



**Arbeitsgruppe Anerkennung –
gegen Genozid, für Völkerverständigung e.V.
(AGA)**

Berlin, 7 September 2010

European Parliament

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Subcommittee on Human Rights

Mrs Heide Hautala (Chair)

Email: heidi.hautala@europarl.europa.eu

Attention: Arrest, detention and criminal court proceedings against human rights defender and writer Doğan Akhanlı

Dear Mrs Hautala,

Our human rights NGO brings to your attention the case of our colleague Doğan Akhanlı, who had been arrested after his entry to Turkey on 10 August 2010. Since then, he remained in detention (since 20 August 2010 in a prison in the Tekirdağ province), although his lawyer, Mr Haydar Erol (Istanbul) could prove the accusation of robbery and homicide in October 1989 as unfounded. Nevertheless the 11th Criminal Division of the Istanbul Criminal Court accepted the criminal complaint by the Public Prosecutor Hüseyin Ayar, which includes also the allegation of an attempted coup d'état of Turkey's constitutional order.

Mr Akhanlı resides in Germany, Cologne, since 1992. In this country he has been granted political asylum and citizenship. He achieved high appreciation for his literary and human rights activities, in particular for his commitment to increase awareness of the genocides in the 20th century, including the Ottoman genocide against Christians and the genocide against Ottoman Armenians in particular.

The related data of the legal prosecution and Mr Akhanlı's human rights advocacy and literary achievements are compiled in the attached factsheet. I also attach for you attention our letter to the Turkish Minister of Justice, Mr S. Engin.

We fear that Mr Akhanlı is prosecuted for his commitment on the genocide against the Armenians, and that the Turkish judiciary intends to place a threatening example in order intimidate the citizens of Turkey and the Turkish Diaspora in Europe, and to prevent large scale recognition of the genocide against the Armenians.

We kindly ask you to spread this information to the other members of the EP's Human Rights Sub-Committee and to consider the case in the context of the annual debate of Turkey's



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progress in the admission to the EU. Furthermore we kindly ask you to inform us about the possibilities of support that you and the Sub-Committee on Human Rights can provide in order to achieve as soon as possible the release of Mr Akhanlı, who already in the past had been detained and tortured in his country of origin, Turkey. We all should do our best to save him from repeated experience of torture and humiliation.

Looking forward to hear from you soon I remain

Sincerely,

Tessa Hofmann

(Chairperson)