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Istanbul, 6.2.1990.....

Mikis TEODORAKIS

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The Trial of Dr.Sadık Ahmet
and Ibrahim Şerif in Komotene
Greece

As the representatives of the Istanbul Bar Association we observed the political trial held on Jan.25-26,1990,in Komotini,Greece.

Former member of the Parliament Dr.Sadık Ahmet and his friend Ibrahim Şerif were on trial for attempting to mislead the voters by a declaration they had published during the election and for attempting to disrupt public order.

I am enclosing the texts of this declaration,as well as the indictment.

The trial started on January 25,with demonstrations;a crowd which had filled the court room started to applaud the judges and the prosecutor, as if they were going to battle ,from which they expected "victory".

The first witness was the president of the Bar Association of the province. He told the court that the subject election declaration was a criminal act.Thus the fundamental right of defense was compromised at the outset, by defense organization itself.

In the end, the verdict was announced. The defendants were sentenced to 18 months in prison and their civil rights were revoked. They were arrested there and sent to prison.

The spectators started to shout victory slogans and the demonstration which had started in the court continued in the streets; Mrs. Sadik Ahmet, the Dutch TV crew and our delegation were attacked by the mob.

We consider international cooperation an important guarantee for human rights. We know the effectiveness of this cooperation from our past experiences. We are relating our observations to you for this reason and also because the sentences of Dr. Sadik Ahmet and Ibrahim Serif are now at the Appeals Court.

Dr. Sadik Ahmet has another 30 months prison sentence at the Appeals Court, and two new trials have been opened against him for the same election declaration, which will start on February 8 and February 15. A prison term of two years is demanded for each of these cases, again under article 192. English translation of the indictments are enclosed.

We consider solidarity in the field of human rights as the best guarantee for protecting them. This is why we feel gratitude towards our friends who come from Greece and follow trials in Turkey. We now expect the same conscientiousness towards Sadik Ahmet and Ibrahim Serif.

Furthermore, we are aware of the fact that this trial may lead to unnecessary tensions between our two countries. Perhaps, certain circles may believe that their interests lie in increasing tension in this way. But we are people who attribute great importance to friendship between Turkey and Greece. That is why we are obliged to prevent actions which result in escalating such tensions. According to us, your sensitivity towards the case of Sadik Ahmet would be instrumental in prevention of such tensions. Because such a sensitivity would help the trial to be based on sound legal foundations and once this is achieved the plot will be foiled.

I am bringing the situation to your notice hoping that you will show the necessary solidarity for the sake of human rights.

Sincerely yours

Turgut Kazan
President

Istanbul Fair Association

P.S. : Due to the tension in Komotini, the trials of Sadik Ahmet on Feb. 8 and Feb. 15, which would take place in Komotini, are now going to take place in Ariniye. As soon as we get the information about the dates of the sessions, we will inform you.

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I will not offer comments on the legal aspects of the accusations directed at Dr. Sadık Ahmet and Ibrahim Şerif. But, I would like to point out that Dr. Sadık Ahmet was elected to the Parliament several months ago, and that he will be deprived of his right to be elected at the new elections which will be held soon, because he is under arrest.

In conclusion, I am entrusting the plight of Dr. Sadık Ahmet and Ibrahim Şerif to the judgement of the Human Rights Community and to the guarantee of International cooperation for Human Rights.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely Yours,

Turgut Kesan
President, Istanbul
Bar Association



ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ
ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΕΘΙΜΟΤΥΠΙΑΣ

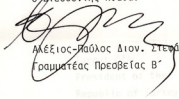
Αθήνα, 16 Μαΐου 1990
Αρ.Εγγρ. 814/ΑΣ 1997

ΠΡΟΣ: Γραφείο Υπουργού άνευ
Χαρτοφυλακίου
κ. Μίκη Θεοδωράκη

ΘΕΜΑ: Διαβίβαση μηνύματος Προέδρου Τουρκικής Δημοκρατίας

Σας διαβιβάζουμε, συνημμένως, μήνυμα του Προέδρου της Τουρκικής Δημοκρατίας κ. TURGUT OZAL προς τον κ. Υπουργό, που μας περιήλθε μέσω της εδώ Πρεσβείας της χώρας αυτής.

Με εντολή Υπουργού
Ο Μευθυνητής κ.α.α.


Αλέξιος-Παύλος Διον. Στεφάνου
Γραμματέας Πρεσβείας Β'

ΣΥΝΗΜ: 1

ΑΠΣ/μδ

Dear Mr. Theodorakis,

I have received your two messages in which you express concern for the health of Mr. Kutlu and Mr. Sargin.

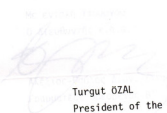
Please rest assured that they are being accorded the maximum medical care which they are entitled to.

As you may know, their cases are currently at independent Turkish courts and like in any other country where democratic institutions are fully in place, there is no legal ground for intervention from either the executive or the legislative branches.

However, the Turkish Government is actually working on changes to the articles in question of the Turkish Penal Code.

I wish to take this opportunity to extend to you my warmest congratulations on your election to the Greek Parliament and your appointment as Minister without portfolio.

With my best wishes.


Turgut ÖZAL
President of the
Republic of Turkey

1987/11/1

AKC/10

Au seuil de l'an 2000, l'humanité est en quête d'un nouveau monde.

Il sera créé par les efforts communs de tous ceux qui défient la faim, la guerre, l'oppression.

Le contexte de la détente y constitue une source d'espoir.

Une profonde aspiration à la démocratie et à la liberté marque ce processus.

Cependant, dans un pays à la croisée des civilisations, malheureusement les droits de l'Homme sont encore bafoués.

Le 15 novembre 1987, les secrétaires généraux du Parti communiste et du Parti ouvrier de Turquie, Haydar Kutlu et Nihat Sargin, sont rentrés dans leur pays, de l'exil politique qu'ils vivaient depuis le coup d'Etat du 12 septembre 1980. Ils ont déclaré leur but de fonder un parti communiste légal comme entité indispensable d'un régime démocratique.

Dès leur arrivée à Ankara ils ont été amenés, les yeux bandés et les mains attachées, aux locaux de la police politique où, 19 jours durant, ont été soumis à un interrogatoire sous la torture, sans même pouvoir rencontrer leurs avocats.

Ils sont toujours incarcérés, en attente d'un procès.

C'est une situation de violation des conventions internationales et européennes relatives aux droits de l'Homme ainsi que les lois turques.

Ceux qui s'attachent aux libertés, dans le monde entier et pour tous, ne peuvent se taire face à cette situation.

Que soit respectée la liberté d'organisation en Turquie.

Que soient libérés Kutlu et Sargin.

