

TO ANKARA 32ND HIGH CRIMINAL COURT

File no: 2018/361

Subject: My testimony concerning charges in the indictment

At the very beginning I must make clear that since I first stepped into the profession of medicine I have tried to keep people alive, not to kill them. The declaration made by the Central Council of the organization that I have my membership too is based on nothing else but values of the profession of medicine. Just as it was with the case "War is a Public Health Problem" I'll make my defence not on behalf of myself but on behalf of humanity.

The renowned philosopher Socrates recognized as the founder of the philosophy of ethics was sentenced to death in 399 BC for "corrupting the youth". The themes that the philosopher touched upon in his defence, the attitude of the court and his behaviour towards the outcome of trial still constitute a reference in present day law. So I continue with Socrates.

2400 years ago, in his historical defence, Socrates had said: *"I don't know how you have been affected by my accusers, but please do not mind my style; it may be good or bad, just think about whether what I speak is true or not, and consider only this. Because it is the virtue of the judge, just as the virtue of the orator is in telling the truth..."*

In advanced democracies judiciary is guided by universal norms of law. It is a supervising power to ensure justice. It must not be forgotten that truth which is what we need the most in these dark days has the habit of manifesting itself unexpectedly. The terrible truth is that our case is being used as a pretext to paralyze the minds of thinking people. We defended medicine, health and life yesterday; we are doing it today and will be doing so tomorrow. While there is the truth standing there, the contrast between us and those who close their eyes to it will never cease. The indictment is incorrect and misguided. This operation targeting us is nothing else but an attempt against freedom of thought and expression.

Today violence makes itself felt with all its intensity. The country is as if going through a state of delirium. Teachers in schools, lawyers in courthouses, drivers on roads and women in streets are exposed to violence. Almost all TV channels show serials about war. Conflict in our neighbour Syria displaced 3.5 million Syrian citizens and left them desperate without food and shelter as is the case in Iraq, Palestine and Afghanistan. Recently the civil strife in Yemen going on for over 2 years now thousands of people were killed, insured or doomed to live in extremely unfavourable circumstances. We learn from the media that epidemics are on the rise. Wars are not only between states as sometimes said. If it were so there would have been no "civil war" like Spanish Civil War, for example or what is going on in Yemen today.

Since its foundation, the Turkish Medical Association has been the leading defendant of the right to life and health as a universal principle adopted by the WMA. The statement "War is a Public Health Problem" has 82 words in total; of these words, 22 are about war as a public health problem, 18 are about the harms of war, and 22 are about the ways of avoiding wars. There is not a single word in the text that would hurt anybody. Don't warmongers have their

eyes? Don't they have their hands, bodies, feelings, love and desires? Don't they feel the pain inflicted by weapons? Don't they bleed when injured? Shortly, aren't they human beings? If everybody experience or observe all these why should it be a crime to say "war is a public health problem"?

I want to state once more that I have no connection or affiliation with any terror organization and I have always stood against terror; I have always denounced ASSAULTS TO HUMAN BEINGS AND HUMANITY. When the ISIL killed 56 people including 40 children in a wedding fest in Gaziantep on 20 August 2016, it was only five hours after the event that I visited the place and denounced this terrorist activity on behalf of TMA. I served as voluntary physician for a week in a camp in Diyarbakır sheltering Ezidis fleeing from ISIL.

I strongly reject charges against myself and our professional organization that we have been engaged in efforts to legitimize terror organizations. Dr Salvador Allende, our colleague murdered by military coup leaders in Chile had said "*History is on the side of us and it is written by those who are right.*" Yes, today history is on our side. No one can produce an illegal organization from TMA and illegal organization supporters from us.

27.12.2018

Dr. Dursun Yaşar Ulutaş