

Address to Congress Members

Zonguldak CHP Congress
June 3, 2012

Dear President, Members of the Congress, guests, and members of the press.

I send you and, through you, all of Zonguldak my most sincere greetings.

One year ago almost to the day, on June 12, 2011, as a result of your untiring efforts that I watched with great respect, and which gave rise to a significant increase in the votes cast for the CHP, you elected my valued colleague, Mr. Ali İhsan Köktürk, and me as your representatives and appointed us to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

I reiterate my thanks to you. But I also apologize to all of you. I have been unable to find the opportunity to surmount the layers of concrete walls that surround me, the iron door that crosses my path, and the steel bars at my window that shatter the sunlight into fragments the size of an infant's palm. For this reason I have been unable to execute the task that you assigned to me one year ago. For this reason I apologize.

I apologize not only to you, my fellow citizens of Zonguldak, but to all of the Turkish People who delegated me to represent them for the same reason, because, according to article 80 of our Constitution, when you chose me to represent you, it became my duty to represent all the people of turkey.

On April 23rd, 1920, our great leader Atatürk reached his goal with the establishment of The Grand National Assembly of Turkey and cleared the path of our people with the words, "authority, without any condition and reservation, belongs to the nation." By walking this same path 91 years later, you have once again proven that you still possess this authority.

The name of your strength is the **national will**. The task you have bestowed upon us is the authority to represent this **national will**.

This nationwide and holy task can only be carried out beneath a "national roof," which is also the foundation of our state.

The name of this national roof is The Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

I witness the efforts of my valued colleague, Mr. Ali İhsan Köktürk, under that roof with awe and, I must admit, with envy.

For over a year, I have been unable to join my valued colleague in fulfilling my duty by taking my place and carrying out the task you bestowed upon me of **representing your will**.

I had already been under arrest for two years when you gave me this task a year ago. However, every day and every night, even every minute, of the past year since I was given this duty has been more difficult for me than the two preceding years.

Ever since I took on the task of representing the people, the past one year of this **imprisonment**, which is a true **inquisition** under the guise of **detainment**, has, and I admit this for the first time today, turned into a period of torture for me. I am in torture every day, every night, and every moment with the weight of being unable to perform the duties which you gave to me. Because it is no longer Mehmet Haberal who is kept prisoner between layers of concrete walls, behind iron doors and bars, rather it is the “national will” that is imprisoned at Silivri, it is the “national will” that is being tortured.

For years I tried to learn, to understand “**what is my crime,**” but I have been unable to come to any conclusion. And for a year now I have been unable to comprehend or to accept the imprisonment of the **national will**.

It will never be possible for me to understand or accept that the **national will** has been imprisoned in my country, which I consider above all blame, and will never let anybody speak badly of.

Dear citizens of Zonguldak, It is your **will** which has been kept prisoner in Silivri this past year. This will is the honor of our democracy. It is the **foremost political duty** of all people who call themselves human, and who call themselves a democrat, to protect the **honor of democracy** in a country that claims to be democratic.

Dear Mr. President, dear citizens of Zonguldak, throughout my life my sole aim was to contribute to the advancement and enrichment of my country. Not a single office or institution has been able to and will never be able to put forth allegations of any **illegal activity** on my part, because such a thing has never taken place. There is not one single Member of Parliament under arrest in a single democratic country in the world.

Why should this be the case in my country?

For years I asked, “what is my crime?” as if I had actually done something wrong. Even those who have imprisoned me are unable to reply to this question.

Now I ask a different question: “What is my country’s crime? In my country why are there Members of Parliament, whose duty it is to represent the imprisoned national will, who are under arrest? What is my country’s crime? What is my people’s crime? What is your crime?”

Dear Mr. President, dear citizens of Zonguldak, These are all of the thoughts which I can extend to you from behind concrete walls, iron doors, and iron bars.

I hope that my colleagues, the other Members of Parliament who are also under arrest, will soon regain their freedom and save our country from this disgrace to democracy. Then, I will finally be able to rejoice with you, and work together with my valued

colleague, Mr. Ali İhsan Köktürk, in The Grand National Assembly of Turkey to contribute further to your welfare. Do not ask us to describe what our services to you will be... first we will realize them, and then we will say, "it was all for you."

I hope for and wish you a successful congress. I bid all the people of Zonguldak good health and happiness, and I greet each and every one of you.

Respectfully,

Prof. Mehmet Haberal, MD, FACS (Hon), FICS (Hon), FASA (Hon)
CHP Member of Parliament for Zonguldak