

# **Investigation and Research Report on the Murder of Seven Members of a Kurdish Family in Meram, Konya**

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## **Rights Initiative Association**

**Address:** Necatibey Cad. 19/28. 50. Yıl İşhanı, Kızılay/ANKARA

**Telephone:** +(90)5446084456

**Prepared by:** Mehmet Kaya, Nurcan Aktay, Zelal Yıldız, Göktan Yıldırım, Muhammed Ata Yüksel, Münker Odabaşı, Nihat Koca

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## A. ABSTRACT

In the recent period, allegations of “racist attack” came to the fore in the public about the attack on the Dal family in the Meram district of Konya and the events that resulted in the murder of seven members of the Dedeoğulları family. Two separate claims regarding these incidents, “racist attack” and “reasons based on hostility”, were voiced in the process.

A delegation representing the Rights Initiative Association went to Konya on 8 and 9 August 2021 to investigate the events. Various meetings were held to determine and analyze the attacks and massacres against the Dedeoğulları family on 12 May 2021 and 30 July 2021.

In order to prepare the report, interviews were requested from various institutions and organizations. As a result of the interviews, although the investigation phase is still ongoing, the general opinion in public institutions is that the attacks and massacre were not committed with racist motives. In the interviews made with the local people and tradesmen, it was observed that they generally abstained and stated that they did not have any information or sensations about the massacre.

During the meeting with the lawyer of the Dedeoğulları family, Abdurrahman Karabulut, information was obtained about the legal processes from the beginning of the judicial process regarding the lynching to the massacre. In the light of the information received, it was determined that there were serious findings that the law enforcement officers had negligent attitudes, that an effective investigation was not carried out to identify and punish those who participated in the attack, that various institutions did not take preventive measures for the attacks, and that the judicial process was primarily based on the policy of impunity.

Although an investigation has not yet started after the massacre, it has been determined by both the judicial, administrative and political authorities that the incident did not take place with racist motives and that it was caused by the hostility between the two families, and that the relatives of the victims were warned not to take the incident in other directions. It has been seen that the attitudes of the neighbors of the families who carried out the massacre and were murdered are also the manifestation of the generally accepted behaviors. It has been determined that these people are constantly emphasized that the Dedeoğulları family is Kurdish. The fact that the neighbors did not visit the Dedeoğulları family both after the first lynching and to offer condolences after the massacre was a factor that attracted our attention.

On the other hand, although the first attack on the Dedeoğulları family on 12 May was reflected in the national press and drew public reaction; the murder of Hakim Dal, who was allegedly attacked and killed on July 21 in the same district because he was a Kurd, also drew a reaction from the national public. In this process, the Dedeoğulları family has applied to both the judicial and administrative authorities, the Minister of Interior and CIMER to demand their protection in various ways. However, despite this, neither the local judicial and administrative authorities nor the central authorities have made any efforts to take any measures.

After the report, in addition to the above-mentioned findings, it was observed that the Dedeoğulları family had concerns about the opening of investigations from their relatives, and that the relatives of the Dedeoğulları family and some of their neighbors avoided revealing their names while making statements.

In addition to all these, it has been seen again and again that public officials and political party officials used preconceived statements such as that there is no racism and no hate crime in Turkey after similar events. These discourses cover up the grievances experienced and prevent further investigations. While there is not even an effective investigation and an indictment prepared, the discourses that determine which category the crimes will be handled cause an investigation process to operate against the victims. For this reason, the fight against racism and hate crimes should be carried out both at the civil, political and judicial level. The most

important finding in the report is that racism and hate speech started in a simple daily discussion, perhaps in a field or in a market, increased especially with the use of discourses emphasizing political or ethnic identities, and as a result, could cause this event that is experienced today. Racism is a crime that must be combated in any sense, at any level and in any discourse. Therefore, instead of denying the facts, it is necessary to face all of them.

## **B. CRIME SCENE – INFORMATION ABOUT KONYA, MERAM DISTRICT**

Meram is a district located within the provincial borders of Konya, with Derbent and Selçuklu in the north, Karatay in the east, Beyşehir and Seydişehir in the west, and Akören and Çumra in the south. It is seen that there are many agricultural lands in the district and construction is not allowed in the areas that are abundant and considered as protected areas. Agriculture and animal husbandry form the basis of the district's economy. According to the Turkish Statistical Institute 2020 data, the population of Meram district is 344,549.

The population of Bahçeşehir Neighborhood, located in Meram district of Konya province, is 12,130. While Hasanköy Neighborhood had an independent headman's office before, it was included in Bahçeşehir Neighborhood together with a few nearby neighborhoods. Kurdish families that immigrated from the Southeastern and Eastern Anatolia regions live in the Meram district. Eight families (approximately 20-25 people) who had immigrated from the provinces of Van, Muş, Kars, Siirt, and Ağrı live in the Hasanköy Neighborhood of Meram district. This corresponds to approximately one percent of the entire population of the neighborhood. In the neighborhood, people particularly from different districts of Konya, and from the Central Anatolian region, such as Aksaray, Kırşehir, Kayseri etc., live. About 40 families and more than 100 people live in the neighborhood from Bozkır district of Konya, the hometown of the suspect Mehmet Altun, who murdered the Dedeoğulları family.

In the Çarıklar village of Meram district, it was reported in the media that an attack was carried out on the Dal family from Diyarbakır on 21 July 2021 and a citizen named Hâkim Dal was killed.

### C. INTRODUCTION

A series of events that took place in the Meram district of Konya recently attracted the attention of us as well as the public. Allegations of “**racist attack**” had come to the fore about the events that resulted in the lynching of the Dedeoğulları family, the attack on the Dal family, and the murder of seven members of the Dedeoğulları family. Two separate allegations, namely “racist attack” and “reasons based on hostility”, had been made regarding the incidents in the process.

Our delegation, representing the Rights Initiative Association, went to the scene on 8 and 9 August 2021, and held various meetings to make determinations and investigations regarding the attacks and massacre against the DEDEOĞULLARI family on 12 May 2021 and 30 July 2021.

This report is based on the desire and effort to shed light on whether the abominable and grave event was caused by personal animosity between the two families or was carried out with a racist motive; to observe whether the public officials had negligence in the occurrence of this incident, and what kind of attitude they took in the face of this incident; and finally, to make some determinations regarding the sociological dimensions of the event and thus to reach the truth as a whole.



MEMBERS OF OUR DELEGATION

### D. EVENT SUMMARY

The Dedeoğulları family is a family of six children, who migrated from Kars to Konya about 26 years ago on the grounds of a blood feud and mainly makes their living by animal husbandry. Çetin Dedeoğulları, the only member of the family who survived the massacre, lives in England. The family lived in the house located in Hasanköy Street in Bahçeşehir Neighborhood (formerly Hasanköy Village / Neighborhood) located in Meram district of Konya for approximately 26 years.

On 12 May 2021, which coincides with the eve of the Eid al-Fitr, at around 22:30, family members, who went out to the courtyard after a torpedo was thrown in the garden of the house where the family lived, were attacked by a group of people (9-12 people in the case file, 20-30 people according to their statements that were not reflected in the investigation file), among them people with guns and sticks. It was claimed that the attack in question was carried out by a group including members of the Keleş family, neighbors of the Dedeoğulları family, and statements were given to both the law enforcement and the Prosecutor's Office in this regard. Dedeoğulları family members were seriously injured as a result of the attack, and some members of the family had to be treated in the intensive care unit. On the same day, six members of the Keleş family were arrested, and four of the six arrested were later released. Following the incident, a "Protection On-call" measure was decided by the court for the Dedeoğulları and Keleş families.

After the 12 May attack, upon the release of the attackers, the Dedeoğulları family submitted petitions to various institutions asking for protection, and had security cameras installed in four places of the house they reside.

It is stated in the case file that a vehicle came near the house where Dedeoğulları and his family lived on 22 May 2021, before the date of the massacre, and someone they did not know from inside the vehicle said swearing and insulting — we will remove you from here. In this event, the statements of Serpil, Yaşar, and Barış Dedeoğulları were taken. In her statement, Serpil said that Ahmet Keleş, Ramazan Çalık, and Ali Keleş were in the vehicle, and that Şerife Çalık, Hatice Keleş and Merve Şen came out of Lütfi Keleş's house after the vehicle moved away from the house, insulting them and saying —we will get you out of here—.

On 30 July, Mehmet Altun, a relative of the Keleş family, who went to the house where the family members lived, committed a massacre against the family members, and then set the house on fire with a can of gasoline he brought with him. Çetin Dedeoğlu, a family member, was able to survive the massacre because he was on his way to go abroad during the incident.

In the camera recordings made public, it is seen that the perpetrator Mehmet Altun shot at family members in the courtyard of the house in question.

The murder suspect, Mehmet Altun, in his statement to the law enforcement, said that he came to the house with a car he rented before the massacre, that he returned after he learned that Barış Dedeoğulları, one of the children of the family, was not at home, and that he came back after Barış Dedeoğulları returned home, and that he tried to dissuade the members of the Dedeoğulları family from complaining by talking to them in the courtyard of the house. In the continuation of his statement, he has stated that he took the gun out of the bag he was hiding and shot bullets at the family members, that he killed one by shooting from the window after one of the family members escaped to the house, that he renewed the magazine when the bullets in the magazine ran out and fired again by targeting the heads of each of the Dedeoğulları family members, and then he set the house on fire with a can of gasoline he brought with him.

19 bullets were recovered from the victims. The family's dog, who was tied up, received three gunshot wounds and survived the massacre with injuries.

The names of those who lost their lives in this massacre are as follows:

Yaşar Dedeoğulları

Serap Dedeoğulları

Serpil Dedeoğulları

Sibel Dedeoğulları

İpek Dedeoğulları

Metin Dedeoğulları

Barış Dedeoğulları

Killer Mehmet Altun was caught six days after the massacre in Bozkır, where his relatives lived.

**E. LIST OF INSTITUTIONS WE REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT TO REQUEST INFORMATION ABOUT THE MASSACRE**

- Governorship of Konya
- Meram District Governorship
- Meram Mayor's Office
- Konya Chief Public Prosecutor's Office
- Konya Bar Association
- HRA Konya Branch
- Bahçesehir (Hasanköy) Neighborhood Headman's Office
- Justice and Development Party (AKP)
- Republican People's Party (CHP)
- Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP)
- Nationalist Movement Party (MHP)
- Good Party (İYİ)
- On behalf of the Felicity Party, Konya Deputy Abdulkadir Karaduman
- Democracy and Progress Party (DEVA)
- Future Party (Gelecek)



## F. INTERVIEWS

### i. Interview with Abdurrahman Karabulut, Lawyer of Dedeoğulları Family



WITH ABDURRAHMAN KARABULUT, THE LAWYER OF DEDEOĞULLARI AND DAL FAMILIES

***“There is news that there is a conflict in Diyarbakır and Lütfi Keleş swears in the way that he f... all the Kurds. This is repeated a few times and that’s when the real animosity begins.”***

“I am familiar with the case both legally and with the family’s narratives. The event 10 years ago is reflected to the public as a simple cat issue. According to the incident told by Uncle Yaşar: 10-11 years ago, neighbor Lütfi Keleş called Uncle Yaşar for help in the field. When he goes for help, news comes out that there is a conflict in Diyarbakır and Lütfi Keleş swears in the way that he f... all the Kurds. This is repeated a few times and that’s when the real animosity begins. When Uncle Yaşar says don’t say that, are all Kurds PKK members, there is a debate. Then there are mutual insults. Until 12 May, minor harassment occurs, but it is not reflected as a judicial case. On eve, 12 May at 22:30, torpedoes are thrown in the garden of the house and as soon as the family goes out, they are attacked with stones and sticks. According to the client’s statement, an organized attack was carried out by 50-60 people, among them armed people, and six people were arrested on the same day. The incident was reported to me on 15 June and on 17 June we requested the arrest of the other perpetrators by giving their names. We requested HTS and base station searches for other undetected individuals. We also asked for protection because we feared that the attacks would continue. Four of the six arrested were released. Stereotypical reasons were given as the reason for the release, stating that there was no concrete evidence. The evacuees then went around the house and continued to make threatening gestures. The perpetrator of the massacre is not among the six arrested. All of these evictions were appealed, but no petition was answered by the prosecutor’s office. Then came the news of the attack to the Dal family from Diyarbakir in the morning.”

***“Hâkim Dal is beaten by 7-8 people on the ground with guns, stones, and sticks in front of the gendarmerie. During this beating, someone shoots Hâkim Dal in the back and Hâkim Dal dies there.”***

“The Dal family still lives in Çarıklar village of Meram district of Konya. Around 11 o’clock at night, about 50-60 people attack by getting on trucks and armed. There is a shepherd and his nephews aged 12-13 at the scene at that time. The shepherd is looking for his three uncles. Hâkim Dal comes to the scene immediately. Of course, Hamdi Dal arrives late. When Hâkim Dal and Hamdi Dal arrived at the scene, three gendarmes were at the scene. In the statements of the gendarmerie, it is said that there were 50-60 people at the scene. They attack my clients and their vehicles with stones and sticks. During this melee, Hâkim Dal is beaten by 7-8 people on the ground with guns, stones, and sticks in front of the gendarmerie. During this beating, someone shoots Hâkim Dal in the back and Judge Dal dies there in front of the gendarmerie. The gendarmerie says this in person, it is in the statements. The gendarmerie does not shoot into the air even as a precaution. There is a serious security vulnerability here. All of these points were confirmed by the statements of the people at the crime scene. And on this incident, only one person was arrested. In the case of the Dedeoğulları family, protection orders were given to both parties, upon a call, for those who carried out the attack and those who were attacked. What we want is close protection because of the gravity of the event. This is how the Dal family thing is. Both events are known by the public. In the Dedeoğulları incident, on 22 May, someone came to the Dedeoğulları house and there was an attack and mutual insult. Insults contain racist expressions. There are statements such as we are nationalists, we will remove you from here, and these are reflected in the file. However, the state authorities and the prosecutor’s office did not heed any of our warnings or demands until this massacre took place.”

“In the case of Dedeoğulları, when the attack took place on May 22 after 12 May, Çetin Dedeoğulları, the only surviving son of the family, installed four cameras on the house on May 24 as a precaution. As it is understood from the statement of the accused, it is very plain and clear that he came with the intent to kill. The murderer is not someone who knows the family very well. He says this himself. Someone had provided very detailed information about the family. The murderer is the brother of Ayşe Keleş, one of the previous attackers.”

***“WhatsApp group was founded by Ali Keleş, son of Harun Keleş, a jeweler. All those in the WhatsApp group are arrested, but the statement of Ali Keleş, who founded the group, is taken only as an informed person, not as a suspect. He is free now.”***

“The police detected the WhatsApp group. Those who have already been arrested and detained also say this. It is said to have been created to follow the legal developments after the incident on 12 May. We don’t know exactly how many people are in the group. The killer has all the information about the family. He knows that there is a camera in the house, and the claim that he burned down the house to destroy the footage is true. According to the statements of other affiants, the WhatsApp group was founded by Ali Keleş, the son of Harun Keleş, a jeweler. All those in the WhatsApp group are arrested, but the statement of Ali Keleş, who founded the group, is taken only as an informed person, not as a suspect. He is free now.”

“New demands were made on Friday regarding the violations committed after the lynching incident on 12 May, but no legal action has been taken yet regarding the negligence. A criminal complaint will be filed against the governorship, the ministry, and the prosecutor’s office. The Attorney General is now dealing with the case himself. The previous prosecutor in the file has changed. The Attorney General is currently conducting the investigation.”

“Uncle Yaşar told me that someone intervened to reconcile and Mustafa Kalaycı had said that they are Kurds and I will not enter into the process of reconciliation with them. Also, President of the Meram Chamber of Agriculture, we said this in our demands on Friday, we asked for his statement to be taken as a witness. What they did, what they didn’t do during the reconciliation process, what has been said? Uncle Yaşar said that the MHP Konya deputy had an influence on the evictions. Uncle Yaşar said that he got this information from a neighbor. Also, the neighbors



had said that there is a deputy behind us, if you want peace, do not make peace, we will remove you from here. The attacks on the Dal family and the Dedeoğulları family were definitely committed with racist motives. This is also present in the statements of the Dal family. They say that there is rhetoric such as shoot the Kurds, kill the terrorists. And before the attack on the Dal family, in 2017 and 2020, someone poisoned my clients' animals by poisoning the grass and fields. Villagers have complaints to the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture that they are feeding terrorists in their fields. These are fixed in the records of the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture. We were at the crime scene investigation location three or four days ago. Despite our warnings, the prosecutor acted seriously negligently. According to their statements, the sheep allegedly damaged their own fields. Even if such a claim was accepted, the owner of the field should have come himself. The owner of the field is Zekeriya Korkmaz. According to the questions we asked during the investigation, Zekeriya Korkmaz was not at the scene on the evening of the attack. It is clear that the owner of the field was not in the raid in person and the attack made by 50-60 people together was not for the purpose of protecting their property. The incident took place on 21 July and there was only one arrest on this incident. While we were waiting for the results regarding our arrest requests, the massacre of the Dedeoğulları family took place on 30 July. After this attack, the prosecutor's office has now launched an effective investigation and is conducting meticulous investigations."

"In the Dal incident, Hamdi Dal came to the scene and made a statement to the gendarmes: 'Let's not let the incident grow, let's fix the damage.' While this request is being conveyed to the headman, the group of 50-60 people with a truck behind the headman begins to attack with stones and sticks. These are available in written statements. Meanwhile, the melee begins and Hamdi Dal fires a shot into the air to ward off the incident while his brother, Hâkim Dal, is on the ground. The people in the village are provoking by saying that how can you shoot the gendarme. The reason why the gendarmerie did not intervene in the incident was that it was dark at night. However, they admit their weakness. There are three gendarmerie personnel at the scene."

"On the funeral day (Saturday), the phone of my law office rang between 15:45 and 16:00 and the office employee Kevser answered the phone. The person on the phone said —Is it right for that bastard to talk like that, I will introduce myself to him as soon as possible— and hung up the phone."

"The neighborhood where the Dedeoğulları family lives is a messy one, but the farthest house is 40 meters away. It's impossible for them not to hear about it."

"One of the murdered girls, Sibel or Serpil (it is not known exactly) tried to reach Süleyman Soylu and wrote to CIMER, there are records of messages she wrote to Süleyman Soylu stating that she was in danger (official social media account of the Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu is meant.)

"On the day of the massacre, the murderer first enters the house at 17:59, then leaves the house and comes for the second time at 18:20. We applied to the prosecutor's office for the signals between these two hours."

## **ii. Statements of HRA Konya Representative Cihan Alici**

***"Konya is a nationalist conservative place and racist attacks are constantly being carried out Lawyer Abdurrahman Bey's office was also attacked because he was a person who deals with political cases."***

"After the June elections, racist attacks increased, Kurdish construction workers were attacked and serious injuries occurred. Konya is a nationalist conservative place and racist attacks are constantly being organized. Lawyer Abdurrahman Bey's office was also attacked because he was a person who deals with political cases. These attacks are racist, not individual attacks. The protection of perpetrators with impunity gives strength to people. The Dedeoğulları attack is also an organized attack, these are not murders of insanity, but planned murders, these murders

are committed with monstrous feelings.”

**iii. Interview with Ali Ataiyibiner, Former President of Meram Chamber of Agriculture**

***“There was a strong north-east wind on the day of the massacre. The wind was blowing in the opposite direction. That’s the reason, the crime scene is 1 km away from me, but (despite this) I did not hear the gunshot.”***

“Yaşar Dedeoğulları came in the 2000s or 1990s. I own the property on all three sides of Yaşar Dedeoğulları’s house, only the back of the house is adjacent to the one with the incident. None of the things that come out on social media are true. If there had been racism, the man would not have come here. We were neighbors with them. If there was racism, this man wouldn’t have lived here for 30 years. When people get angry, things can be taken to different places. It’s about a person’s personality. Seven billion people live in the world, everyone is of a different race. It’s all about admitting fault. The world recognized the Dedeoğulları family. Three girls, three boys, and parents are living, all single. The surviving boy is also single.”

“A person named Settar used to live in Lütfi Keleş’s current house. As far as I saw and knew, Settar and Yaşar were not on good terms. There were some situations between them, but they did not fight. Settar later had a heart attack and his children sold the property. About 10 years after Yaşar came, Keleş family bought that house.”

“Yaşar Dedeoğulları is from Kars. Here, Yaşar Dedeoğulları is called Kurdish Yaşar. Everyone has a nickname. For example, they call me Orphan Ali. It was said that he came from Kars because of a blood feud and changed his surname. Yaşar also came here to avoid hostility. He had no animosity with us. Yaşar Bey lives with three single girls and two single boys. You looked at this side of you, you looked at that side, your cat passed, your boy did this, he did it, it’s all hostility. There is absolutely no affair of honor...”

“...I listened to all written statements. The statements were made, as far as I know, after the first hostilities in May. The reason for their fight that day is that Veli Keleş’s son or nephew throws a torpedo two days before the feast. It may be, it may not be. It is a kid who threw the torpedo. Spouses can also fight. The neighbor cat goes and gives birth to the garden. The important thing is to admit the mistake and apologize. These are children. It’s possible. The children or their nephews had thrown a torpedo. Mr. Yaşar had said, why did you throw it? The other side had said, what’s wrong Kurd, he is a child, he throws. Then the issues had gotten bigger. Everyone sees where they want to look. I’m not at the scene, I’m saying the statement made by the neighbors. After quarreling that day, they meet the next day. I said, this case will be punished a lot. Whether Yaşar is right or wrong, this incident will be punished a lot. The size of the word is exceeded. Whether it’s Turkishness or Kurdishness...”

“There was a strong north-east wind on the day of the massacre. The wind was blowing in the opposite direction. That’s the reason, it is 1 km away from me, but (despite this) I did not hear the gunshot.”

“...I had no contact with the family in the first or the second incident. There was no suggestion from either side to me to mediate. After the injury, I lost my mother, I made my daughter a bride, so I did not visit the Dedeoğulları family. It happened 15 days later. I couldn’t go to condolences after the incident.”

“I can’t believe that some suspects were released after the incident. Both because of injury, trespassing, and because they are considered an organization because there are more than three people... I have no animosity with anyone. I also go to the house of the Keleş family. Keleş and Dedeoğulları families are not isolated.”

“The houses are in farmland, so the houses are somewhat spaced apart. Zoning has just arrived here. Uncle Yaşar also owns about 1,000 meters of land there.”

“The murderer is the in-law of Keleş. He doesn’t live here.”

“Yaşar’s son Barış had gone to the pharmacist and said, “We will not be able to cope with them, so we installed cameras in the house, we will leave and go.” Yaşar was saying that he left his hometown and came and said that nothing is in his sight, and the other family is a large family.”

“No one can come through my door and beat my brother. Instead of investigating Lütfi or Yaşar, there is a violation of law here, investigate it. The main culprit is the law, there is a problem in the justice mechanism. The main duty of the state is to protect Yaşar’s house. Yaşar can be rebellious or loyal to the state. There are families from Erzurum, Kars, and Siirt. If it was a racist attack, we should have cleaned it all up. Everything is planned, it is necessary to find who is the instigator.”

- **Statements of Mr. Adem, who was present at the same meeting:** “It is not possible for us to obtain information from Mr. Yaşar. When it is mentioned that it is a racist attack, the true dimension of the event gets lost. This incident is actually a neighbor fight, but there may be racist attitudes that incite it. Rumor has it that the woman (Ayşe Keleş) tells her brother (killer) because (she thinks that) her own family will cause more trouble.”

#### **iv. Interviews with Relatives of the Dedeoğulları Family and Visit to the Funeral House**

- **Yaşar Dedeoğulları’s Brother Cengiz Bey**

***“I told the MHP deputy issue to Süleyman Soylu. “Who said it?” Süleyman Soylu reacted, then said, “Don’t take the matter elsewhere.”***

“We came from the country due to family problems, but there was no big problem, we just moved to Konya so that the event would not escalate. I do not accept the negative talk about this event. After coming here, there was no discussion, no problem. The Keleş family had become obsessed.”

“There are no Kurds in that neighborhood. That is to say, they exist, but their houses are 300-400 meters away. Only two houses are next to each other and that is the house of Yaşar and Lütfi. We were trying to bring Yaşar to the Saraçoğlu neighborhood, but then this incident happened. The man working in the field on the night of the first lynching said that there were 50-60 people that night, not 30. Metin works in Bursa. He was on leave. On the day of the incident, one of the Keleş tried to seize the engine of Uncle Yaşar. When a torpedo is thrown at the house, Barış goes out and says why did you throw it here, and sees 50-60 people. The neighbors did nothing about this incident. Maybe a couple of people paid get-well visits and then everyone went home.”

“A young man hears voices when he comes home from work, goes to the house, sees everyone covered in blood when he goes to the house, then goes to his own house and calls the police and ambulance. Both the police and ambulance immediately went to the scene. When we went to the scene, both the police and the ambulance were there.”

“I told the MHP deputy issue to Süleyman Soylu. ‘Who said it?’ Süleyman Soylu reacted, then said, ‘Don’t take the matter elsewhere.’”

“The person who tells Yaşar that they will remove him from here is not a neighbor, but the person is 3 km away. One day, after the lynching attempt on 12 May, I heard personally from Yaşar Dedeoğulları that a person who jumped in from the garden wall of the Dedeoğulları family threatened: ‘We are nationalists, you are Kurds, we will remove you from here, you will leave your places here’. In my opinion, the Dedeoğulları family were massacred because they were Kurds.”

“When I went to the scene, the police did not take me to the scene. On top of that, we were beaten that day by the police.”

“After the incident on 12 May, Yaşar was always saying that we turned our backs on the state, the state would protect us.”



HOUSE OF YAŞAR DEDEOĞULLARI'S BROTHER / CONDOLENCES PLACE



THE HOUSE OF THE DEDEOĞULLARI FAMILY



**BRAVE, THE DOG OF THE FAMILY, THAT WAS CHAINED DURING THE MASSACRE AND RECOVERED WITH WOUNDS**





ADJACENT GRAVES OF THE DEDEOĞULLARI FAMILY

- **Halis Boran, Son of Yaşar Dedeoğulları's Uncle**

**“Can a single person work so organized alone?”**

“Yaşar came to me. One day, the Keleş people call Yaşar Bey for help. Yaşar goes to help without getting any money. This event takes place between the time when Yaşar Bey moved out and 2011. While working together, the deaths of soldiers in Diyarbakir are reflected in the news and Lütfi Keleş makes bad statements about the Kurds. When this is repeated several times, Yaşar intervenes. We do not know whether Lütfi Keleş has any official ties to a member of the MHP (Nationalist Movement Party). Two days before 12 May, Lütfi said to Yaşar, “Kurd, I will get you out of here.” After the first lynching incident, Metin was in intensive care for four days, while others were injured in various parts. Metin had called Çetin at the hospital by video call and said that they made us like this.”

“After the incident on 12 May, the Minister of Family reached the family and said, “We are looking after this incident, we will solve it.” They were in constant communication with the Minister of Family, but received no response. After the lynching on 12 May, only two people were detained. Others were released. That’s why they were constantly threatening. Thereupon, Yaşar applied to the governorship on 12 June, to the Provincial Security Directorate on 12 July, and to the District Governor’s Office on 19 July with a petition. However, none of them got any results. The Keleş family continued to threaten them to leave this place. Uncle Yaşar personally told me that this man is from MHP, they do not leave me to live here. In front of the mosque during the Eid prayer, the Keleş are coming down on Barış. Yaşar told me personally that the MHP Konya deputy is protecting the Keleş family. It was said by some people in the village that this deputy was behind them. For a week or ten days, the name of this man did not fall from the mouth of Uncle Yaşar. Uncle Cengiz also heard the name of this deputy from the mouth of Uncle Yaşar and told another of our relatives that he was behind them as a MHP Konya Deputy.”

“State officials know the situation better than we do; they just don’t say a word. If the police are coming now instead of protecting us that day, that is not right. This causes anxiety. Whoever comes, cannot say that this incident did not happen to him (Yaşar Dedeoğulları) because he was Kurdish. Look, I’m telling you, after the massacre, it will be relatives’ turn, and their relatives will be taken in, being asked as to why they talked. I’m not afraid. I’m talking. I’m just defending myself and my family. Why does the President come out and say these are your good days? Is this our good day? While our tent of condolence was on the ground, the murderers were released. Does this country have no conscience? Can a single person work so organized alone?”

“I am very close to Yaşar Bey. 10-11 years ago, there is an argument between Yaşar and Veli (he is referring to Lütfü Keleş) Keleş, about the soldiers who died in Diyarbakır. Veli Bey cursed the Kurds and said to Yaşar Bey: ‘Don’t you know that I am a nationalist, that I am a Turk, and you are defending the Kurds?’ After the lynching, only two people were detained. Those who were released threatened Uncle Yaşar, saying, ‘You will come, submit your petition, and leave here.’ Uncle Yaşar said: ‘Okay, let’s make peace, but why should I leave my home?’ Yaşar Bey applied to the official authorities with three petitions, but he could not get any results. Yaşar Dedeoğulları was a simple person. Now they say, don’t take this event elsewhere. The Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Justice, and those who run this country are trying to divert this event.”

(At that time, we asked Halis Bey if there was a neighbor we could talk to, and he said that since Ertürk Karaca knew both the Keleş family and the Dedeoğulları family, and witnessed the events, he could talk. He said that he would talk to us in the first conversation, but after a very short period of time, he called Halis Bey and said that he did not want to meet.)

- **The statements of Ms. Türkan (Sister of İpek Dedeoğulları)**

***“None of the Turkish neighbors came to offer condolences.”***

“I went to dialysis that day, I learned about the incident after coming from dialysis. They had sent Çetin to go to England on the same day. That’s why I was going to visit them that day, but this event happened before I could visit them. Even when we got to the scene, we didn’t realize that they were all dead, we just thought they were fighting. My son wanted to enter the house at the scene, but he was beaten by the police. There is also a doctor’s report in this regard. My bride is Turkish. We did not have a problem with my daughter-in-law and her family, but none of the neighbors acted as neighbors because they say you are Kurds, we are Turks. None of the Turkish neighbors came to the condolence visit.”

- **The statements of Erol Şan, son of Yaşar Dedeoğulları’s uncle**





INTERVIEW WITH EROL ŞAN, YAŞAR DEDEOĞLU'S NEPHEW

**“They had offered to buy the lands with money and said, ‘Whatever their value is, we’ll give you double.’ Uncle Yaşar replied, ‘Why should we go, if you want, you should go.’”**

“One day after the incident, the President called over the governor’s phone; offered his condolences. ‘I promise you, and promise the family on my behalf, we will catch these people and bring them to justice,’ he said.”



VISIT OF CONDOLENCE TO THE RELATIVES OF THE DEDEOĞULLARI AND INTERVIEW

“And I said, I know you will catch these people and hand them over to the judiciary, maybe you will punish them, but what will it do for us? Will our seven deaths rise back? Our only aim is not



to have such murders. He also said, we do not want such things to happen, but the felon had committed a murderous murder... Then my uncle İsmet said: 'What happened to us, Israelis do not do to Palestinians; why was it done to us?'"

"A delegation from the HDP headquarters came and said, 'Let's take care of the condolence expenses. Then two people from the AKP came and they offered it too. We refused to avoid being biased. Ebubekir Bey conveyed the proposal of the Governor's Office through the Governor's Private Secretary and we accepted it on the condition that it be from the budget of the governorship. The representative of the governor, Ebubekir, was always at the house of condolence."

"The Governor said to me, don't make this incident out to be something else, it is enmity between two families. I said that this is not hostility between two families, it is a massacre against a Kurdish family. If you say Kurdish family, the governor said, it will go to different places. I said condolences to the Kurds, not Turkey, because the murdered people are Kurds."

"The Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu called and said he was in Antalya and offered his condolences. I said to the Interior Minister, who staged this event, who sent it, why was he so angry, we want to know. And he said, I told you on the phone, I promise you, we will find out who they are and who he is. Upon the words of the Interior Minister, I said, who directed these people, we want to know this."

"On a date after 12 May, Yaşar Abi told me that a man came for mediation and said that let this hostility, this tension go away. I said that our HDP Provincial Chairman also said, 'Let's bring in whomever they want, let this tension be lifted.' I conveyed this to Uncle Yaşar. Tuncer Bakırhan also said this. HDP caucus member from Kars, Alican Önlü, Deputy from Tunceli called me and said let's solve this case with a mediator. Uncle Yaşar said that the judicial process has started and now the case has been passed to the court. If we reconcile, they will not be arrested, we want them arrested. Let's evaluate the situation according to the outcome of the judicial process, he said. I do not know who the person or persons who have been offered mediation are."

"Yaşar Abi told me that a woman offered to give him protection, but he did not know his name. Uncle Yaşar said that the woman offered to provide and arrange the protection offer individually. She was an official, but I didn't know who she was."

"I went to lawyer Karabulut's office. Yaşar Abi, Çetin, Metin, and Barış were there. Shewket Herki, the Rudaw reporter, came to the office and even got an interview, then we went with the lawyer, family members got interviewed at home. In fact, my aunt was a bit shy, we said, speak Kurdish or Turkish if you want, and then she joined the interview."

"No one from the Keleş family called me, but I heard. On the day of the incident, the Keleş family had said that they should not be blamed for the incident, the incident has nothing to do with them. Even that night, our young people wanted to react, we did not allow it and we said let's be calm."

"We even said to Uncle Yaşar, you are the only one here, come to the area where we (your relatives) live. He said what happened happened, what should I do, and said no. Sibel even said we want to go out, but they would later say that we were afraid. I said let them say that."

"Before the attack in May, something like a Molotov or a torpedo was thrown into elder brother Yaşar's garden."

"Elder brother Yaşar has 5-6 thousand square meters of land, its value is one and a half to two million liras. They wanted him out of there. The Keleş family made an offer for the land and threatened to destroy him if he does not go. They offered to buy the land with money and said, 'Whatever its value is, we will pay double.' Uncle Yaşar replied, 'Why should we go, you can go if you want. Neighboring Keleş family said that we are 20-30 houses. Uncle Yaşar said, if you want, you can go as a single family, and we will continue to be neighbors with other families."

“Uncle Yaşar declared that a deputy had an effect on the evictions. They, the Keleş family, even threatened saying that we have a deputy behind us. Uncle Yaşar said this. Hacı Zeki, who came from Cyprus, said that the deputy had an effect on the evictions, he even told this to the Interior Minister.”

“While the killer shoots, dust and smoke is formed towards the different side of the video. It could be a crossfire. I think there may be a crossfire from the side of the Keleş family’s house.”

“There were 19 bullets in the corpses. Elder Brother Yaşar had five, my aunt had two, and Barış had three. In total, 19 bullets were fired on seven people and they were found in three bodies. I don’t know if all the bullets came from the same weapon. The killer used only one weapon. I think there was a crossfire and that guy didn’t shoot the dog. The dust formed in the video caught my attention; I wonder if there was a crossfire from the back or if there was dust from the bullets, but it makes me suspicious. By the crossfire, I mean the house of Lütfi Keleş.”

“They came to elder brother Yaşar’s door and threatened them; those who came were from the Keleş family. They said that we are nationalists, we will not let you live here.”

“The reason why Uncle Yaşar was constantly nervous and stated that he was afraid of being murdered was that he was constantly threatened, and he had been told to withdraw from the case, and that’s why he said so.”

#### **v. Interviews with Neighbors Not Involved in the Incident**

- **Neighbor Hüseyin:** “The Dedeoğulları family were of the kind that did not give what they received. I didn’t have one-to-one trade, but I was hearing. For example, he was buying hay but not paying for it. We became aware of the incident later. We did not go to get-well and condolences visit after the events.”

- **The Neighbor Döndü:** “I don’t know anything. I didn’t hear anything. I learnt when the police came. We did not go to get-well and condolences visit after the events.”

- **Neighbor Mümin:** “Does a person do this to a person? The life that God gives, God takes back. On the day of the incident, I heard a clatter. I thought it was nomads. Do people ever get jealous of a person’s field? We did not go to get-well and condolences visit after the events.”

- **Neighbor Mustafa:** “Dedeoğulları and Keleş families were constantly bickering. I don’t think anyone here will go for condolences. I went to get-well visit after the first attack. Uncle Yaşar used to dominate Lütfi at first. Then, when the children grew up, Lütfi started to dominate. Uncle Yaşar was constantly cursing Ayşe for something. I don’t know the crowd at the first lynching. After this last incident, we did not go to condolences.”

- **Neighbor Ayşe:** “I’m not in a relationship with anyone. I didn’t hear the gunshots. We did not go to get-well and condolences visit after the events.”

- **Close neighbor who does not want to be named:** “We moved here in 2010 because we were forced to work as village guards where we live. They don’t like us here, but we don’t have any enmity with anyone.”

- **Close neighbor who does not want to be named (first person to go home after the massacre):**

*“... One day after the lynching incident, I saw Ayşe Keleş and said get well soon. Who needs it, you did that, look, you went to jail, too, I said. Ayşe replied: ‘I went in like a lion, I went out like a lion.’”*

“I heard gunshots between 18:10 and 18:30. About 10 minutes after I heard the gunshot, I went to Uncle Yaşar’s house. I thought they were fighting again. When I went, I saw bodies on the ground. That killer’s car was also there. I survived with 4-5 minutes. Then I returned home and immediately called the police and ambulance. I called the neighbors for help, but no one came. Black smoke was coming out of the house. About 25 minutes after I informed the police, the

police and the ambulance arrived... The first year I came, I went to Keleş to work. Then we had an argument with another neighbor about politics. During the discussion, the other side talked back and forth about the Kurds. After the discussion, Ayşe Keleş came to us and asked why we were arguing. When she realized that the discussion was a political fight, she said to me: 'I can't say anything. That's what you say, look, your house will burn,' she said. After that fight, I never went to Keleş's house again, sometimes Ayşe Keleş came, but I never went... One day after the lynching incident, I saw Ayşe Keleş and said get well soon. Who needs it, you did that, look, you went to jail, too, I said. Ayşe replied: 'I went in like a lion, I went out like a lion.' There was no relationship between the wives of the two families. Ayşe's brother, the murderer, never came here. There was a large group in the incident on 12 May, everyone fled at that moment, I do not know exactly how many people were there."

"Uncle Yaşar was telling us that someone had jumped from the wall and said, I am a nationalist, we will get you out of here."

"No one had any intention of reconciliation. One day, Ayşe's younger son had told Ayşe, 'A president came from Kars to reconcile us, but went to Uncle Yaşar's house, not to us. He said, 'We will not make peace.'"

#### **vi. Interview with the Artisans**

##### **Pharmacist Mürsel Yaşar:**

"There is no statement that Barış comes here and says we can't deal with them. That's why we installed cameras in the house. We will sell this place and go. We are not from here; we don't know anyone."

"Barış was a quiet, calm person. He used to come with his motorcycle and buy medicine for his mother and leave."

#### **vii. Interview with the Headman of Bahçeşehir (Hasanköy) Neighborhood**



INTERVIEW WITH HİDAYE KÜÇÜK, HEADMAN OF BAĞÇEŞEHİR (HASANKÖY)

**“We intermarry, there will be no Turkish-Kurdish fight.”**

“I know two families since I became the headman. Although there was resentment between them, it was not at the level to go further. I did not see the fight between them. Yaşar Dedeoğulları had approximately 5-10 thousand meters of land, but I do not know exactly... I had one-to-one peace talks with both sides. The Keleş family is generally a family engaged in agriculture. There are people from all regions here. We intermarry, there will be no Turkish-Kurdish fight. Yaşar Dedeoğulları was someone loyal to the state. I don’t have very detailed information. Our neighborhood is very big, I don’t have the chance to know everyone personally. But both families were perfect. I’ve heard of people who mediated besides me, but I don’t know who they are. I don’t know who was the first to report on the day of the incident.”

**viii. Interview with Konya Bar Association President Mustafa Aladağ**

“The investigation is being carried out meticulously. I have lived in this city for 50 years. Nothing like this has ever happened before. The statements that this is a racist attack are not true. However, at the end of the investigation stage, if it comes to this, no one should be afraid to face this result. In the following stages, it will be revealed that the incident was not a racist attack. None of the discourses reflect the reality of Konya and we do not allow this.... The omissions and evictions in the file don’t make me think anything. I don’t know if there is any negligence in the file. I do not know the file; I did not read it. But I hear about everything. For example, there were not 30-40 people as mentioned in the lynching incident, there were nine or seven people at the scene... After the lynching incident on 12 May, we were not involved in the incident. There are always criminal cases in Konya. We cannot be involved in every criminal case. There were also bar elections at that time and we were dealing with it.”

**ix. Interview with Deputy Attorney General Ramazan Okur**

“We are working diligently on the case. We investigate the case from multiple angles and consider all possibilities. The Attorney General is personally involved in the case. The file was handed over to a new prosecutor so that an effective investigation could be carried out.”

“We do not believe that the incident was committed with a racist motive, but there are some racist words, even swearing, which is normal enough to be encountered in any enmity between the people. This cursing and insulting are the same as when the angry party seeks to satisfy himself by voicing the other party’s nickname, which he/she sees as the fault of the other party. Otherwise, a purely racist motive cannot be sought in the incident. If, as a result of the investigation, any impression or opinion regarding a hate crime is reached, we must of course face it. Again, we cannot take the initiative in the absence of effective arrests in relation to both the Hâkim Dal incident and the Dedeoğlu family incidents. This is decided by the criminal courts of peace. I personally participated in the testimony of the perpetrator of the massacre. The person is unstable; but he is not mentally unstable. The defense will not attempt to obtain a forensic report, and even if they do, they will not yield any results. For now, we do not dwell on the possibility that a deeper, hidden purpose may have been pursued behind the scenes of the incident, but we consider the possibility that there were instigators in the incident. However, for the sake of the safety of the investigation, we cannot share the information we have obtained on this subject with the public for now.”

“The file regarding the Dal family incident was also re-evaluated, and an investigation was conducted at the scene the previous day. It is true that there is currently a detainee; however, it is not possible to do anything without concrete evidence.”



AFTER MEETING WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL - MEMBERS OF OUR COMMITTEE

**x. Interview with Cengiz Bey, Former Lawyer of Keleş Family**

***“It would be unfair to expect Konya Bar Association to react like Diyarbakır Bar Association or İzmir Bar Association in such events that turned into social outrage, because Konya Bar***



***Association did not have a tradition and infrastructure in this direction.”***

“The nefarious incident both on 12 May and after it certainly did not break out with a racist motive. Yes, maybe someone in the crowd made racist statements in the first incident and during the frictions that followed. Dedeoğulları family also claimed their tribal ties. The event actually inherited from the cat issue. Yaşar Dedeoğulları cursed and insulted the housewife of the opposite neighbor when the cat of the opposite family had kittens in his own garden. The rumor of the families of the martyrs, which is shown as the reason for the incident, is not true in my opinion.”

“I think racism is a mental illness, it is not possible for any animosity to occur with a racist motive in Konya. We don’t know exactly whether forest fires, road cuts, and the Dal Family incident had an impact on this incident, but lately, nationalist discourses in politics have been on the rise and this worries me. I am an apolitical person who adopts a philosophy of life inspired by Neşet Ertaş and Aşık Veysel and has this desire for Turkey’s future horizon.”

“It would be unfair to expect Konya Bar Association to react like Diyarbakır Bar Association or İzmir Bar Association in such events that turned into social outrage, because Konya Bar Association did not have a tradition and infrastructure in this direction. Rather than being reactionary, it is a conciliatory, passive, and opportunist bar. It would take a long time for the Konya Bar Association to reach that level. After all, Konya lawyers are generally apolitically inclined. Four groups, which can be described as social democrat, conservative, nationalist and apolitical, entered the election, and the apolitical group won the election with a double vote margin. For all these reasons, it is almost impossible for the Konya Bar Association to take an effective initiative in such events.”

“Abdurrahman Bey, the lawyer of the Dedeoğulları family, distorted and agitated the events from time to time, and misjudged the events, especially on social media. The reason for the creation of the WhatsApp group is actually that when those family members often visit my office in large groups, I told them to choose a representative from among them, since I could not handle this workload. Thereupon, Harun from the family members, who is a jewelry dealer, created this WhatsApp group to organize other family members to follow the process of the lawsuit and even to collect attorney fees. This will be better understood in the later stages of the investigation.”

“The lawyers of both sides had negotiations on the issue of peace, but this effort resulted unsuccessfully due to the recent incident.”

“My withdrawal from the family’s defense was a conscious choice in order to prevent some speculations in the public. Because I was the lawyer of the victims’ families in the A. Öcalan case before.”

**xii. Meetings with Political Party Provincial Representatives**

**1. Interview with the Konya Provincial Presidency of the Future Party (Gelecek)**

**Deniz Bey:** “I am childhood friends with Çetin Dedeoğulları. The first animosity started 11-12 years ago. The Dedeoğulları family was working as workers for the Keleş family at first. For years, friction continued. The reason for the conflict is the rhetoric against Dedeoğulları family that you will leave here. The basis of the friction is racist motive. There were 30-35 people in the 12 May attack. Of the five people arrested in the first attack (May 12), three were released (two still in custody). Protection measures had to be taken. The massacre took place around 18:30 - 19:00. Relatives of the massacred family were beaten with batons by the law enforcement at the scene and their bodies were pitch black. They handcuffed and battered the funeral owners at the scene. In the case of the Dal family, three gendarmes were sent for 50-60 people. The person who organized the event is the headman. The murder suspect is a thief without a job. Where did he get the gun? How did he rent the vehicle? How did he find the car rental money? After the massacre, the perpetrator waited at the scene for 18 minutes, then took

the gas and burned the house.”

**Other Provincial Administrator:** “The police said that three of the four cameras were not working. There is definitely racism, eighty percent of the neighborhood is Kurdish. (THEY HAVE THE WRONG INFORMATION.) When the suspect was caught, he was clean and surrendered himself.”

**Hasan Ekici:** “The heads of state are increasing polarization, there is no peace and a prudent discourse. Discourses fueling the conflict are being voiced by the leaders. There is no mass conflict on the basis of this incident, there is a basis of racism.”



WITH PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FUTURE PARTY

## 2. Interviews with Democracy and Progress Party (DEVA) Konya Provincial Presidency

**Seyit Bey:** “There are two separate events. The case of Hâkim Dal and Dedeoğulları family. Hâkim Dal and his family are a large family and their residence dates back to 30 years. They have been living for nearly 20 years in the Çarıklar region. According to the information I received from the Meram Chamber of Agriculture, the person whose herd was divided informs the headman and the nephew Hâkim Dal is calling his brother. The Dal family goes to the scene by calling the gendarmerie. According to the information I received from the Meram Chamber of Agriculture, that basin accommodates 10 thousand small cattle. However, it is said by the president that there are 25 thousand small cattle on that land. In addition, the president said that there is no one who does not harm the environment by doing animal husbandry. We then talked to the Kayyuk Headman about the incident. It was said that such incidents happen all the time. The difference of this incident from the others is that the Dal family constantly denied the damage they had done to the land and said that we did not do it. We held talks with the Governor, Headman and Karatay Chamber of Agriculture regarding the incident. The Dedeoğlu family case is also similar in some aspects. There is an incident of beating after a neighbor relationship. It just doesn't feel right that this incident happened with racist motives. There may be racist sentences, but these are not leading factors. The more difficult it is to say that there is a

racist discourse, the more difficult it is to say that it does not exist.”

**Provincial Vice President Sefa Bey:** (His statements were not recorded because, despite our insistence, he did not provide information about the event and made a purely political speech and party propaganda on his statements.)



WITH PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS PARTY

**One of the Lawyers of the Party:** “Until the family was murdered, I reached out to the lawyer of the party, Mr. Abdurrahman, twice. After the lynching incident, although I asked the lawyer twice at certain intervals to provide information and documents, and if possible, that the file would be examined by our headquarters, the lawyer did not share any information with us. I think the animosity stems from the children of the parties.”

**From Party Administrative Board members:** “Some sections are turning this event to their advantage. 12 hours after the incident, HDP said that the incident was committed with racist motives and there were racist statements. We did not make such a statement because we thought that if we said that it was a racist discourse, someone would benefit from it. We understand that both parties want to achieve their rights through legal means and that they do not have aggressive qualities, as they have been constantly trying to resolve disputes through the judiciary for 11 years.”

### 3. Interviews with Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) Konya Provincial Presidency

**Gıyasettin Almaz:** “Our provincial building was burned 1-2 times in the past, we have been relatively at peace for 2-3 years. We even put iron bars on the outer door. All Kurds in Konya are sensitive; especially Cihanbeyli and Kulu districts. Whether the attack is a racist attack or an isolated incident, the Kurds of Konya can distinguish it. Kurds in Konya have a different mood. The Dedeoğulları massacre is a planned and organized massacre. The neighbors of the village they came from said that we expect such a massacre from them, they are already prone to violence. In the case of Hâkim Dal, there were 50-60 people, the alleged field owner was not at the scene. The Dal family says if there is any damage, let’s pay the damage. The Headman organized it. It is said that there were 50-60 people in the gendarmerie’s own report. Hâkim Dal was killed in front of the gendarmerie while he was lying on the ground, the family’s vehicles were in ruins. It just happened with racist motives. The Dal family makes a living from animal

husbandry, they have no animosity with anyone.



WITH PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY

“On behalf of the solution to this massacre:

- It cannot be solved by institutions; the problem is systemic.
- The political power should put the right name on it and apply penal sanctions.

The main purpose is to remove the Kurds from this region and send them away. İpek Dedeoğulları said, ‘Let’s remove the vineyard-garden we planted and then let’s get out of here.’ In the 12 May attack, both the arm and the leg of İpek Dedeoğlu were broken. Yaşar Dedeoğlu’s head was stitched. The accused has an instigator, he must have gotten assurances from him/her. We ask you to share whatever you have, do not leave the family unattended and follow this event. You have to put the name of this matter right.”

#### 4. Interview with Republican People’s Party (CHP) Konya Provincial Presidency

**Provincial President:** “I went to the scene on the day of the murder. The Turkish-Kurdish settlement in Konya is not in the style of ghettoization. In every apartment, in every neighborhood, there are both Kurds and Turks. There are Kurds in our party too. The AKP-MHP said it is not a racist attack before the accused was caught. HDP, on the other hand, said it is a racist attack. As CHP, we made a bare observation without any statement. I also went in front of the morgue and talked to the relatives who were there; they told me it was a racist attack. People of Konya are tough people. Even the CHP was targeted as the head of a marginal group in Konya. More than once our party has been attacked. In 2018, our election coordination team was attacked by a group of 200 people. Not a single person was detained. Since I am generally seen as an oppressed and (member of an) opposition group in Konya, I cannot say that it is not a racist attack, but I do not think it is a racist attack on its own. Because they are not competent and conscious enough to organize this massacre with a racist motive alone. For example, the fact that seven people were killed at the same time suggests that it could be a racist attack. It would be a wrong assessment if the collective oppression that everyone has suffered under the current conjuncture is called oppression against Kurds.”





WITH PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY

## G. CONCLUSION

After the murder of seven members of the Dedeoğulları family, the claim that the authorities expressed as almost a common opinion about the cause of the massacre, that it was an enmity that went back many years, was reflected in the national press from the first days. While a serious investigation has not been carried out, an indictment regarding the incident has not been prepared, and before the indictment was prepared, trying to explain this massacre around an allegation of hostility going back to the past is of a nature that will affect the future of the investigation. In addition, the fact that no precautions were taken against the dangers pointed out by the recent attacks, and that consequently the door is left open for a massacre, shows that there is a serious negligence and also strengthens the suspicions that the aggressors may have been encouraged. In line with the information that we obtained while preparing this report, our suggestions and demands, together with our findings, are as follows:

## FINDINGS

1. After the massacre, although an investigation has not yet started, both judicial, administrative, and political authorities stated that the incident did not take place with racist motives and was made up of hostility between two families, and the relatives of the victims were warned not to take the incident in other directions. In this process, the nature of the relevant news in the press was predominantly parallel to the definitions of the authorities.
2. Kurds living in the regions where the Dedeoğulları family and relatives resided migrated there due to economic reasons, the imposition of being village guards, and blood feuds.
3. In 2021, the aforementioned region was opened for development, and the areas in the region were valued by passing as land.
4. It was not observed that the political parties and non-governmental organizations in the region played a role in eliminating this hostility during the process of 11-12 years of

- hostility between the two families.
5. There are serious statements and findings that the suspects who were released threatened the Dedeoğulları family, forced them to abandon the complaint, and leave their home.
  6. Despite the fact that all family members were battered after the attack on the Dedeoğulları family on 12 May 2021, the policy of impunity followed by not conducting an effective investigation to identify and prosecute everyone involved in the attack paved the way for the lynching of the Dal family on 21 July. The absence of an effective investigation after Hâkim Dal's murder and thus the failure to give a message that everyone involved in this murder would be punished laid the groundwork for the massacre committed against the Dedeoğulları family on 30 July.
  7. Although the murderer Mehmet Altun did not reside in the region in question, the fact that he was aware of the details of the house belonging to the Dedeoğulları family, that he procured a rental car, a gun, and gasoline for that day (although open gasoline sales were completely prohibited), statement reports, narrations, camera recordings gave the impression that this massacre was committed in an organized manner. The fact that he fired a gun at the heads of all family members separately renewing the finished bullets after injuring the family members and setting the house on fire shows that the perpetrator went to the family's house with the definite intention of killing all family members.
  8. It is seen that insulting expressions are used in reference to the Kurdish neighbors who immigrated and settled in the said region on various dates. Those exposed to these insulting expressions and addresses do not believe in the existence of a public authority that will make a reliable and effective investigation to defend them.
  9. The relatives of the victims have beliefs and strong claims that the aggressors are protected by reputable politicians in the presence of local administrative authorities and that they are left with impunity. At the same time, the deceased Yaşar Dedeoğulları expresses similar allegations in a video footage taken before the massacre.
  10. It is understood that the relatives of the Dedeoğulları family, who came to the scene after hearing of the massacre, were subjected to violence by the law enforcement officers.
  11. The first attack on the Dedeoğulları family on 12 May was reflected in the national press and drew public reaction. Then, the murder of Hâkim Dal, who was allegedly attacked and killed on 21 July in the same district because he was a Kurd, also drew a reaction from the public on a national scale. In this process, Dedeoğulları family has applied to both the judicial and administrative authorities, the Interior Minister, and CIMER to demand their protection in various ways. However, despite this, neither the local judicial and administrative authorities' nor the central authorities' efforts to take any measures were encountered.
  12. Although there are different claims about the source of the hostility between the two families, it has been stated that hostility started as a result of Yaşar Dedeoğulları's objection after Lütü Keleş insulted the Kurds after an attack on the soldiers about 11 years ago. According to the statements of the family members, it was constantly emphasized that they were Kurds during this 11-year period, and they were therefore asked to leave the place where they lived for 26 years. Both these statements and the fact that none of the neighbors paid get-well visits and offered condolences indicate that there is a racist motivation.
  13. From the accounts of the relatives of the Dedeoğulları family, it was observed that there was a concern about the opening of investigations against them in the process.
  14. Relatives and some neighbors of the Dedeoğulları family refrained from revealing their names while making statements, and the fact that some of them refrained from making statements has strengthened our opinion that they have security concerns.
  15. Racist and discriminatory discourses reflected to the public in crisis-like processes cause hate-based attacks. We believe that it was not a coincidence that the massacre

took place during the days of forest fires. Again, the fact that illegal acts such as roadblocks and identity checks were carried out by civilians during the same days should not be considered separately from the murders that took place.

## **FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS**

1. The rhetoric of public officials and political party officials that includes prejudice, such as that there is no racism and no hate crime in Turkey during these and similar processes, serves to cover up the grievances experienced. While there is not even an effective investigation and a prepared indictment, the discourses that determine the category of crimes cause an investigation process against the victims. The only effective way to combat racism and hate crimes is not denial, but the identification of this and the execution of reckoning both in judicial processes and before the public.
2. The following main reason for the migration of Kurds from the provinces they live in should be solved.
  - Pressures to impose being village guards should be removed.
  - Solutions to eliminate blood feuds should be developed.
  - Economic policies should be put into effect against people traveling to the west of Turkey for permanent or seasonal labor for livelihood concerns.

Thus, the main reasons forcing the residents of the region to migrate should be eliminated.

3. The impunity policies for hate speech and hate crimes should be ended, especially the impunity policies implemented after the first attack on the Dedeoğulları family on 12 May and the attack that led to the death of Hâkim Dal. Law enforcement officers who did not take the necessary precautions in the attacks and murders against the Dedeoğulları family and Hâkim Dal, and those responsible for not conducting an effective investigation should be exposed and an investigation should be launched against them.
4. The various tools and possibilities that the perpetrator acquired before the massacre and used while committing the massacre should be taken into account during the investigation process, the possible partners of this massacre should be identified and they should be prosecuted and punished as a result.
5. Racist statements by public officials, politicians, and printed and visual media against the Kurdish identity and the use of Kurdish, which paves the way for hate crimes against Kurds, result in attacks and lynching not only against the Dedeoğulları and Dal family, who are the subject of this report, but also against Kurdish workers working in the fields, a singer who sings in Kurdish or those who speak Kurdish in the street. Therefore, the above-mentioned groups should stay away from language that contains hate and discrimination. Moreover, such statements should not be left unpunished.
6. The allegation that a deputy of a political party ensured the release of those who carried out the attack on 12 May, which the deceased Yaşar Dedeoğulları mentioned in the video camera recording, and which was emphasized in the interviews, should be taken into account and investigated.
7. Dedeoğulları family has applied to both the judicial and administrative authorities as well as the Interior Ministry and CIMER to demand their protection in various ways. Despite this, the fact that the necessary measures were not taken into account by the judicial and administrative authorities should be investigated and those responsible should be revealed.
8. Law enforcement violence experienced by the relatives of the Dedeoğulları family at the scene after the murder should be investigated separately, and those responsible for this situation, which may be the continuation of the attitude of punishing the family, should be revealed.
9. The approach that such crimes contain motives other than hate and racist motives,



eliminates hate and racist motives, should be abandoned.