Hamburg foundation

———— **for politically persecuted persons**

Chairman: Dr. Peter Tschentscher Executive director: Dr. Carsten Brosda Chairman H.C. Dr. Klaus von Dohnanyi

**Press release**

**Heval Bozbay, Kurdish archaeologist from Turkey, new scholarship holder at the Hamburg Foundation for Politically Persecuted.**

Hamburg, 07. July 2021

The Kurdish archaeologist Heval Bozbay successfully searched for traces and testimonies of the past civilization on the territory of today's Turkey. Because of his public criticism of the Turkish Minister of Culture, Bozbay has been banned from all archaeological excavations since 2013. In 2016, he also signed the so-called "Peace Appeal of Academics," in which Erdogan's government was called upon by more than 3,000 university members to resume peace negotiations in the Kurdish crisis areas.

Because of this signature, Heval Bozbay lost his position as a junior professor at Nevsehir University. He was permanently banned from university research and teaching in Turkey. Supporters of the ruling AKP party stormed and vandalized his private apartment.

Since he was banned from academic teaching, he opened a small cultural café that quickly became very popular. Because it was allegedly a meeting place for dissidents, the army and right-wing nationalists forced the closure of this cultural center in the central Turkish region of Cappadocia in 2019.

The archaeologist Bozbay would like to continue his scientific work in Hamburg and hopes for good contacts in professional circles. He would also like to report on the political situation and the unbroken courage of the opposition at public events.

**Contact person: Martina Baeurle**

**Mobile: 0049-151-56-311-316 email: Kontakt@Hamburger-Stiftung.de**