



**Physicians are in  
the mosque,  
on the street,  
in the hospital:  
wherever  
they are needed**

Fotoğraf: Yasin Akgül



| İSTANBUL MEDICAL CHAMBER | HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION OF  
| THE SOCIETY OF FORENSIC MEDICINE SPECIALISTS |

# THE LEGAL CASE:

Is a new Gezi Trial related with 255 persons where the citizens who sheltered in Dolmabahçe Bezmi-Alem Valide Sultan Mosque and the physicians who tried to treat them are being put on trial. In this legal case our colleagues Doctor Sercan YÜKSEL and Doctor Erenç Yasemin DOKUDAN who provided medical care to the injured people who sheltered in Valide Sultan Mosque are alleged to violate articles 153/2-3 and 283/1 of the Turkish Penal Code.

**In** the legal case which will be launched on 7 May, our two young colleagues will be put on trial with the demand of total punishment of imprisonment up to 8 years on the allegation of “favouring the criminals” by providing opportunity for people offending crime and messing the mosque with the purpose of affronting the related social sections having religious beliefs.

The related section of the accusation is as the following;

*It is understood that they established an infir-*

Fotograf: Didem Mahsunlar







Broşürde kullanılan  
fotoğraflar için  
GALATA  
FOTOĞRAFHANESİ'ne  
teşekkür ederiz.

mary within the mosque and **provided health care with drugs they maintained for the demonstrators who were injured during organising illegal meetings and rallies,**

... that suspects wearing on occupational uniforms divided the interior of the mosque into 3 parts according to the seriousness of the injuries of the injured and that the suspects used the shoe racks within the mosque as counters by turning them upside down...

... that including suspects Erenç Yasemin DOKUDAN and Sercan YÜKSEL, all suspects, by entering with their shoes in Dolmabahçe Bezmialem Valide Sultan Mosque which is a sanctuary and has certain entrance rules relevant for all, with the purpose of affronting the social sections who accept the related religious belief and even if due to the defences it is accepted that entrance with shoes were because of difficult conditions, by continuing to walk around within the sanctuary with their shoes after the difficult condition passed and also by transforming the interior of the mosque into an infirmary... they gave harm to the sanctuary by messing it,

...that they provided medical care with uniforms specific to the profession with drugs maintained to the demonstrators who were injured while committing illegal actions and that **they did not give information about the suspects under criminal suspicion to the authorities who will enforce legal follow-up but on the contrary they favoured the suspects in contradiction with the law.**

As it is seen, the physicians who provided health care in such conditions, whether or not they are demonstrators, to all people who sheltered as injured in the mosque are accused to “favour criminals” by providing opportunity of escape for people committing crime. Thus people using their democratic right to protest, sheltering in the mosque for rescuing their lives and physicians providing first-aid to them cannot escape from being accused as criminals.

Photograph: Hüseyin Aldemir







# WHAT HAPPENED INDEED?

Professional chambers, trade unions, neighbourhood associations, shopkeepers' associations, political parties, ecological organisations who came together with the invitation of the Chamber of Architects being informed about the construction of a Topçu Barrack and Taksim Square “pedesterianisation” plans... formed a large platform called as the Taksim Solidarity a long time ago.

**Professional** chambers, trade unions, neighbourhood associations, shopkeepers' associations, political parties, ecological organisations who came together with the invitation of the Chamber of Architects being informed about the construction of a Topçu Barrack and Taksim Square “pedesterianisation” plans... formed a large platform called as the Taksim Solidarity a long time ago.

Istanbul Medical Chamber, by believing that transformation of the common areas of the city into areas of profit, substitution of the natural texture with concrete and all kinds of interventions into our life areas are actually interventions into the right to health and by thinking that realization of the steps “plan-

ned” for the Taksim Square is not only a health problem but at the same time a democracy problem, participated in this platform since its beginning and still it is a member of it. For this reason another legal case was also started about Doctor Ali Çerkezoğlu, then the General Secretary of Istanbul Medical Chamber, who participated in the meetings as a representative of our professional organisation. **(The Taksim Solidarity legal case's hearing, where representatives of the organisations will be judged, will be held on 12th June 2014, in Istanbul 33rd Criminal Court of First Instance).**

The park watch which started with a handful of people on 27th May 2013 after it was heard that the municipal

teams entered into the Gezi Park and started to demolish trees with earth diggers, turned into a spectacle of democracy which is called as the “Gezi Resistance” and according to the statements of the Minister of Interior of the period, it made the citizens to go out of the streets in 80 provinces in the whole country except Bayburt.

People first coming to the park for objecting the trees to be cut and the only green area in a large geographic area to be demolished and to be transformed into a shopping mall, increased in large scale due to the non-proportional, blind, furious police violence and the reactions felt against the repressive government policies became widespread in the whole country with

severe police intervention.

Large groups of people, in a hitherto unseen manner in the history of the Turkish Republic, came out of the city squares and streets and participated in the demonstrations which were organised in order to express that “democracy is not only constituted by elections and that they wished to use their freedom to think and express and their right to participate in governing”.

As the police targeted peaceful demonstrations by using tear gas chemicals, millions of people became both the victims and the witnesses of this violence either directly or indirectly. Moreover, thousands of people were injured because of the use of other tools of violence such as pressurized water; gas bomb canisters, plastic bullets and their derivatives as a practice of torture or abuse and 8 of our citizens were killed.

But unfortunately Turkey is now transformed into a country where not those who violate the right to life and who use violence, but the physicians treating injured people can be put on trial for exercising their professions. In this process, honourable physicians and health employees who cured injured people around them by exercising medical care which they know best and which they are obliged due to their professional ethics were and are tried to be shown as criminals.



# WHAT HAPPENED IN THE MEDICAL PROCESS



Photograph: Hüseyin Aldemir

Police violence and indifference of the Ministry of Health in providing emergency health service created a rapid and widespread emergency health care need. The circumstances faced were an extraordinary one just like the earthquakes, flood disasters and big fires. And for this reason it required organisation of an extraordinary health service specific to the extraordinary circumstances.

Whether they are demonstrator or not, large groups of human beings were exposed to urgent health problems from bleeding injuries to serious traumas which were caused by police violence by chemical gases used without any rules, TOMA pressurized water mixed with chemical agents and use of gas canisters as weapons.

As it is mentioned in the detailed report prepared by the Turkish Medical Association, in between the dates of **31st May-1st August** <sup>61</sup> *people lost their lives, 106 people were exposed to head trauma, 11 people lost their eyes, 1 person's spleen was removed and a total of 8163 injured people applied to the public hospitals, private hospitals, medical centres and the field infirmaries.* Numerous people were affected by gas and chemicals used directly or

mixed with water.

Also in the Report of the Turkey Human Rights Foundation (TİHV), “**Medical Assessment of the Turkey Human Rights Foundation Findings**”, it is recorded that various traumatic injuries were determined in 297 people who applied to 4 TİHV representative offices in addition to exposure to tear gas chemical agents, and while at least one traumatic injury was determined in 234 persons, no traumatic injury was determined in 63 cases and these cases applied only for exposure to chemical gas.

- In 127 cases (42.8 %) due to hitting gas canister, in 31 cases (10.4%) due to hitting plastic bullets injuries (*varying depending on the hitting violence, distance, localization over the body*).

- In 59 cases (19.9%) beating blunt traumatic injuries (*stemming from human body or use of solid objects*).

- In 30 cases (10.1%) injuries stemming from pressurized water (*due to the violence of pressure, distance, frequency and time of exposure and /or hitting, falling or dragging due to effect of pressure*) were determined.

Physicians, nurses and other health employees became volunteers for eliminating the health problems emerging in the extraordinary conditions; they stood committed to the ethical principles and to the Hippocratic Oath of their profession and they did their best (until reaching the required health service) everywhere where there are injured people.

<sup>11</sup>Unfortunately in this process the number of people who lost their lives raised to 8.





However those who try to provide health service in extraordinary conditions just for this reason became the direct targets of violence. Thus, in the report prepared by the International Amnesty, it was noted that police attacked the infirmaries in Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir and threatened and used violence in order to prevent the demonstrators to access medical service and frustrated the health personnel.

The Ministry of Health in this process;

- Especially in the first days it was not possible to enjoy 112 ambulance services, most of the injured had to wait for a long time for the arrival of the ambulances and an important number of them reached the health institutions by the help of the people around them.
- In addition to the problems in reaching the injured, inadequacy of the ambulances, especially in the first days frequent expressions of the information that gas canisters were carried by ambulances, with photographs in the social media caused the confidence for the health authority to depreciate.
- By the written note sent by the Ministry of Health Public Hospitals Institute it was demanded that demonstrators applying to the Hospitals should be recorded on a separate form and this echoed in the media as “surveillance recording”.



- Information of the applicants (patients receiving voluntary health service) was demanded by Ministry of Health Inspector from the Istanbul Medical Chamber and the Turkish Medical Association.

- Identity information was demanded about people who lost their eyes, from our professional organisation by the General Directorate of Security.

For this reason the injured people had the anxiety that the Ministry of Health and the health institutions associated with the Ministry will behave them not as entitled people but as wrongdoers. In other words, the health service which is alleged to be provided by the Ministry of Health during the events was not “accessible” just because the “detering attitude” of the State itself.

Hence, in the **“Assessment Report on the Health Problems of People Who Contacted with the Chemical Demonstration Control Agents”** of the Turkish Medical Association, according to the findings and answers obtained over 11,155 responses, in every 10 person nearly seven persons were very heavily affected by the chemical agents used, asthma and hypertension attacks, serious shortness of breath, neurological and physiological signs emerged but despite that, 92% of those affected by chemical gas **did not receive health aid** or they received it from the volunteers around them. **The rate of the hospital applications or hospitalisation is around 5%.**

**Just even these findings show that the Ministry of Health did not or could not fulfil its task of providing health services assuring the basic rights and freedoms.**

The volunteering physicians who rushed to the field from the first day as faced with this overtly extraordinary situation where “the requirements were higher than the resources” tried to provide emergency health service. While the Ministry of Health was basically obliged to organise and provide the service in the field, the Ministry went well beyond not providing the service and declared that it will launch legal procedures about the volunteering physicians and investigations were started about our colleagues carrying this responsibility and finally a criminal case was started.

And in this process the Turkish Medical Association and Istanbul Medical Chamber;

- Invited all its colleagues to contribute along the right to health and the basic values of medicine.

- By expressing that the anxiety for surveillance of the injured was preventing applications to be made to the health institutions proposed anonymous information to be collected.

- It did not give information demanded about those receiving health services. It stated that the physicians are obliged to comply with the rights of the patients, confidentiality of the private life, privacy of the patient-physi-

cian relationship and the obligations of secrecy and told that the demand was inappropriate.

- Stopping the violence, provision of health service according to the needs and production of policies on behalf of the public were the main demands of the TMA.

- For that purpose press statements and invitations were made to the physicians, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Interior and the Prime Ministry.

- Communication was established with the international medical associations.

- It collected information about the health statuses of the demonstrators and shared it with the public opinion (Unfortunately- studies made by TMA and THİV are still the only data resources in the country).



Photograph: Hüseyin Aldemir

# WHAT DOES THE ETHICAL TEXTS AND EXPERTS TELL?

The health employees are under the obligation of acting in compliance with the principles of the health service ethics whether or not they are employed by the public. Medical service is carried by ethical principles. In patient-physician relations in protecting confidence privacy obligation has the priority. No medical information can be used in contradiction with the human dignity and values.

**The** basics of the health service ethics is that the person providing health service is always commissioned to act by caring the well being and benefit of the patient independent of the restrictions, oppression and obligations that are bound by the legal conventions. This rule is at the same time a requirement of the professional independency principle.

In the evaluation made by scholars of philosophy **Professor Betül Çotuksöken, Professor Ioanna Kuçuradi and Professor Harun Tepe**

who are known by their national and international level studies and research on ethics, professional ethics, epistemological basis of ethics and human rights it is stated that, every physician who is aware of the human dignity he/she is carrying is expected to comply with the norms about using knowledge for the benefit of humanity.

By reference to the Regulation for Armed Conflict and Other Conditions of Violence (2012 version) it is reminded that tasks of the physi-



Photograph: Alaattin Timur



**AYAKKABILARIMIZLA  
DEĞİL  
ÖNLÜKLERİMİZLE  
GİRDİK**

**İSTANBUL TABİP ODASI**

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**İÇERİDE YARALI  
TEDAVİ ETTİK  
YİNE OLSA YİNE YAPARIZ**

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TEDAVİ ETTİK,  
YİNE OLSA YİNE YAPARIZ**

ans include “providing efficient and neutral care and protection for the injured and the patients including those who are deemed as ‘enemies” and “physician’s actions fulfilling his/her medical tasks and responsibilities can never be deemed as a crime”. Also in the International Code of Medical Ethics (2006 version) of the World Medical Association the obligation established for the physicians is emphasised and it is stated that “The Physician shall give emergency care as a humanitarian duty unless he/she is assured that others are willing and able to give such care”.

As a result they tell that “for a physician giving care without receiving any benefits to an injured person in whatever conditions is both a requirement of the medical profession and of the human dignity of the physician. And for every human being who is primarily aware that he/she is a human, it is a task to appreciate the physicians who fulfil such requirements of medicine”.

And scholar of **Philosophy of Law and Sociology Professor Hayrettin Ökçesiz** tell that, “In spite of the allegations of the Ministry I think that such aid is in compliance with the Constitution, law and the related positive norms of law. I think that a civilized conscience will not have any difficulty in seeing this compliance. Obligation to provide first aid and emergency aid is the deontological and legal responsibility of all physicians, bounded by sanctions, witnes-

sing the event, whether or not they are employed by the state or by the private sector emergency health units. Here the purpose is to ensure the physicians who are forced to participate temporarily in production of health public service to act in accordance with the professional rules”.

**Professor Onur Karahanoğulları, scholar of Administrative Law**, in his article titled “Tasks of the Medical Chambers in Events where Physicians are Required to Fulfil their First Aid and Emergency Aid Responsibility” evaluated the concepts of providing health service and opening and

running infirmaries without license: It is told that “Obligation to provide first aid and emergency aid is the deontological and legal responsibility of all physicians witnessing the event, whether or not they are employed by the state or the private sector emergency health units, bounded by sanctions. For this reason existence of an emergency health service organisation does not exclude the authority and responsibilities of the Medical Chambers and the Association in organising public services”.

And academic of **Istanbul University Faculty of Law Public Law, Associated Professor H. Burak Gemalmaz** tells in his evaluation that, “The arrangement in Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which is bounding for Turkey since the date of 23rd December 2003 is already the broadest arrangement about the right to health in the human rights law. Prevention and /or punishment of the physicians for providing health service to individuals within the context of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including first aid, shall constitute a violation of the right to health. More, the physicians and the professional organisations who are their members are already under the obligation to give the aforementioned service according to the ethical rules they are subjected to”.





# WHAT DO THE TEXTS OF LAW TELL?

Declaration of Geneva of the World Medical Association; I WILL NOT PERMIT considerations of age, disease or disability, creed, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, social standing or any other factor to intervene between my duty and my patient...



**Physicians' pledge in the Declaration of Geneva of the World Medical Association** as *"I WILL NOT PERMIT considerations of age, disease or disability, creed, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, social standing or any other factor to intervene between my duty and my patient"*, **Declaration of Human Rights of the World Medical Association** commissioning the physicians to *"spend all efforts to provide adequate health service to all human beings without any discrimination"*, **the Regulation of Medical Deontology** commissioning the physicians as the first task the *"task of caring for human life and health and providing first aid without any discrimination"*, the emphasize in **Convention of Human Rights and Bio-Medicine** on the principle that *"giving health service to every human being in need is over all kinds of other considerations about social benefit"* are drawing the aims and framework of the profession of medicine.

The tasks that are given to the Turkish Medical Association and Chambers of Medicine in the Law of Turkish Medical Association numbered 6023 are also extensions of the human rights documents in the field of health.

Non provision of appropriate health service by the state in such unequal conflict situations, is evaluated under the framework of "banning of torture",

where exposure of individuals to force constitutes the most serious form, which is taken under judgement in article 3 of the European Human Rights Convention. Thus, the European Human Rights Court in its various decisions reached the conclusion that, *"the act of spraying gas, by taking in consideration the effects and the potential health risks this gas creates, caused intense physical and emotional pain on the part of the applicant and resulted in feelings of fear, sorrow and annihilation which are humiliating and annihilating the applicant"*, that *"the gas canister is thrown by targeting the demonstrators"* and on similar pretexts concluded that article 3 of EHRC (ban on torture) was violated (Decision about Ali Güneş vs. Turkey dated 10 April 2012, Decision about Abdullah Yaşar vs. Turkey dated 16 July 2013, Decision about İzci vs. Turkey dated 23 July 2013 etc.).

In conditions where **not promptly providing** health service in emergency situations or **not maintaining health service** with delays without any pretexts violate article 3, the efforts to punish the physicians for providing emergency health care also means that the right to protect individuals from torture is being violated. (For such decisions with this content Decision about Iorgov vs. Bulgaria dated 11 March 2004; Decision about Istrath and others vs. Moldavia dated 27 June 2007).

As it can be clearly understood from such decisions, the ban over torture, including prevention and punishment of torture, and providing health to individuals by appropriate mechanisms are once more openly violated, by trying to punish and threaten the physicians who provide efficient, fast and appropriate health service in order to prevent this crime.

The obligations of the physicians and professional organisations to provide emergency health care should be taken together with the "right to life". As it is known there is a close connection in between the right to health and right to life. In many cases, it is seen that violations of right to health are together and intermingled with violations of right to life.

When decisions of ECHR about the right to life as arranged in article 2 of European Human Rights Convention are looked at, it is understood that the states are not under the obligation to prevent the emergency health service that are provided principally by other physicians and professional organisations due to their non-fulfilment or they are in better positions. On the contrary the states are under the obligation to support the emergency health services that are provided by the physicians or professional organisations within the framework of their positive obligations.

**Also the International Code of Medical Ethics of the World Medical Association accepts that the physicians are obliged to give emergency medical care as a humanitarian task in ethical terms.**

Declaration of Lisbon on the Rights of the Patient states that the individuals are entitled to take health care without discrimination in terms of their ethnical origins, political beliefs, nationalities, sex, religion or personal characteristics. According to the Declaration of Lisbon, “whenever legislation, government action or any

other administration or institution denies patients these rights, physicians should pursue appropriate means to assure or to restore them”.

**As it is seen street medicine as a requirement of the professional health ethics is a professional responsibility of the physicians which they are obliged to comply with as it is repeatedly expressed by WMA in the international declarations.**

The situation is not different in terms of the domestic law. According to article 3 of the Regulation of the Me-

dical Deontology, “*The physician, in emergency cases where required care is not provided, gives first aid whatever is his/her task and expertise, unless there is no compelling reason*”.

At this point, it is important to remind article 98 of Turkish Criminal Code arranging “the requirement for aid and noticing”; “*The person who does not help the person who cannot manage his/her self due to age, illness or injury or other whatsoever reason within the scope of the conditions and situations allow, or who does not promptly notice the situation to the related authorities, shall be punished by imprisonment up to one year or criminal monetary fine. In the case where the person dies due to not fulfilling the obligation to help or notice, punishment of imprisonment from one year up to three years shall be decided.* **In the face of this rule of law which is binding even the citizens who are not health employees, it cannot be accepted that the physicians who are obliged to provide emergency health service in compliance with the professional rules to escape from treating the individuals who are injured and exposed to abuse by the security forces in social events.**

Besides that, helping the injured is a requirement of being a human.









# WHAT DO THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES TELL?

**World Medical Association:** “We are proud of standing beside you. The neutral services which your member physicians provide for the injured deserve our respect. We demand from all but especially from the Turkish Government to assure the medical neutrality –even in the moments of conflict. This is the only way for showing respect to humanity and shall be the best one suitable to the magnificent culture that this nation owns.”

**World Medical Association** supported us with sentences of, “We are proud of standing beside you. The neutral services which your member physicians provide for the injured deserve our respect. We demand from all but especially from the Turkish Government to assure the medical neutrality

*–even in the moments of conflict. This is the only way for showing respect to humanity and shall be the best one suitable to the magnificent culture that this nation owns.”*

**The Association of Physicians for the Human Rights** in their message told that: “Members of TMA, during

*the Gezi Park demonstrations, helped organisation of life saving aid efforts about the injured demonstrators in compliance with their professional obligations, and with Turkish laws and the international law. This kind of independent medical aid need is largely stemming from the characteristics and scope of the injuries caused by the security forces, and also from the non-provision on the part of the government those efficient and proper emergency services given in other public health emergency situations. The characteristics and scope of these spontaneous medical care efforts were determined by the needs of the injured demonstrators for emergency medical care and it never means establishment of health units called as infirmaries. We are concerned that this trial is a part of a series of punishing attempts against the medical personnel in Turkey giving medical services with courage within the framework of ethics which is a requirement of our profession. The physicians should never be punished for fulfilling their professional tasks of giving service without discrimination. The Turkish government should respect the professional tasks of the medical personnel to provide medical aid to those in need, including the injured demonstrators and should care for the right to health of the people”.*

A written appeal was made by **European Medical Experts Community** to the government for maintaining health service provision according to the universal medical and human rights principles and to stop pressure over the physicians providing health

service without discrimination.

Association of the Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects, Association of Turkish Bars, Association of Turkish Dentists, Association of Turkish Pharmacists, Association of Turkish Veterinary Physicians, Association of Chambers of Turkish Freelance Accountants Financial Counsellors and Certified Public Accountants and Turkish Medical Association came together and published the **“Declaration of Medicine and Democracy”**.

As it is stated in the declaration health is the source of life and everyone's right. No discrimination can be made to anyone whatever his/her ideas, political attitude, sex and social status are in giving health service. Physicians cannot be demanded to stay indifferent to the health problems of the society and to make discrimination. We should not forget that even in periods of war such an attitude was not and cannot be demanded from the physicians.

### WHAT DO WE WANT?

As in various places in Istanbul, also in Dolmabahçe Valide Sultan Mosque, (with our repeated thanks to them) within the information and help of the Mosque personnel, an infirmary was established by our voluntary health teams and hundreds of our citizens who were injured during the police attack were given health service. Our colleagues, very young medical faculty students among them, rushed for helping people in such

awful conditions by putting their own lives into risk with sacrifice.

However it is alleged that the actions of these people who helped the injured, first as honourable people and then as medical students, nurses, physicians and dentists are illegal and legal cases are started demanding them to be put on trial with punishments of imprisonment up to 8 years!

**Let us think together please:** What is “lawful”? And what is “unlawful”? Then let us ask to the Ministry of Health and the Government: What is in contradiction with law? On what issue and against whom do you think of making criminal complaints? During the 1999 Gulf Earthquake and 2011 Van-Erciş earthquakes and in various catastrophes the health employees had established infirmaries and had given voluntary health service. Do you also think that service was unlawful?

Let us tell for your information that the physicians, health employees today as it was in those days, because of the nature of their profession shall continue to give health service without any discrimination to everyone who is in need, both to the demonstrators and to the security forces everywhere and every time.

As physicians who are the closest witnesses of those who were exposed to such atrocity, we call out to those people who try to make invisible the police violence which was lived before the eyes of the world!

Against these serious violations which were experienced during that period



and which affected all social sections, efficient, neutral and independent investigations based on United Nations Paris Principles should be assured to be carried and the offenders should be put on trial.

However the political power which is responsible for eliminating the obstacles in front of the access of thousands of people who were exposed to physical and emotional trauma made by the human hand to medical aid and justice is preoccupied with declaring the physicians and the physicians' organisation which provided health service in compliance with the

medical ethics principles despite all attack and preventions, as "criminals" and to put them on trial.

Within this context, legal cases were started not only against the physicians who provided health service to people who sheltered to Dolmabahçe Bezmi-Alem Valide Sultan Mosque but also against the Ankara Chamber of Medicine and Hatay Chamber of Medicine. In the legal cases started by the Ministry of Health, it is demanded that the physicians who are commissioned in the organs of the Medical Chambers (members of the executive committees) to be denounced from

their offices on the allegation that *"they carried on activities other than their purposes by illegally establishing health service units under the name of infirmaries"*.

It should be known that, Turkish Medical Association and the Medical Chambers are not confronted with such oppression for the first time. TMA and the affiliated chambers of profession gained their respectful position before the eyes of the whole world for their consistent, ethical positions and for they acted in compliance with the documents of attitude that are published by the internatio-





Photograph: Yücel Tunca



nal human rights organisations and the World Medical Association.

More, these legal cases which are not only monitored by the people and organisations of our country but also by the physicians and their organisations in the whole world are indeed steps for denouncing the medicine acting on behalf of humanity. Such attempts which neglect the common values of humanity are groundless both in terms of law and social legitimacy.

### **Because medicine cannot be put on trial!**

The Hippocratic Oath in its current practical use ends as; *"I solemnly, freely and upon my honour pledge that I will not abuse the rights and authorities this diploma which I receive from the medical faculty gives to me, I will consecrate my life to the service of humanity, I will maintain the utmost respect for human life; I will not use my medical against humanity, I will respect the secrets that are confided in me because of my profession, I will not permit considerations of age, disease or disability, creed, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, social standing or any other factor to intervene between my duty and my patient; I will practice my profession with conscience and dignity"*.

To attempt to put the Hippocratic Oath on trial shall mean putting the most basic values of humanity on trial. **It should be known that this is an honour for the physicians put on trial but for those who expect a political benefit from this legal case it shall be a shame which shall not be erased.**



**The Turkish Medical Association and Istanbul Medical Chamber shall continue to insist on,**

- standing together with all physicians, medical students and health employees who are exposed to oppression and sanctions for their acts in compliance with the professional dignity and human values,
- not accepting the attempts to use the medical practices for the goal of the political configuration of the society,
- not being indifferent to the health problems of the society,
- in practices which shall assure provision of health service without discrimination to all human beings whatever their ideas, political attitudes, sex and social status are.

As we told repeatedly before, whatever your laws, regulations, statutes tell we shall fulfil the requirements of medicine and reclaim our values also today and tomorrow as it was for thousands of years on these lands and we shall not leave alone our young physician colleagues on **7<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in Çağlayan Courthouse!**







## YOU CANNOT PUT ON TRIAL

the physicians for treating the injured people in Dolmabahçe Valide Sultan Mosque and other places in our country!

## Because medicine cannot be put on trial!

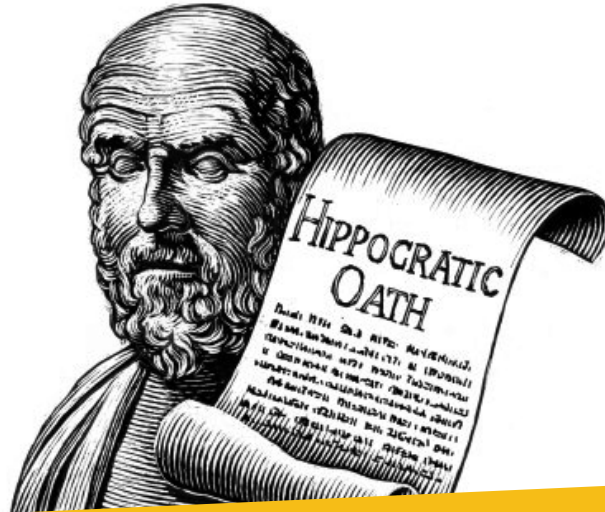
If you intend putting medicine on trial and punishing it, unfortunately **you should start not from young assistant physicians but from Hippocrates himself!**

## LEGAL CASE

7th May Wednesday Istanbul 55th Criminal Court of First Instance  
09.00 Çağlayan Courthouse

## PRESS STATEMENT

7th May Wednesday, 12.30, Çağlayan



**#resisthippocrates**