



ACTION SHEET

September 2017

CASE STUDY

ALI ÖZDEMİR

14-YEAR-OLD BOY SHOT TRYING TO CROSS BORDER FROM SYRIA INTO TURKEY

Fourteen-year-old Ali and nine other Syrian refugees were attempting to cross the border from Syria into Turkey. They were doing this to re-join Ali's family who had lived in Turkey for most of the Syrian conflict. During the crossing, Ali was shot and injured, resulting in him losing his sight.

After treatment in Syria and Turkey, Ali was allowed to join his mother in Germany in June 2014; his father and two siblings were then reunited with them in March 2015.

As well as losing his sight, Ali has nightmares every night about what happened and has to see a psychologist every week. He has also lost his sense of smell. Ali is now attending school, but because of the different language in Germany it has been difficult for him to make friends. He is now learning Braille so that he can read.

Ali loves music and wants to learn how to play the piano and the guitar. He also loves football and supports Real Madrid, but cannot understand the games on television because the commentary is in German.



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There has been no progress in the investigation, no official apology and those responsible for injuring Ali are yet to be brought to justice.

'It is disgraceful that the perpetrator is still at large, whereas my son has to live in utter darkness and loses track of his childhood dreams.'

Gani Özdemir, Ali's father

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RIGHT TO LIFE

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that we all have the right to life, and to live in freedom and safety. Nobody – including the government – can try to end your life. The state is required to carry out a proper investigation if someone does try to take away your right to life, and bring those people to justice.

GET CREATIVE

Let Ali know you are thinking of him by creating an interesting *tactile* card that he can touch. He particularly likes football and supports Real Madrid – could you find a way to include this in your card?

Remember that Ali is blind, so your tactile card will need to include materials with different textures or pop-out sections for Ali to touch and enjoy.



SOLIDARITY ACTION

Write a message of support to Ali and his family to show them that you are thinking of them and will continue to demand justice for Ali.

APPEAL ACTION

Write to Turkey's Minister of Justice, Mr Abdulhamit Gül, to appeal to him to find out who is responsible for Ali's injury and to ensure that no other person is harmed in this way. Start your letter 'Dear Minister'.

Tell the minister what you have learnt about Ali's case.

Urge him to do everything in his power to carry out an investigation into the shooting of Ali and to find justice for him.

Tell the minister about Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and why you believe a right to life, freedom and safety is important.

SEND YOUR ACTION LETTERS OR CARDS TO US AND WE WILL FORWARD THEM ON:

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Please don't write your name on the card or letter itself, but instead complete and send us the actions cover sheet found on our website.