

Kutlu Adali

In the more general climate of euphoria, which has justifiably overwhelmed us after the opening of the borders on the 23rd of last April, we should not forget that the Cyprus problem still remains unresolved. Moreover, we should not ignore that the conditional opportunity of communication between the two largest communities of our country is not the result of Mr. Denktash's benevolence but that of the mass demonstrations and struggles of our Turkish Cypriot compatriots, who are able today, albeit partially, to reap the fruit of these struggles; they are able today to travel all over the Cypriot State. Some however have not been so fortunate. Among them, is Kutlu Adali, who was murdered on the 6th July 1999. It was unquestionably a political assassination, which however has not yet been investigated, nor is it going to be since Mr. Denktash's regime is involved.

For the independence of Cyprus, and not for Enosis, only few sacrificed themselves and they were all Turkish Cypriots. One of them, the last one, was the journalist Kutlu Adali.

Adali was born in Nicosia in 1935. However, he grew up in Atalia in Turkey where his family emigrated in 1938. He returned to our country in 1955, after completing his high school studies. Although he had worked for many years as a civil servant, whether as a secretary of the Turkish Community Assembly (1960-1972) or as an inspector for the radio station Bayrak (1972-1974) or as a director at the ID department (1974), he devoted a large part of his time to writing.

In the years 1961-1963 he published "References to the Village" which concerned the traditions and folk civilization of the Turkish Cypriots, while in 1963 he published the book "Tayarchic", again on the same subject. The above two publications were followed by "The Dialogue of the 9th March" (1968), "The Painful Seed" and "Haivanistan". In addition, he published "The Bridge" (1969), "Shiakos" (1970) and "Nastretin Hodja and Cyprus (1971). In previous years, in the period 1958-1961, he published -with friends -the magazines "Bes Parmax" and "Uyar".

His books concern the Cypriot culture, political satire, poetry, and theatre. One of his poems, "On the Shores of Kyrenia", was translated into Greek and is characteristic of his pursuits and his love for our country. At the same time, he wrote in newspapers like Soz, Ortay, Kibris Postasi and Yeni Duzen, which he still did when he was assassinated.

It is worth noting that in the 1960s and while he was the chief editor of Nacak, his stance was nationalistic and was aimed against the well known martyrs of Cyprus independence Ayhan Hikmet and Ahmet Gurkan, while for a long period in the 1970s he agreed with Mr. Denktash's policy. However, the end of the decade was a milestone in his life. He was transformed into an ardent Cypriot patriot, he actively opposed Denktash's policy and fought with all his might against the Turkish occupation. This is how he perceived the Turkish presence in the north from 1980 onwards.

Adali devoted the last 20 years of his life to the cause of peace, independence and democracy as well as the effort for the creation of a Cypriot conscience. The lack of this conscience he attributed, among other reasons, to the fact that: Cyprus did not

have its own national anthem, it used the Greek and the Turkish flag instead of having its own, and it celebrated Greek and Turkish national days.

His articles constituted a constant struggle for peace and reconciliation between the two communities, which led to incessant threats on his life by extremists. As a result, he was forced to resign from his post in the Civil Service prematurely.

At this time seven years ago, Kutlu Adalu was murdered outside his home. Seeking justice, his relatives resorted to the European Court of Human Rights, founding at the same time the Kutlu Adalu Institution, whose goal was to spread his ideas and vision.

Adalu died for the independence of our country, fighting against partition and Turkish chauvinism. What distinguishes his contribution is not only his conversion from Turkish nationalism to infinite patriotism but also the fact that for years he continued to struggle in the context of a regime which did not tolerate the expression of views opposing its own, knowing full well that at any moment he might lose his life.

Those of us who unwaveringly believed in the independence of our country all these years cannot but recognize the self denial of Adalu and his commitment to this cause.

KUTLU ADALI

(03/01/1935 – 06/07/1996)

He was born in Nicosia. On 1938 he immigrates at Antalya-Turkey with his family where he completed his primary and secondary school. He return to his native country Cyprus on 1955.

During 1958-1961 with his friends he published “Beşparmak” and “Uyarı” magazines. He founds Beşparmak Publishing Ltd. He become editor of “Nacak” magazine.

1960-1972 He is Secretary of Turkish Communal Assembly.

1972-1974 “Bayrak Radyosu” inspecting commity.

1974 Director of Register Office.

His books:

1. Köy Raporları, 1961-62-63 (Village Reports concerning Cyprus villages cultural life & tradition).
2. Dağarcık, 1963 Folklore.
3. 9 Mart Diyalogu, 1968.
4. Sancılı Tohum, 1969.
5. Hayvanistan, 1969.
6. Köprü, 1969.
7. Şago, 1970.
8. Nasrettin Hoca ve Kıbrıs, 1971.

His books are about Cypriot culture, theatre play, poems and political satyra.

His last book “Aklın Silahı Barıştır” (collection of his articles for Yenidüzenis published after (1999) his assasination.

During 60'es when he was editor of “Nacak” his political line was deliberately nationalistic. He was writing against Ayhan Hikmet, Ahmet Gürkan. He followed Denктаş policy till the end of 70'es. Then he became Cypriot patriotic and he took very radical position against Turkish occupation.