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Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE NON GOUVERNEMENTALE AYANT STATUT CONSULTATIF AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES, DE L'UNESCO,
ET DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE ET D'OBSERVATEUR AUPRES DE LA COMMISSION AFRICAINE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET DES PEUPLES

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS

FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL
DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS

الفدرالية الدولية لحقوق الانسان

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I have examined the case history and relevant medical documents concerning Erol Zavar, born in 1967 in Zonguldak, and I have discussed the case with his wife Elif Zavar, who submitted the information, and with his lawyers.

Erol Zavar's first operation for bladder cancer was in 1999 at Ankara SSK Hospital. He was advised to avoid stressful environments, and to undergo cystoscopy every three months. Erol Zavar was arrested in 2001, and was unable to obtain the required medical tests for the said disease throughout the first three years following that date as a result of the conditions prevailing in the various F- type Prisons to which he was successively transferred. Seven of the eight investigations he has had since resumption of tests in 2004 have revealed multiple cancers requiring surgery for their removal. Most recently doctors have told him that "the bladder wall is now extremely thin and in any new operation it will be necessary to remove the bladder completely."

Erol Zavar is currently held at cell number B1-6-52 in Sincan No 1 F-type prison. He is trying to maintain his morale and his bodily resistance mechanisms while under considerable strain and the awareness that he may at any time receive the news that his illness has relapsed or migrated to other organs. It is a matter of mere luck that the cancer has so far not migrated to other organs. We must take care not to force this luck any further. The course of his disease during recent years suggests that it would not be realistic to expect any improvement in Erol Zavar's condition while he remains under the same psychosocial stress factors and in the same environment. I am convinced that Erol Zavar's health situation, which is clearly not going to improve under prison conditions, has reached a perilous stage demanding urgent intervention. The best solution would be if relevant laws and regulations, or even the discretionary powers of the esteemed President, could be brought into play in order to achieve Erol Zavar's release permitting him to be treated in more appropriate conditions without delay, and before his disease becomes irreversible.

I am hopeful that the necessary concern and sensitivity will be shown in order to create a humane solution in recognition of Erol Zavar's right to life, notwithstanding his fundamental and other rights, and providing for his release.

Erol Zavar's release from prison and the recovery of his health and would be a priceless gift not only for his family, but for us, and for society at large.

With my respects,

02. 06. 2006

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