

Statement by Faraj Bayrakdar made at a press conference on 28 November 2000

I salute you with open arms and my heart filled with the sound of joyous bells.

The distance between nightmare and dream is equal to that which exists between prison and liberty. And I don't know how to express my gratitude to you and hundreds of friends who have helped me to pass from the river of nightmare to that of dream.

I well know that repression is across the world and that liberty must be all around. I hope also that you will welcome me into your ranks, now that I have recovered to some extent my freedom, so that we can follow the road together. For, although I am now out of prison, many still remain inside, in my own country and in numerous other places.

My dear friends. Certain detained journalists and myself have benefited from the particular attention of yourselves and that of numerous other organisations and personalities. I must remind you that this has allowed us to escape the grasp of forgetfulness, this symbolic death that so menaces prisoners.

After having written much for death, I would like now to write for her sister, life. Yes... I entered into prison ready to die and here I am, 14 years later, putting my dreams back in order, ready at last to live. As the sand can only unite with the mirage, hence, the dream must unite with freedom.

Once again, my gratitude to you all and all those hundreds of friends who I know or not ... and my affection.

Your friend Faraj Bayrakdar