

TO ANKARA 32ND HIGH CRIMINAL COURT

File no: 2018/361

Subject: My testimony concerning charges in the indictment.

I am a physician for 35 years now. I contributed to the training of thousands of physicians and medical specialists in my academic career in Ankara University School of Medicine and I am still doing. My specialization is in orthopaedics and traumatology and I am a hand surgeon. I am engaged in long hours of operation with microscope to replace a cut off finger and make it functioning again. These people come in mostly as victims of explosion. All my efforts are for better and healthier life without and lasting injury or mutilation. While I am engaged in all these, it is beyond my perception to be here for charges that include words like terror and hatred.

For years I have assumed various duties in Ankara Chamber of Medicine and Turkish Medical Association as my professional organization to contribute to public health and my profession. Presently I am the head of the Central Council of Turkish Medical Association.

As colleagues in the Central Council we are physicians performing their profession in various areas. We are working around the clock to deliver services to protect and improve the health status of people.

Our work in our professional organization is no different than this. Whatever may there be related to human beings, their life and health and working conditions and rights of our colleagues have their place in the agenda of our organization.

In some cases, social risk that emerges after refusal to have a vaccine,
In some cases, treatment that falters as a result of medicine that cannot be found,
In some cases, administrative requests to postpone surgeries for economic reasons,
Unfortunately, violence against health workers in some cases,
Or right to life of miners died as a result of an explosion,
Or small bodies burning in an illicit dormitory building make up the agenda of the Turkish Medical Association.

Our statements now placed in totally different contexts and accused as such are no different than these. We did not conduct propaganda for any entity or commit a crime. We just defended the right to life as we are expected to do under the constitution and our organic law, nothing else...

The Turkish Medical Association embraces about 150,000 doctors each having his or her distinct value and different point of view. Hence, the Association bases its position exclusively on medical values as common denominator while forming and expressing opinion. While doing this, it is concerned not about whether these opinions will disturb anybody but whether it is *correct* or not and loyal to *values* of the profession of medicine. Words and attitudes of the Turkish Medical Association occasionally disturbed governments and the association faced prosecution. Yet, in the face of these, giving up the position against capital punishment, for example, or trying to defend public health means

abandoning the values of the profession. The cost of medical practice torn apart from these values was demonstrated dramatically through practices observed during the Second World War.

Lastly, I want to stress that the Turkish Medical Association takes no orders or instructions from any outer entity while performing its duties. It may act together with anybody sharing the same values, but it is not the satellite or backyards of anybody. Whatever it may have done is done for its correctness. Neither do we act differently than what we consider as right just for somebody asking it nor do we withhold our word just for somebody would dislike it.

I refuse all charges to my professional organization, Central Council members and myself and ask for our acquittal.

With regards,

Prof. Dr. Sinan Adiyaman