

Cemil Must Stay Campaign
Committee to Defend Asylum Seekers
c/o Sheffield TUC
Sheffield Trades & Labour Club
Talbot Street Entrance
Sheffield S2

04 December 2005

Dear Friend,

Cemil Dogan is a 28 year old asylum seeker, who has lived in Britain for the last three years. He was forced to leave Turkey because of his support for the 'Turkish Communist Party - Marxist-Leninist' (TKP-ML) which is an illegal organisation in Turkey. He came to Britain as a political refugee.

He worked for 2 years (1996-98) as a volunteer worker for a human rights organisation called the 'one Hundred Flowers Cultural Centre'. In 1996 he was arrested for the first time because of his support for TKP-ML. Between 1996-2000, he was arrested 9 times for up to seven days at one time. Each time he suffered torture.

The police use of torture on Cemil included electric shocks. On one occasion he was suspended from the ground by his hands. A high pressure water hose was also used on him. On another occasion he was taken into the mountains near Artvin in North East Turkey where they blindfolded him and held a gun to his head. The police told him that it was his last chance, and that he had to give the names of his comrades. Cemil thought he was going to die at that time.

Cemil has lost a large part of the hearing in his left ear having been struck on the head by the police.

In 1999 he spent 73 days in prison. He was released on bail for four months. At the time he was due into court for a third time he went into hiding - his solicitor's having told him that the court were going to charge him. In June 2000, in his absence he was sentenced to 3 years and 9 months in prison. He then spent 2 years in hiding.

Cemil fled to England in 2002. The police had been regularly (at least once a month) searching his parents house. His mother lost her job because the police were coming into her workplace a lot asking where he was.

On his arrival in the UK on 16 October 2002, Cemil applied for refugee status. On 25 October he was refused refugee status on the grounds that Turkey is a safe country. He appealed this decision, but once again he was refused on the same basis.

Cemil's case then went to a tribunal appeal in September 2004 at which he won the right for his case to be reviewed. In May 2005 he received a letter

asking him to attend court. This court session was then cancelled and the Home Office called him to attend a second interview with them.

This second home office interview was held in June 2005. After 3 months he received a letter that he had once again been refused because the home office claims that Turkey has now reached a 'European standard' of human rights.

His brother Sinan faces a similar situation in Turkey for his support for the same organisation. Sinan has fled to Holland and has been granted refugee status.

Sinan was sentenced to 12.5 years in prison in Turkey. He spent 5 years in prison. He went on hunger strike for 160 days and was released by the Turkish government did not want him to die in prison.

Cemil's father has also spent time in prison in 1984 for his support for TKP-ML. He was tortured for 90 days. He was arrested in 1991 & 1992 for his activities as a trade union leader.

On 16 June 2005, 17 members of the Maoist Communist Party (MKP, formerly TKP/ML) were assassinated this included the organisation's general secretary, 4 others were seriously injured. They were assassinated by the 'anti-guerilla' wing of the Turkish army which had attacked the organisation's 2nd congress.

Please do all you can to support the campaign. Enclosed is a petition.

(Home office reference: D1071704)

Yours Sincerely,

On behalf, Cemil Must Stay Campaign.