

## SYRIA

### Ali Özdemir



#### BLINDED FLEEING CIVIL WAR

Fourteen-year-old Ali Özdemir was blinded after being shot in the head while trying to cross into Turkey from Syria in May 2014. Ali and nine other Syrian refugees were attempting to rejoin his family in south-eastern Turkey, where they had been living during most of the Syrian crisis. They had not paid smugglers to take them across. After treatment in Syria and Turkey Ali was granted a visa to join his mother in Germany in June 2014; his father and two siblings were reunited with them in March 2015. There has been no progress in the investigation and those responsible for injuring Ali are yet to be brought to justice.

+ [www.amnesty.org.uk/ali](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/ali)



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'It is disgraceful that the perpetrator is still at large whereas my son has to live in utter darkness and lose track of his childhood dreams'  
**Gani Özdemir, Ali's father**

#### SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

c/o Milena Buyum  
Amnesty International  
Peter Benenson House  
1 Easton St  
London WC1X 0DW  
United Kingdom



- + **Language:** Kurmanji, Arabic or English
- + **Salutation:** Dear Ali
- + **Suggested message:** I heard about what happened to you through Amnesty International's campaign. Please know that I am on your side until those who injured you are brought to justice. I wish you all the best.
- + Ali loves music and wants to learn how to play the piano and the guitar. He also loves football and supports Real Madrid.
- + Audio messages (on CD) and tactile cards appreciated as he is blind.
- + **Key dates:** Ali's 16 birthday is 1 January 2016.

#### CAN I

- ✘ Send a religious card or message?
- ✔ Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?
- ✘ Include my name and address?

#### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

**Write to:** Mr Kenan İpek  
Minister of Justice,  
Ministry of Justice  
Adalet Bakanlığı  
06659 Ankara  
Turkey

**Fax:** 00 90 312 419 33 70

**Email:** [ozelkalem@adalet.gov.tr](mailto:ozelkalem@adalet.gov.tr)

**Salutation:** Dear Minister

**In your letter:** Urge the authorities to carry out prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigations into the shooting of Ali Özdemir and ensure that any Turkish officials found to be responsible for ordering or carrying out the shooting are brought to justice. Ask the minister to ensure that Ali Özdemir is granted access to an effective remedy, including access to justice and compensation for the injuries he sustained.

