

8/29/00

Dear Honorable Judge,

I was born in Istanbul, Turkey, finished my high school education in Istanbul and then went to Zurich, Switzerland to the Federal School of Technology for my first degree in chemistry.

While growing up in Istanbul, I used to play waterpolo with a local team. We had a friend, an Armenian, Dikran Cherciyan as our goalkeeper. In our school we had Armenian teachers, to name two: Bedros bey and Kurkciyan. We were educated and told not to differentiate with others who had different creeds and to respect their beliefs. My grandmother, who was a devout Moslem, would encourage us to go to the nearby Greek Orthodox Church and participate in their liturgy.

After graduating from the Federal School, I came to the U.S. and received my Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. While in Pittsburgh, I remember looking for Armenian names in the telephone directory to ask for their services such as restaurants, car services, doctors, etc. because I felt close to them as we were from the same area.

My aunt, a divorced lady, was raising a son, Bahadir. And she was determined that he would get the best education available in Turkey. With her meager salary she sent him to a private school with an English curriculum. Bahadir eventually graduated from Robert College and went to the University in Ankara, specializing in foreign affairs.

After graduating from the University, Bahadir joined the Turkish Foreign Service. Shortly, thereafter, in 1972, he married his sweetheart, Sina. Helen, my wife and I traveled to Istanbul to attend their wedding.

Bahadir's first foreign assignment was as a Consul to the Turkish Consulate in Los Angeles. The whole family was jubilant, because we were nearby. At that time we were living in Los Altos, a town on the Peninsula, close to San Francisco and I was working as a scientist in the pharmaceutical field.

After Bahadir and Sina were settled in Los Angeles, he complained about the harassment that they were experiencing by some members of the Armenian community. This included picketing the consulate, telephone treats, smashing of the hotel's glasses and china when the consulate had arranged a business meeting with the local business people etc.

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, 1973 when Helen and I were getting ready to go to attend a dinner affair at a friend's house, I received a phone call from another friend in Los Angeles. He told me that an American of Armenian origin, Mr. Yanikian, murdered Bahadir Demir

and The Consul General, Mehmet Baydar. We were of course saddened and shocked and left that same evening from San Francisco to go to Los Angeles to be close to Sina.

What ensued in the following days, as the venom spilled by the Armenian community, against Turks, was an eye opener to us. We had been completely unaware of this hatred prior to this tragedy. The trial of Mr. Yanikian took place in Santa Barbara, California. Mr. Yanikian, because of his hate against anything Turkish, had planned for months to kill the consul. He decided the best way of doing this sinister affair was to lure Mr. Baydar and Mr. Demir to a neutral ground. He told Mr. Baydar that he had in his possession valuable historical documents and he would give them to Turkey as a gift. After months of correspondence between the Consulate and the Turkish Foreign Affairs Office, the Foreign Office as a friendly gesture told the Consulate to accept the gifts. On January 28<sup>th</sup> 1973 both Mr. Baydar and Mr. Demir drove to Santa Barbara, California to the Biltmore Hotel. Mr. Yanikian greeted them in a friendly manner escorted them to his cottage room, took a gun from a book that he had carved and shot both of them.

My wife, an educated Iowa born lady, a scholar and a gentleperson, attended all the proceedings and I would go to Santa Barbara as often as I could. The prosecutor, Mr. David Minier, had done his homework and had asked the jury that Mr. Yanikian should be sentenced for a first-degree murder. That was the verdict of the jury. During the trial my wife had been harassed repeatedly by Armenian women, who intimidated and frightened her. She was told to "get out of there, this is an Armenian trial, you have no business of being here" and once she was physically pushed out of her place in line when she was waiting to get into the chamber. Since she was all by herself most of the time, she feared for her safety. How could events that had happened so long ago and far away create so much personal fear for her in and around a courtroom in California?

During the trial bus loads of Armenian American children, aged 7-13, would be transported from Los Angeles area and when Mr. Yanikian was escorted to the room they would rise in unison to greet a man who was their hero just because he had murdered two innocent men. The Armenians believe that the Ottoman Turks had perpetrated genocide against them. They do not accept the historical presentation of neutral historians. I attended a debate at a meeting in Sacramento, California about the subject of Cyprus. At the end of the meeting, four men of Armenian origin brought the subject of genocide - nothing to do with Cyprus. When their questions were being answered, they started to gesticulate and shout in such a manner that only their opinions could be heard. They could only be stopped by the police officers and the meeting was quickly adjourned.

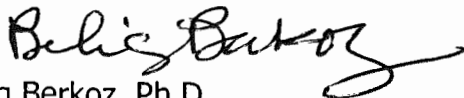
In California, in 1985 a "model curriculum for human rights and genocide" was developed pursuant to Assembly Bill 1273. This bill was adopted on October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1987, signed by Governor Deukmejian. According to this bill, students in grades 7 to 12, will be tutored in history and social studies courses using the materials recommended by a

panel. This panel was formed by several committees, comprised of 55 members - 11 of them Armenians. Despite repeated requests to be included, no Turkish scholar was invited to this panel. The panel recommended 80 books for the teachers to use in their respective classes dealing with Jewish, Polish, Ukrainian, Armenian, African etc. issues. The Armenian point of view was represented in 8 books, with no other source disputing their one sided representation. To give a perspective about the Armenian genocide controversy I quote what an Armenian curriculum writer, Rubina Peromian, stated in a lecture: "...the worst case scenario would be to have the Armenian genocide presented as a controversial issue, since all instructors would be required to present the various viewpoints to their students and emphasize the need for further research." The adopted recommendation of this panel is one way to fan the hatred of the Armenians against Turks.

Mr. Topalian should be prosecuted as the law dictates and not how the Armenians want to picture him. Due to the hatred imported into the United States by these factions, the people they target are not permitted to have the same freedoms that are enjoyed by other Americans.

I am a naturalized American citizen of Turkish descent, a scientist, now retired. Thank you for your time and devotion to upholding our laws.

Sincerely and Respectfully Yours,



Belig Berkoz, Ph.D.  
1266 Windimer Drive  
Los Altos, CA., 94024

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State of California  
County of Santa Clara } ss.

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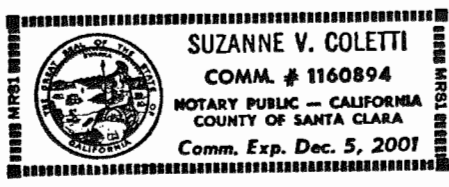
Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before

me this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August,  
Date Month

2000, by  
Year

(1) Belig Berkoz  
Name of Signer(s)

(2) [Signature]  
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only Belig Mehmet Berkoz, Ph.D., U.S. Citizen  
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