

Acquittal for all 'spies'

Executives of German foundations and representatives of the Bergama people who said "no to cyanide-laced gold" were acquitted. GM unanimously acquitted all defendants in the case filed on charges of "spy alliance."

ANKARA - Executives of German foundations operating in Türkiye and representatives of villagers who opposed the cyanide treatment in Bergama were acquitted. The State Security Court unanimously acquitted the defendants, who were accused of "conducting legal espionage activities against the integrity of Turkey."

'No evidence'

At the final hearing at the Ankara 1st State Security Court, State Security Court President Oran Karadeniz announced that all defendants were unanimously acquitted on the grounds that no evidence had been obtained proving that they had committed the crime of "establishing a conspiracy against Turkey."

The reasons for the decision, which was influenced by the opinion of the prosecutor of the case, Dilaver Kahve-i, that "All activities of the defendants were made public, they do not constitute a crime," will be announced later.

Countersuits are coming

With the decision of the State Security Court, not only the German foundations but also the people of Bergama, who were accused of being partners in the activities of these foundations against Turkey, were cleared of their struggle against cyanide gold.

The State Security Court's decision will end the counterclaims. Former Istanbul Bar Association President Yücel Ayman, one of those acquitted, said the case was a spy case.



Konrad Adenauer Foundation's Turkish representative Wulf Schöm-bohm (center) demonstrated his preparedness for the acquittal by distributing a press release titled "Acquittal confused 'German' decision for political foundations" to journalists at the State Security Court gate.

PHOTO:
ECVET ATIKJAJA

He said that the prosecutor had set a trap to present him as a suspect, that his personal rights had been violated, and that he would file a lawsuit for compensation against the prosecutor who opened the case.

Defendant lawyer Senih Özay also announced that he would go to the ECHR and sue the state on the grounds that it "did not implement court decisions."

The case was filed by former State Security Court Prosecutor Nuh Mete Yüksel based on the book "German Foundations Bergama File" by the murdered Dr. Necip Hablemitoğlu.

The German Foreign Ministry and the Turkish Foreign Ministry each issued a statement expressing their satisfaction with the acquittal.

Acquitted defendants

The defendants acquitted yesterday in the case that caused a diplomatic crisis between Turkey and Germany are as follows: "Konrad Adenauer Foundation Turkey Representative Wulf Schömbohm, his assistant Dirk Tröndle, Heinrich Böll Foundation Turkey Representative Figen Fatma Uğur,

Frederic Ebert Foundation President Hans Schumacher, Frederich Naumann Foundation Turkey Representative Wolfgang Sachsenröder, Orient Institute President Claus Schöning and his deputies Astrid Menz and Börte Sagaster, former Istanbul Bar Association President Yücel Sayman, FIAN Organization President Petra Sauerland, FIAN representative Birsell Lemke, Bergama villagers representative Ok-tay Konyar, former Bergama Mayor Safa Taşkın, lawyer Senih Özay and Özcan Durmaz. (Radikal)