

# URGENT ACTION

## INVESTIGATE SUSPECTED ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

Hüseyin Galip Küçüközyiğit, a former legal advisor at the Prime Ministry who was dismissed following the 2016 coup attempt, has been missing since 29 December 2020. His family suspect him to have been abducted and subjected to enforced disappearance and all their efforts to locate him since have been in vain. The authorities have denied that he is in official custody. Turkish authorities must promptly investigate to determine the whereabouts of Hüseyin Galip Küçüközyiğit and urgently inform his family.

**TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER**

**Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor**  
**Ahmet Akça**  
Hacı Bayram Veli Mahallesi  
Atatürk Bulvarı  
No:40 Sıhhiye/Ankara  
Fax: +90 312 309 4570  
Email: ankaracbs@adalet.gov.tr

Dear Chief Public Prosecutor,

*I am writing regarding the suspected enforced disappearance of **Hüseyin Galip Küçüközyiğit** who was last heard of on 29 December 2020 at 3.40pm when he called his daughter Nursena Küçüközyiğit to arrange a meeting with her the next day in Kocaeli. Having tried to contact her father on numerous occasions in the following two days, the daughter reported him missing on 31 December at the local police station.*

*On 4 January, Nursena Küçüközyiğit tried to also report her father's disappearance to the Kocaeli Chief Public Prosecutor but was told they were waiting for the referral from the police. On 5 January, her lawyer petitioned the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor requesting that Hüseyin Galip Küçüközyiğit's disappearance or abduction be investigated. On 27 January, the Kocaeli Chief Public Prosecutor ruled that there were no grounds for a prosecution. On 29 January, Nursena Küçüközyiğit was informed that a prosecutor had been assigned to the case in Ankara.*

*In recent years, several men have disappeared in similar circumstances and appeared in official custody months later. Some of them described later in court the circumstances of their enforced disappearance and the torture and other ill-treatment they had been subjected to.*

***I urge you to ensure a prompt, impartial and independent investigation is carried out to determine the whereabouts of Hüseyin Galip Küçüközyiğit and the circumstances of his suspected enforced disappearance; any information relating to his location and wellbeing must urgently be shared with his family. I also urge you to ensure that all those suspected of criminal responsibility are brought to justice in fair trials.***

Yours sincerely,

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Hüseyin Galip Küçüközyiğit is former civil servant who was dismissed from his position of legal advisor at the Prime Ministry, following the July 2016 attempted coup. He was prosecuted in 2018 and in May 2019, he was convicted of 'membership of a terrorist organisation' under Article 314/2 of the Turkish Penal Code, sentenced to six years and three months in prison. On conviction, he was released on bail from pre-trial detention after almost six months, the duration of his prosecution. This conviction is currently pending at the regional appeal court (*istinaf*). At the time of his suspected enforced disappearance, he was working as a translator in Ankara. He is very close to his two children who live in Western Province of Kocaeli with whom he was in daily contact.

Hüseyin Galip Küçüközyiğit's daughter told Amnesty International that the complete absence of contact from her father is out of character. Having reported her father missing at the relevant branch of the Kocaeli police on 31 December, Nursena Küçüközyiğit travelled to Ankara and obtained the CCTV footage from her father's office building in Ankara. The footage appears to show her father being followed as he leaves the building on 29 December. On three occasions since her father's disappearance, Nursena Küçüközyiğit reports to have been given contradictory information by different teams of the police regarding her father's car, which has still not been located.

Turkey's past history is marred by hundreds of cases of enforced disappearances in the 1980s and 1990s. In recent years, these have been rare, but in 2019, at least six men, Salim Zeybek, Yasin Ugan, Özgür Kaya, Erkan Irmak, Mustafa Yılmaz and Gökhan Türkmen were suspected of having been forcibly disappeared. Months after their disappearance, these men appeared in the Anti-Terrorism Branch of Ankara Police Headquarters. Some of them described the circumstances of their enforced disappearance in court during their subsequent trials. In February 2020, Gökhan Türkmen recounted that he had been ill-treated, tortured and threatened for 271 days, held in a closed space in permanent artificial light, made to stand up for excessive periods and given very little food.

Victims of enforced disappearance are people who have gone missing after being arrested, detained, abducted or otherwise deprived of their liberty by state officials (or someone acting with state consent or acquiescence) who then deny having taken them, or refuse to say where they are. Sometimes disappearances may be committed by armed non-state actors, like armed opposition groups. It is always a crime under international law. Although Turkey is not a party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, it is bound by the prohibition of committing enforced disappearance under customary international law and other human rights treaties of which it is party, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** Turkish, English

You can also write in your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** 29 March 2021

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

**NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN:** Hüseyin Galip Küçüközyiğit (he/him/his)