressures being applied to it?

WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT SO HOSTILE TO THIS BAND?

The band has been singing social songs, under pressure from the state for 35 years.
The group, which has been a target of the state since it was founded, expresses the pain, problems and hopes of the people.
On the other hand, it pursues the crimes of the state in its songs without fear and without holding back.
The group has taken the line of supporting the people, labour, the oppressed, the exploited, the poor, those with a darkened tomorrow.
It has released 24 albums by 2019. In 2018-2019, it produced over 20 compositions.
in addition, the band has participated in hundreds of mass actions, street demonstrations, strikes, factory and university occupations.
It gave free music lessons to poor folk children, organized festivals,
The band has broken numerous taboos and made firsts. For example, in Turkey in 1993, the band released the first Kurdish-language track on their album.

GRUP YORUM DEMANDS:

- Remove Concert Bans
- Cease Raids On İdil
- Remove Terror Lists
- Let The Cases Against Them Be Dropped
- Release Grup Yorum Members

But what has the state in Turkey done?
On 28-29 October 2020, AKP fascism carried out operations in 12 provinces throughout Turkey and detained 99 people. A total of 120 people have been arrested.
Meral Hir, Barış Yüksel, Betül Varan, Seher Adygüzel, Eren Erdem.
Stop the state terror against Grup Yorum immediately

THE REAL REASON THE STATE IS HOSTILE TO GRUP YORUM – IT FEARS ITS POWER: Grup Yorum has a huge audience. In 2010, it organised the 25th anniversary concert in Inönü stadium. **55,000** people attended the concert of the year.
Since 2011, **150,000** people have participated in "independent Turkey concerts" in Bakirköy, Istanbul, 350,000 in 2012, 550,000 in 2013, and **1 million** in 2014.
It also appeals to Turkish people in Europe. As of 2012, it has organised "One Voice Against Racism One Heart" concerts and **18,000** people have attended.

İstanbul Bakırköy «İNDEPENDANCE» concert

Oberhausen, concert against racism

All over the world, a wide range of political parties, NGOs, artists, members of parliament, organizations, journalists and trade unionist have expressed their solidarity with the demands of Grup Yorum.

*** 5355 demonstrations, rallies, press releases and actions were carried out in Europe and Turkey**

* Ín Turkey **1781** news, statements, appeals,songs and poems have been published by artists, writers and intellectuals

*** 908 videos were posted in social networks to show solidarity with Grup Yorum.**

* Grup Yorum fans of turkish origin have carried out solidarity hunger strikes at diffent times. In one of these hunger strikes **3000** people participated in a day with the same demand.

***In Turkish broadcasters and around the world, 147 articles were written, interviews conducted and documentaries created about the history and resistance of Grup Yorums.**

* **193** posters, graphics and drawings were made about the exploits of Helin, Ibrahim and Mustafa (those of the political prisoners are not included).

*** Helin and Ibrahim personally received 237 letters and poems.**

*** The resistance house was visited by thousands of visitors, from all political backgrounds and members of all social classes.**

4. DAY

Final declaration, decisions, Grup Yorum concert

SHORT HISTORY OF THE SYMPOSIUMS

There is a long tradition of symposiums that we organise against state pressure and terror applied in Turkey and all over the world.
We organised the first one in 2002 in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, as an international Platform Against Isolation. There were two reasons for this: first, on 19 December 2000, the Turkish state simultaneously attacked 20 prisons with unprecedented brutality and massacred 28 prisoners. The purpose of this was to seize prisoners who resisted the F-Type isolation cells. second: between 2000 and 2007, the aforementioned Death Fast resistance was carried out against F-Type isolation prisons, 122 people died. As IPAI (International Platform against Isolation), we have done our best to meet the demands of the prisoners and stop the deaths.

As the Anti-Imperialist Front, we wanted to unite against this aggression after Afghanistan and Iraq were invaded, then Syria, Libya were attacked and the peoples of these countries were massacred, and in an environment where Islamist terrorists such as ISIS, which the United States raised and nurtured, as in the case of Syria, slaughtered people. Since 2009, symposiums have been organised as AIF (Anti-Imperialist Front).
This year, we are holding a symposium only on behalf of the AIF.
This year's Symposium is also due to Turkey's current intense repression, the resistance of the Death Fast in 2020, and four people who lost their lives in this resistance.
As the People's Law Bureau International, Grup Yorum International, the committees for justice, we organise a symposium around the "demand for a fair trial".
In the 18-year history of the symposium, we have tried to build a barrier to the attacks against peoples. Almost all of our guests we invited were pioneers of the struggle for democracy, fundamental rights and freedoms.
For example, Angela Davis, who attended the 2004 Symposium, or Joan Baez, who attended the 2015 symposium Grup Yorum concert.
Many of those we called upon were indomitable, tireless, tirelessly among those who carried the flag at the front in the fight for bread and Justice.
For example, lawyers such as Jan Fermon, the second president of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, lawmakers, music groups such as Banda Basotti, former IRA prisoners such as Marion Price, and the hunger strike resistance.

In 2003 we co-organised the symposium in Florence with Rifundazione Comunista.
Ahmed Ben Bella, the first president of Algeria and freedom fighter, was the honorary president of the 2004 Paris Symposium, Symposium and his assistant professor Ahmed Soussi was among the speakers. Algerian-French writer Henri Alleg offered his support.
Relatives and supporters of the prisoners, such as Mumia Abu Jamal, Leonard Peltier and Cuban 5, were among the permanent participants of each Symposium.
WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL TAKE YOUR PLACE AT THE PARIS 2021 SYMPOSIUM…

Joan Beaz, İnan Altun, İstanbul 2015

Angela Davis, Ahmet Kulaksız, Paris 2004

Sempozyumların kısa tarihçesi:

INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM AGAINST ISOLATION:

2002: 1. International Symposium; Noordwijk, the Netherlands
2003: 2. International Symposium; Florence, Italy
2004: 3. International Symposium; Berlin, Germany
2005: 4. International Symposium; Paris, France
2006: 5. International Symposium; Athens, Greece
2007: 6. International Symposium; Brussels, Belgium
2008: 7. International Symposium; Vienna, Austria
2009: 8. International Symposium; London, UK
2010: 9. International Symposium; Vienna, Austria
2013: 10. International Symposium; Berlin, Germany
2014: 11. International Symposium; Amsterdam, the Netherlands
2015: 12. International Symposium; Beirut, Lebanon
2016: 13. International Symposium; Paris, France

ANTI-IMPERIALIST FRONT:

2009: 1. International Symposium; Istanbul, Turkey
2010: 2. International Symposium; Istanbul, Turkey
2011: 3. International Symposium; Istanbul, Turkey
2013: 4. International Symposium; Istanbul, Turkey
2014: 5. International Symposium; Istanbul, Turkey
2015: 6. International Symposium; Istanbul, Turkey
2016: 7. International Symposium; Istanbul, Turkey
2017: 8. International Symposium; Istanbul, Turkey
2018: 9. International Symposium; Istanbul, Turkey
2019: 10. International Symposium; Berlin, Germany
2020: 11. International Symposium; Athens, Greece
2021: 12. International Symposium; Paris, France