

## **Court Case against School Teacher Ayşe Çelik and her “accomplices” -**

### **First hearing on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2016, Istanbul.**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2016, a school teacher named Ayşe Çelik called up from Diyarbakir (Southeast Turkey) and went on the air during a popular talk show, to plead for an end to the “deaths of men, women and children...so that mothers should not cry.” “What is going on here,” she said, “is being distorted and not being faithfully reported on your television screens.” She urged the audience not to remain silent. (The English translation of the full text is copied below.) She is now on trial, being accused of carrying out “terrorist propaganda” on behalf of PKK, as well as the director Kadir Turanlı who was responsible for the show.

**What Ayşe Çelik said on the television program was no different from what many of us, as women, professionals, academics, have observed at first hand during our visits to the affected areas and have voiced at the time. We believe that the only way to prevent more deaths is dialogue in order for the guns to fall silent and to start building peace**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2016, we the undersigned denounced ourselves as “accomplices of Ayşe Çelik in this crime, if her words indeed constitute a crime,” and now stand trial under the same charges. The first hearing is to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2016, at the 2. Criminal Court in Bakırköy, Istanbul.

AHMET DİNDAR	Attorney	İSTANBUL
AYŞE ERZAN SİLİER	Physicist	İSTANBUL
AYŞEGÜL AKIŞ DEVECİOĞLU	Writer	İSTANBUL
AYŞENUR İYİDOĞAN	Graphic artist	İSTANBUL
BAYRAM BAHRİ BELEN	Attorney	İSTANBUL
DİLEK GÖKÇİN	Documentary film director	İSTANBUL
ERCAN İPEKÇİ	Journalist	ANKARA
ERGİN CİNMEN	Attorney	İSTANBUL
FERHAT TUNÇ	Artist	İSTANBUL
GENÇAY GÜRSOY	Neurologist (retired)	İSTANBUL
GÜLSEREN ONANÇ	Business woman, politician	İSTANBUL
GÜLŞEN DENİZHAN	Attorney	İSTANBUL

GÜRHAN ERTÜR	Businessman	İSTANBUL
GÜRKAN DEVELİ	Technician	İZMİR
HALİM BULUTOĞLU	Businessman	İSTANBUL
İBRAHİM AKIN	Kindergarten director	İZMİR
İBRAHİM SİNEMİLLİOĞLU	Attorney	İSTANBUL
KEMAL ÖZGÜL	Attorney	İSTANBUL
MAHMUT KONUK	Trade unionist, Health worker	ANKARA
MEHMET TURSUN	Contractor, Baran Tursun Foundation, Pres.	İZMİR
MEVLÜT ÜLGEN	Psychologist	İZMİR
MURAT ÇELİKKAN	Journalist	İSTANBUL
NAZMİYE ÖZEN	Retired	İZMİR
NERGİZ OVACIK	Industrial engineer	İSTANBUL
NEŞE YAŞIN	Poet	İSTANBUL
NİL ÖZSOY DİNDAR	Attorney	İSTANBUL
ORHAN ALKAYA	Theater director	İSTANBUL
ORHAN SİLİER	Historian	İSTANBUL
OYA BAYDAR (ENGİN)	Sociologist, Writer	İSTANBUL
PERİHAN PULAT	Retired	ANKARA
PINAR ÖNEN	Clinical Psychologist	İSTANBUL
ŞANAR YURDATAPAN	Musician	İSTANBUL
SİBEL ÖZBUDUN DEMİRER	Anthropologist	ANKARA
SÜLEYMAN ERYILMAZ	Trade unionist, retired	İZMİR
TEMEL DEMİRER	Araştırmacı, yazar	ANKARA
TÜRKCAN BAYKAL	Clinical Psychologist and Physician	İZMİR
ÜNER EYÜBOĞLU	Engineer	İSTANBUL
VECDİ SAYAR	Art/Cinema Critic	İSTANBUL

Full text of Ayşe Çelik's words on the "Beyaz Show," Channel D

*Are you aware of what's going on in the Southeast Turkey? Unborn children, mothers, people are being killed here. As a performer, as a human being you should not remain silent to what's happening. You should say stop. I want to say one more thing. There are miserable people who are glad to hear that children are dying. We, more correctly I, cannot say anything to these people, but shame on you. I'm sorry I want to say one more thing. I'm a teacher and I'm asking all teachers (who were ordered by the Ministry of Education to leave the area): How will they ever go back to these places? How will they look at those innocent children's faces and into their eyes? I can't speak really (she has tears in her voice). The things happening here are reflected so differently on TV screens or on the media. Don't remain silent. As a human being, have a sensitive approach. See, hear and lend us a hand. It's a pity, don't let those people, those children die; don't let the mothers cry anymore. I can't even speak over the sounds of the bombs and bullets. People are struggling with starvation and thirst, babies and children too. Don't remain silent.*

Translated from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13eGNvqevIQ>