



**TÜRKİYE İNSAN HAKLARI VAKFI**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION OF TURKEY**

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**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,**

Examination of medical documents relating to the case history and health of Erol Zavar, born 1967 and currently held at Sincan No 1 F-type Prison, who applied to the Ankara Treatment and Rehabilitation Center of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey concerning the threats to his right to life and right to health, revealed the following:

He first received a diagnosis of bladder cancer in 1999 at Ankara Etlik SSK Hospital. He underwent TUR-T surgery, and was advised to avoid stressful environments and undergo quarterly cystoscopic checkups. In January 2001 Erol Zavar was arrested and committed to Trakya F-Type Prison. Despite his own urgent repeated applications and those of his family and lawyers, cystographic investigations were not carried out for three years.

In February 2004, when he was finally referred to a university hospital equipped to carry out the said investigations, the diagnosis was "Transitional Cell Carcinoma, WHO Grade II, showing submucosal invasion, bladder." After that date Erol Zavar underwent TUR-T surgery on nine occasions, and in eight of these interventions, multiple tumors of various size were identified and removed.

An expert report prepared at the request of the family by Ankara Medical Chamber on 31/05/05 emphasized that the disease was continuously progressing: "(...) the existing tumor has reached an advanced tumorous stage (...)."

As a result of the many surgical operations, the wall of the bladder is now much thinned, and for this reason the patient and the family have been informed that in the event of a recrudescence of the disease, the entire bladder will have to be removed.

Petitions made by the family to the Justice Ministry and to the Turkish Parliament have received responses, which indicate, in summary, that the patient's disease has been monitored and treated since 2004, and that treatment can be continued in the prison environment. However, no mention was made of the period between 2001 and 2004.

When we evaluate the general picture of the bladder cancer suffered by Erol Zavar, most recently held at Ankara Sincan No 1 F-type Prison in Cell No B1-6-52, and especially the course of the disease over the past two and a half years, we believe that it would be unrealistic to expect any improvement in the disease while the patient remains in prison in view of the associated conditions and stress factors.

The Human Rights Foundation of Turkey believes that the health of Erol Zavar, which is clearly not going to improve under prison conditions, has reached a stage in which urgent intervention has now become necessary. It is our view that Erol Zavar should be released, under the provisions of relevant law, so that he can be treated under more appropriate conditions before his disease reaches the terminal stage.

We have submitted our view, prepared on Erol Zavar's request, in the light of all data relating to the patient, and on the basis of his right to life and right to health, to his wife Elif Zavar.

(signed)

Dr. Metin Bakkalcı  
General Secretary