

Dear Friends,

We hope the new year can bring some comfort to all of us.

We have already notified you that Serdar Küni, who is well known for his good medical practice, was sentenced to four years two months imprisonment, by the Şırnak Heavy Penal Court on 16 November 2020. In our message, we have promised to inform you about further developments, and have asked you to wait until we invite you to participate in a campaign by contacting relevant authorities.

Although I absolutely believe that Serdar will be acquitted, it would be beneficial to send letters/statements to Gaziantep Regional High Court within the next two weeks. Your efforts will be crucial to remind the Gaziantep Court of this case's significance, as the Court might render a "quick" final verdict without grasping the matter. These letters can mention that this case was not based on any concrete evidence. Also, pressure and harassments against Serdar, a good physician and a human rights defender, should be terminated immediately, and this case should end up with his acquittance.

As you all know, despite immense difficulties, MD. Serdar Küni has been, for many years and in the witness of many, practising human rights-based medicine in Cizre district of Şırnak, with a strong commitment to the ethical and scientific references of good medical practice. Since the very first day, we know that the real target of this "trial" is national and international law and conventions, universal ethical principles of good medical practice and mainly human conscience.

As we have emphasised repeatedly, it became undeniable during the hearings that the charges against Kuni are not based on any concrete evidence.

Throughout this unjust proceeding, we have several times stated that beyond pressures against MD. Kuni, the real purpose of this case is to intimidate all physicians and health professionals in Turkey, by criminalising the good medical practice. Therefore, this case has turned into an exemplary case for defending the independence of medical practice throughout the world, particularly in conflict environments.

I am sending attached the relevant addresses, including that of the Gaziantep Regional High Court. I should emphasise once again, as in 2017, the Court will reverse this judgement thanks to solidarity and support by all of us, and Serdar will be eventually acquitted of all these unfounded charges, which directly concern nothing but his professional practices.

I would like to thank you for your efforts, which are more than invaluable for all of us!

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,

Metin Bakkalcı

Chairperson

Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (HRFT)

Mithatpaşa Cad. No:49/11 6. Kat Kızılay Ankara

Phone: [+90 \(312\) 310 66 36](tel:+903123106636)

Fax: [+90 \(312\) 310 64 63](tel:+903123106463)

e-mail: tihv@tihv.org.tr

HTTPwww.tihv.org.tr