

Dear Sir/Madam

We are writing this letter to inform you about a hunger strike action that has been going on in Berlin for the last 9 months, the health condition and demands of hunger striker Eda Deniz Haydaroğlu, and to ask for your support.

Eda Deniz Haydaroğlu has been on hunger strike in front of the German Federal Ministry of Justice since 18 March 2023 with various demands. Eda is a 22-year-old young German citizen of Turkish origin, born and raised in Germany. At the same time, she is a young person who has a high political sensitivity to the problems in Germany, where she was born and raised, in Turkey, her country of origin, and in the world, and is therefore involved in the struggle for rights and freedoms. She accepts the hunger strike as part of this struggle for democratic rights and freedoms and has been on hunger strike since 18 March 2023.

The reason why Eda started her hunger strike is that 3 revolutionaries from Turkey, who are involved in the struggle for democratic rights and freedoms like her, have been unlawfully imprisoned for about 18 months and have been subjected to a political trial.

We can briefly summarise this process as follows:

At the end of 2022 May, 2 political migrants from Turkey and 1 German citizen of Turkish origin were detained under the 129b law. Özgül Emre, İhsan Cibelik and Serkan Küpeli were accused of being a member of a foreign terrorist organisation and were arrested and sent to prison before the trial process even started on the grounds of suspicion of flight. The trial process, which started about a year later and is still ongoing, has been marked by violations of law and rights.

Throughout the ongoing trial process; the accused trio were separated from their lawyers by being placed in a glass cage in the courtroom, the hands and feet of the detainees were bound with chains during transfer from the prison to the courthouse, the principle of equality of arms was violated by rejecting almost all the requests of the defence lawyers without justification, etc. Many violations of law and rights have been and continue to be experienced. But perhaps the most important violation of rights is that although İhsan Cibelik was diagnosed with suspected cancer before he entered prison, he was prevented from having a biopsy for almost 16 months during his detention. As a result of the pressure created by the hunger strike and other protests, the biopsy was finally carried out after 16 months and İhsan Cibelik was diagnosed with cancer as a result of this procedure.

Eda started the hunger strike to protest the pre-trial detention of Özgül Emre, İhsan Cibelik and Serkan Küpeli, who are also involved in the struggle for rights and freedoms, and is now continuing the hunger strike to demand the release of İhsan Cibelik due to his health problems. Although the court has made some statements that İhsan Cibelik could be released in order to undergo surgery, no concrete steps have been taken in this direction yet.

During the hunger strike, Eda's friends and comrades also went on an indefinite hunger strike to support her and with the same demands. İlgin Güler has been on hunger strike for 187 days, Sevil Sevimli for 182 days and İleni Lena Açıkgöz for 122 days. These four people are now on hunger strike in front of the Ministry of Justice of the Federal Republic of Germany for a fair trial in accordance with the law, for the implementation of the universal principle of the law that pre-trial detention is the exception rather than the rule, and for the right to health and treatment of the cancer-stricken prisoner İhsan Cibelik.

As lawyers who have been closely following both the trial process and the hunger strike of Eda, İlgin, Sevil and İleni, we would like to form a delegation of academics, intellectuals, artists and lawyers to discuss the health conditions and demands of the hunger strikers with the authorities of the German state, especially the Ministry of Justice. We would like to ask you to take part in this delegation and participate in the meetings.

Sincerely,