

22. Statement made by Zeki Ince, the father of Ataman Ince

Ankara, 25 December 1981

1. I heard that my son Ataman INCE, born 1956, was detained by the Istanbul Security Directorate First Branch and died there as a result of the torture that he was subjected to during his interrogation.

On 9 November 1981 I went from Ankara to Istanbul with my wife in order to find out what has happened and, if my son had really died, to collect his coffin. On the same day around 15.30 hours I went to the Istanbul Security First Branch. In answer to my inquiry I was told by the responsible authorities - WHO WERE RELUCTANT TO GIVE THEIR NAMES - that "nobody under the name of Ataman INCE was brought to the Security and at present there was nobody under that name within the Istanbul Security Directorate".

On 10 November 1981 around 9 am, I, with Mehmet Kadioglu lawyer from Ankara Bar Association, and Ibrahim Acar, Lawyer from Istanbul Bar Association, requested to see the Istanbul Martial Law judicial counsellor, in order to find out what has happened to my son. Lawyer Ibrahim Acar told the airforce sergeant on duty at the reception desk that we wanted to see the judicial counsellor. We were requested to name the topic. Lawyer Acar said that "It has been said that a youth under detention at the First Branch has died, we want to know the validity of this event." The person on duty, after talking to the judicial counsellor on the phone, said to the lawyer, "The judicial counsellor does not wish to see you." As there was nothing else to do we gave in a petition and left the place.

On the same day lawyer Ibrahim Acar wanted to see the Martial Law Prosecutor. Even though he spent the whole of the working day waiting in front of the prosecutor's office, he did not get a chance to see him. He was held back by the sergeant on duty who said that "there was a meeting inside". But in fact there was no such meeting.

The same lawyer was able to see the prosecutor the next day, 11 November 1981. And was told by the Martial Law Military Prosecutor Colonel Suleyman Takkeci that "There is definitely no such death, and if there was one I certainly would have known about it".

2. We spent the next couple of days in Istanbul desperately trying to find a responsible authority who would give us information. Then we were advised to ask at the mortuary. So on 13 November 1981 we went to the mortuary and asked whether a body under the name of Ataman INCE had been brought there. The information we received was that a body in the name of Ataman INCE, son of Zeki, born 1956, was brought to the mortuary from Haydarpasa Numune Hospital on 28 October 1981, with a forwarding letter from Istanbul Martial Law Military Prosecutor dated 26 October 1981. His body was registered under the number 928/1827. Then later, with another order from the military prosecutor dated 12 November 1981, his body was transferred and submitted to the Fatih municipality imam (priest) Naci UZUN and subsequently was buried at the Zindanarkasi cemetery, grave No K-1151. Strangely enough the date of this last letter corresponds to the same day when military prosecutor Colonel Suleyman Takkeci was assuring us that no such death had occurred.

From Haydarpasa Numune Hospital files we found out that with a forwarding letter dated 25 October 1981 from Istanbul Martial Law Military Prosecutor, my son was transferred from the security directorate to the Haydarpasa Numune Hospital in a state of dying. He was admitted to the medical ward No. I, and there he died shortly afterwards. Again under the orders of the military prosecutor he was transferred to the mortuary. We are convinced that my son was killed at the security directorate as a result of torture. When he was taken to the Numune Hospital he was already dead, but they registered him as alive so that they could cover up the guilty. We have reached this conclusion at the end of our research.

3. At Soganla Police Station my son was shown to his wife Hatice INCE who was detained 22 October 1981 and set free 20 November 1981. During that encounter my son was in no state to talk or stand. Two policemen at each side and one from behind were holding him on his feet. Beating and various other tortures had made his face and head swell. The swelling was in such a degree that his face was in the same line as his nose. His tongue was huge and sticking out of his mouth. It looked as if his legs were fractured because between his knee caps and his heels his legs were dangling parallel to the ground. He tried to speak but he could not manage. His tongue and lips were all swollen. His wife was horrified at his state and screamed "What has happened to him? What have you done to him?" To this the police officers mockingly responded "He has fallen from a parachute. Haven't you been reading the papers? Haven't you heard that people have been falling from parachutes in the east?"

Meanwhile a private asked for a handkerchief from his wife. When she asked what he was going to do with it, he said "I will give water to your husband, he constantly asks for it but he cannot drink because his tongue is swollen. I will wet the handkerchief and rub his lips and tongue with it."

The police officers called a doctor to attend to my son and to his wife who had fainted. This doctor after helping my daughter-in-law to come round, prescribed her a medicine and then made fun of her.

At the police station a nightwatchman, a cleaning lady and the private who gave my son water all witnessed this monstrous, inhuman treatment and behaviour. Apart from them a lawyer whose card was in Ataman's pocket had also seen the state he was in.

On 23 October 1981 they took my son and his wife to the First Branch and continued to torture them. On 25 October 1981 my son no longer being able to stand the torture was dying. They took his dead body to Haydarpasa Numune Hospital.

On 26 October 1981 police officers told my son's wife, "Your husband has died as a result of torture, there is no further need for you to live, throw yourself out of the window. We will say 'She died because she could not stand her husband's death.'"

4. There are several people who can witness that my son was killed at the Istanbul Security Directorate. I have learned of this situation only after being informed through these people. Among them Alisan DIL had made statements at the Istanbul Martial Law Military Court No 3, case number 980/388 and those are already documented in the court files.

Furthermore, several of the accused at the Metris Military Prison have witnessed the torture and death occurring as a result of it. When necessary their names will be submitted to the prosecutor.

5. If an AUTOPSY is to be performed by objective specialists, and I want an autopsy to be done in the presence of Public Prosecutor, although it has been a long time, I believe that signs of torture will still be found on my son's body.

Conclusion and request: I want all those who killed my son and others who are covering for the killers to be punished . . .

25 December 1981

ZEKI INCE

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23. Petition of Ismail YEDIGOL: To the National Security Council Secretariat

I have not heard any news of my son Nurettin YEDIGOL since 10 April 1981.

After receiving some information that my son was at the Istanbul Security Directorate I applied through my lawyer with the attached petition for legal action. It has been over a month and I had no reply from the Istanbul Martial Law Command.

Meanwhile through sources we received certain information. This information which we will submit in the following text could be confirmed by appealing to the named subjects. Furthermore it will contribute to the investigations into my son's whereabouts.

1. Statements of Aslan Sener Yildirim, documented in Erim Dikler case conducted at Istanbul Martial Law Command Military Court.