

TO ANKARA 32ND HIGH CRIMINAL COURT

File no: 2018/361

Subject: My testimony concerning charges in the indictment.

Esteemed judges,

I am a specialist in radiology and a faculty member contributing to the training of hundreds of physicians and medical specialists every year and actively taking part in the delivery of health services. As required by my training and profession, I am trying to put the mission of keeping people healthy before everything else.

I must state on behalf of myself and other central council members we have never been involved in the propaganda of any terror organization and we are firmly against all forms of violence. I reject these charges against us.

I refuse with the same stress the charge "provoking hatred and enmity among people." We can long for nothing else but peace and well-being in society.

As doctors we work to keep people alive and heal diseases. As important as this is that we try to keep diseases away before they catch people. Health is a state of physical, emotional and social well-being. Environments people live in, air they breathe, water they drink and food they take in are the major determinants of health. Peace too is another factor of health like air and water. We appreciate the value of peace better when it is lost. Wars and environments of armed conflict teach us how important peace is. Wars and armed conflicts disturb health; people die, are wounded and have to move elsewhere. Universal values of medicine encourage national medical associations to assume roles of warning on consequences of such situations.

28 years ago when I graduated from medical school one of the first things I did was to join the Turkish Medical Association as our professional organization. It is a great honour for me to serve as the central council member of the association for the last two years. Presently I am the head of Izmir Chamber of Medicine.

Siding with life and making others live we doctors stand against any situation disturbing healthy living conditions and make efforts to alter these situations. Our statements that the indictment focuses on are nothing else but reflections of this stance.

It is our greatest wish to stop wars and armed conflicts in our country region and in the world, not to let children get killed and ensure their healthy growth.

Regards,
Prof. Dr. Funda Barlık Obuz