

Press Release

Hamburg, April 21, 2026

New Foundation Guest: Davut Arslan Human Rights Lawyer from Turkey

The Hamburg Foundation for the Politically Persecuted has welcomed Kurdish lawyer Davut Arslan as a foundation guest. The foundation advocates worldwide for people who courageously speak out against injustice and offers them protection and a safe haven in Hamburg for a certain period of time.

For more than six years, lawyer Davut Arslan has worked for the Human Rights Association (İHD) in Istanbul, most recently on the board. From 2021 to 2024, he served as regional network coordinator for the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (HRFT). As an English-speaking member of the İHD, he has made it his mission to build an international network and maintain contacts.

As a lawyer, Davut Arslan has advocated for prisoners, refugees, and victims of state violence. He visits detainees at police stations, handles complex deportation cases for foreign nationals—such as those arrested during the 2023 Pride Parade—and spends nearly every Saturday at the Saturday Mothers' vigils.

Regarding his working conditions, he writes:

“We work under constant surveillance, are subject to legal restrictions and harassment, and sometimes face threats to our personal safety. On top of that, we work with traumatized people day in and day out without a break.”

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