



## TÜRKİYE İNSAN HAKLARI VAKFI HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION OF TURKEY

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### For Press and Public Opinion The Proceeding against the 9 Executive Board Members of the HRFT was Aborted

Opened by the General Directorate of Foundations on the charges of "attempting to collect contributions without permission" and "cooperating with the international organizations without permission" at the Ankara Civil Court of First Instance No. 15, the trial against the 9 Executive Board Members of the HRFT continued on 9 March 2004. At the hearing, plaintiff's counsel, representing the General Directorate of Foundations did not attend the hearing without showing any excuse. That means that the legal proceeding against the HRFT was aborted according to the Article 409/5 of the Code of Legal Procedures (HMUK), as the HRFT declared that they do not follow the case\*.

According to the legal system of Turkey, the legal proceeding is aborted directly as the plaintiff side does not attend the hearing in due time and as the defendant side declare that they do not follow the case. Under these circumstances, the plaintiff side has a legal right to recourse the court in three months time to review the case. If the plaintiff side does not use this right in three months time, the case drops in its normal course.

Other than this trial opened, General Directorate of Foundations had lodged an official complaint with the Chief Public Prosecution Office with the allegation of "attempting to collect contribution without permission". At the first hearing date on 12 November 2003, the Executive Board Members of the HRFT had given their testimony in that regard. We are still waiting for the decision of the prosecution office on this complaint.

Sending our sincere thanks for your continuing support and solidarity that you have showed during the course of the case,

Sincerely Yours,

Yavuz Onen  
President

\* Following persons attending the hearing for observation and solidarity:  
Per Stådig, Swedish Red Cross + Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (Sweden),  
Else Le Pennec, International Federation for Human Rights-FIDH (France),  
Helmut Oberdiek, Democratic Turkey Forum (Germany),  
Husnu Ondul, Human Rights Association-HRA (Turkey),  
Emrullah Beytar, Organization for Human Rights and Solidarity for Oppressed People-MazlumDer (Turkey),  
Semir Guzel, Diyarbakir Bar Association (Turkey),  
Representatives from German, Denmark and US Embassies.