

University student Esra fined 45,500 YTL

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University student Esra Tuğçe Açikeler, the daughter of former ANAP Provincial Chair Bilgin Açikeller, who was driving an unlicensed car in ESKİŞEHİR and crashed into a lamppost, killing two of her girlfriends inside. The High Criminal Court where she was tried initially sentenced her to three years and then two years and six months in prison. The court commuted the two-year and six-month sentence to a fine of 45,500 YTL, to be paid in 24 monthly installments. The families of the daughters killed in the accident are currently suing Esra Tuğçe Açikeller and her uncle, Ergun Açikeller, for compensation of 570,000 YTL each.



He will pay the fine in 24-month installments.

The accident occurred on August 30, 2006, on Atatürk Boulevard in the Vişnelik neighborhood.

The car with the registration number 26 NV 570, driven by 22-year-old Esra Tuğçe Açikeller, a third-year student at Bilkent University's Department of International Relations, crashed into a concrete utility pole in the central reservation and overturned due to excessive speed and inattention.

HE WAS ALSO INJURED IN THE ACCIDENT

While the driver, Esra Tuğçe Açikeller, who had no license, escaped with injuries, Hande Dikici (19), a first-year student in the Department of Industrial Engineering at the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Girne American University, and Nihan Akdoğan (19), a first-year student in the Department of Public Relations at the same university, who were in the car, died in Eskişehir Osmangazi University Medical Faculty Hospital where they were taken. Duygu Elitok (22), a student in the Department of Public Relations at Bilkent University, who was also in the car, was slightly injured.

Esra Tuğçe Açikeller, who caused the deaths of two friends while driving an unlicensed car, was discharged from Eskişehir Osmangazi University Medical Faculty Hospital after receiving treatment for approximately two months. A lawsuit was filed against her in Eskişehir High Criminal Court for "causing the death and injury of more than one person through negligence," seeking a prison sentence of up to 22.5 years.

Esra Tuğçe Açikeller, who is on trial without detention, and Osman Dikici (52), the father of the deceased Hande Dikici, and the lawyers from both sides attended the hearing held at the High Criminal Court today.

'I REGRET IT SO MUCH'

Appearing before the judge for the last time, Esra Tuğçe Açikeller expressed her deep sorrow at the deaths of her two friends, saying, "Those who died were my friends. I am deeply regretful. I experienced the greatest sorrow. No one wants their dear friend to die. I was also injured in this incident. I suffered a brain hemorrhage. I too could have died. This incident was an accident. I am deeply saddened by this incident. I am remorseful. I seek your justice."

Esra Tuğçe Açikeller had previously stated in court that she was not going too fast, but that she lost control of the steering wheel and went off the road after being cornered by a black vehicle.

The Eskişehir High Criminal Court initially sentenced Esra Tuğçe Açikeller to three years in prison, but later reduced the sentence to two years and six months due to her remorse for the incident. The court then commuted the sentence to a fine of 45,500 YTL, payable in 24 monthly installments.

Cem Murat Sofuoğlu and Berkay Akyüz, the lawyers representing the families of Hande Dikici and Nihan Akdoğan, who died in the accident, said they would appeal the decision of the High Criminal Court.