



Tübingen, den 09.07.2026

Statement of Solidarity from the Institute for Research on Far Right Extremism at the University of Tübingen with Dr. Ismail Küpeli

As researchers at the Institute for Research on Far Right Extremism (IRex) at the University of Tübingen, we stand in solidarity with Dr. Ismail Küpeli (Ruhr University Bochum).

Ismail Küpeli is one of the best-known and most authoritative scholarly voices in this country on the influence of Turkish far right extremism and nationalism in Germany. For many years, he has been conducting research and publishing on racism, antisemitism, and conspiracy ideologies within various far-right movements, on the Armenian Genocide, and on the situation of the Kurds in Turkey. For many years now, Ismail Küpeli has been subjected to hostility, defamation, and attempts at intimidation aimed at discrediting his research and silencing him. Currently, these anti-science attacks have reached a new level: Küpeli reports receiving specific death threats from Turkish far-right extremists, the “Graue Wölfe” (Grey Wolves), who are one of the largest far-right organizations in Germany. In addition, he is increasingly facing legal attacks that significantly hinder his research and lecturing activities.

As the Institute for Research on Far Right Extremism, we express our full solidarity with Ismail Küpeli.

The attacks and threats against Ismail Küpeli undermine the very foundations of an open, democratic academic culture. For the affected scholars, these attacks and threats entail significant psychological and emotional strain, as well as a substantial additional burden in terms of time and effort. Dealing with hostility, documenting incidents, seeking legal clarification, and engaging in public debate tie up resources that should be available for research, teaching, and scholarly exchange.

Universities, research institutions, and those who work there bear a special responsibility to effectively protect and support their employees and colleagues. A proactive approach is necessary to safeguard academic freedom, a democratic university culture, and spaces free from discrimination. This includes countering far-right attacks on academia early and effectively—through visible solidarity, institutional support, and concrete protective measures.

On behalf of the leadership team of the Institute for Research on Far Right Extremism (IRex) at the University of Tübingen:

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On behalf of the IRex Steering Committee:

Prof. Dr. Markus Rieger-Ladich, Prof.ⁱⁿ Dr.ⁱⁿ Barbara Stauber, Prof.ⁱⁿ Dr.ⁱⁿ Tanja Thomas

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