



AMS Committee on Human
Rights of Mathematicians
Attn: Dr. Karen Saxe
AMS Associate Executive Director
Email: kxs@ams.org

October 23, 2020

Nüfus ve Vatandaşlık İşleri Genel Müdürlüğü
Pasaport İdari Karar Komisyonu
T. C. İçişleri Bakanlığı
Bakanlıklar/ANKARA
TURKEY

Directorate General of Civil Administration
Commission for Administrative Decisions on Passports
Ministry of the Interior
Bakanlıklar, Ankara
TURKEY

Re: Case of Tuna Altinel

To the members of the Passport Commission:

Your Honors:

The Committee on Human Rights of Mathematicians of the American Mathematical Society writes to you concerning the status of the request by Dr. Tuna Altinel (a mathematics professor at the University Lyon-1, France), for restitution of his passport and restoration of his freedom to travel, with a request for additional information and clarification about the status of his case.

Founded in 1888, the AMS is dedicated to advancing mathematical research and connecting the diverse global mathematical community through our publications, meetings and conferences, MathSciNet, professional services, advocacy, and awareness programs. The AMS has 30,000 individual members worldwide and supports mathematical scientists at every career stage.

The AMS has followed and reported on this case since its inception more than one year ago, sending an observer to the hearings held in Balkesir. At the third hearing Dr. Altinel was acquitted on all charges. In early September 2020, Dr. Altinel received official notification by the Turkey judicial authorities that this acquittal had become final and that he is now free of any criminal charges against him.

However, the subsequent request by Professor Altinel to the responsible authorities to proceed to reissue the passport has now been denied, in a letter dated September 28, 2020, reference number 42003954-1-46.99-E.I6743, with no indication of the grounds; we understand that the appeal of this decision will go to your office.

Until Professor Altinel's passport is issued to him, he is unable to carry out his professional duties at the University Lyon-1 (France), where he is employed.

We would be grateful if you could inform us as to the precise legal grounds for the initial denial of Professor Altinel's passport application. This would be helpful both for expediting the consideration of his appeal of that denial and for helping international bodies, such as our committee, which have closely followed the case, understand the status of the case.

We hope that he will shortly be able to exercise his right to travel freely, and to resume his professional activities.

For the AMS Committee on Human Rights of Mathematicians,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ilya Kapovich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ilya Kapovich
Dr., Professor
Chair, AMS Committee on Human Rights of Mathematicians