

CASE STUDY

AHMET YILDIZ



MURDERED FOR BEING GAY

Ahmet Yildiz, a Turkish student and a gay man, was 26 years old when he was killed in what has been described by activists as a gay 'honour killing'.

In July 2008 Ahmet was shot leaving the apartment he shared with his fiancé Ibrahim Can. The sole suspect is Ahmet's father.

Ibrahim Can claims Ahmet was receiving threats of violence from his family at the time and had filed a criminal complaint in October 2007 in order to be awarded protection from the authorities. The complaint was never investigated. His family never collected the body for burial.

Three months after the murder, Ahmet's father was finally identified as a prime suspect and a warrant was issued for his arrest. By then, he was believed to have fled to Iraq. An international arrest warrant was issued in 2011 after a new judge was assigned to the case. Ahmet's father has still not been apprehended.

LGBTI RIGHTS IN TURKEY

Violent crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals in Turkey have been frequently reported in the media and by LGBT rights organisations.

In Turkey there are senior politicians and government officials who refuse demands for equality and who have made explicitly homophobic statements.

The national law provides little protection and, at an international level, the Turkish authorities have refused to sign up to resolutions calling for protection of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.



Ahmet Yildiz © Private

'How can the Turkish state that boasts of its position as an important world power, a powerful state, be so incapable of apprehending Ahmet's killers? Is the Turkish state so impotent, so incapable of bringing his killers to justice? This case highlights how victims of homophobia and homophobic violence are treated: as undeserving of justice and unequal in the front of the law.'

Ibrahim Can, Ahmed's fiancé, July 2015

TAKE ACTION

Using Activity Sheet 5 write an appeal letter to call on the Minister of Justice in Turkey, Mr Bekir Bozdağ, to ensure all those responsible for Ahmet's death are brought to justice. Start your letter: Dear Minister,

Using Activity Sheet 4 write a solidarity letter to Ibrahim Can, Ahmed's fiancé, expressing your sorrow for his loss and letting him know that you have written to the Minister of Justice. Start your letter: Dear Ibrahim,

Your teacher will post your letters to Amnesty International and we will forward them on to Mr Bekir Bozdağ and Ibrahim.

Find out more about Amnesty International's work on LGBTI rights at www.amnesty.org.uk/lgbti