

Monday, 14 June 2021

CALL ON DEMOCRATIC NATO COUNTRIES: STOP THE ILLEGAL KIDNAPPINGS AND TORTURE OF OPPONENTS OF THE TURKISH AUTHORITARIAN REGIME

For 14 days, since 1 June, Turkey has been illegally detaining Orhan Inandi, a citizen with Turkish-Kyrgyz nationality, in the Turkish Embassy in Kyrgyzstan. Whereas Turkey reacted with extreme outrage in October 2018 when Jamal Khashoggi was detained and eventually murdered in Saudi Arabia's embassy in Istanbul, it now appears that they themselves are using exactly the same reprehensible methods in Kyrgyzstan. Orhan Inandi is the founder of the Sapat school network, which comprises high-level educational institutions: 16 general education lyceums, an international university, an international school and three primary schools, which have been operating in Kyrgyzstan for a long time. The Sapat organisation finds inspiration in the teachings of Fethullah Gülen and is therefore regarded by Erdogan's regime as an enemy of the Turkish state.

In the reports of the Turkey Tribunal on the state of torture and abduction, we have clearly shown that the Turkish state systematically tortures opponents of the regime without any real legal protection. Out of 100 cases of torture, less than one case results in a punishment. In recent years, more than 100 people have been abducted by Turkey from abroad. In the process, these victims systematically disappear for long periods of time and are tortured. If Mr. Inandi were to be deported to Turkey, he would undoubtedly be imprisoned, tortured and forced to confess without any judicial protection. This is the systematic method used by the Turkish Government.

We urge NATO partners to clearly demand that Turkey put an end to these illegal activities and release Mr Inandi. NATO should be an alliance of democratic states, not an alliance in which some partners have installed an authoritarian regime with abductions, torture, impunity, no press freedom and no guarantee of the rule of law or protection of human rights.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Orhan Inandi was abducted on 1 June 2021: his car was discovered with the doors open in the courtyard of a high-rise residential complex in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek. Inandi's son, who filed a missing persons report, stated that he had last heard from his father at 6 p.m. on 31 May 2021.

Various sources (the Turkey Tribunal¹ and Mr Inandi's wife²) have confirmed that Orhan Inandi is currently being held in the Turkish Embassy in Bishkek. A Turkish aircraft has been parked at Kyrgyzstan's national airport since 1 April 2021. On the day of the abduction, the plane was readied to supposedly carry out a "training flight", but according to observers³, it was readied to take Mr Inandi back to Turkey⁴. He is currently being pressured - as his wife confirmed on Twitter - to renounce his Kyrgyz nationality so that he can be sent to Turkey illegally⁵. The only thing currently preventing Orhan Inandi from being smuggled out of the embassy and into the country is the great outcry from the Kyrgyz people, who are currently surrounding the Turkish embassy. If Orhan Inandi is deported to Turkey, his personal integrity will be endangered.

WHO IS ORHAN INANDI?

¹ https://turkeytribunal.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/URGENT-OrhanInandi_Press-release_website.pdf

² <https://twitter.com/Reyhaninandi/status/1401448855170863104?s=20>

³ <https://www.facebook.com/aliya.kurbanova.3/posts/10219422591463226>

⁴ <https://eurasianet.org/kyrgyzstan-turkish-born-founder-of-gulen-backed-schools-goes-missing>

⁵ <https://twitter.com/reghaninandi/status/1401448855170863104?s=241>

Orhan Inandi was born a Turkish citizen but obtained Kyrgyz nationality in 2012. He has lived in Kyrgyzstan since the 1990s and is the founder of the Sapat organisation, a network of prestigious schools and universities in Kyrgyzstan.

These schools are a thorn in the side of Turkish authorities because they were originally founded by the Gülen movement - whose founder Turkey accuses of plotting a coup attempt in 2016. Turkey has therefore actively launched an international witch hunt against anyone with any connection to this movement. Since 2016, Turkey has illegally kidnapped more than 100 Turkish citizens abroad to bring them back to Turkey, where they are tortured and imprisoned.

Professor Vande Lanotte and Mr. Heymans are the authors of a report on torture and a report on abduction by the Turkish government.

DOCUMENTATION:

- Photos of Orhan Inandi: see we-transfer <https://we.tl/t-RWWj7AZBmL>: Video clip of car trying to leave Turkish embassy, refusing to open boot and returning to embassy: see we-transfer <https://we.tl/t-RWWj7AZBmL>
- Video clip of demonstrations in front of the Turkish Embassy: see we-transfer <https://we.tl/t-RWWj7AZBmL>
- Video clip of Orhan Inandi's wife confirming that he is being held in the Turkish Embassy and pressured into renouncing his Kyrgyz nationality so that he can be illegally sent to Turkey: <https://twitter.com/Reyhaninandi/status/1401448855170863104?s=20>
- Turkey Tribunal's "#Torture in Turkey Today" report: <https://turkeytribunal.com/executive-summary-torture-in-turkey-today/>
- Turkey Tribunal's "Abductions in Turkey Today" report: <https://turkeytribunal.com/report-abductions-in-turkey-today/>