

*In-official translation from German to English*

Village Head – Ilisu  
Mr Mehmet Celik  
Dargecit/Mardin  
Turkey

To:

Relevant Ministries in Germany, Austria and Switzerland  
Export Credit Agencies (ECAs)  
The Ilisu Committee of Experts  
Devlet Su Isleri / State Water Works (DSI)

Ilisu, 09.10.2007

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith I would like to inform you that the inhabitants of the village of Ilisu are deeply unhappy with the court rulings that have been pronounced in the recent months with regard to the Ilisu Dam project. The compensation for our houses is insufficient. Furthermore, previously made promises have not been kept.

The DSI and the Ilisu consortium have met with us in 2005. At the time they have been very positive and friendly towards us. Hence we have assumed that we would not be negatively affected in the case of possible expropriation, in line with what we had been promised.

However, when officials began with expropriation measures last winter the conduct of the DSI and consortium changed. Our proposals regarding the planned resettlement were not even taken into consideration. DSI insisted on their own plan to construct houses at a hilly, utterly dry and non-irrigated site. With the present letter, we would like to inform you that we would prefer a suitable and fruitful relocation site over monetary compensation.

When we refused the proposed compensation by DSI, the court proceedings were started. The sums to compensate for expropriation (including for loss of land and house) as determined by the courts to date are entirely insufficient. The amount awarded to compensate for the house does not allow for the building of a new house. The loss of one of our most important sources of our income, the thermal bath, has not been taken into account when the compensation sum was determined.

At best, we would be able buy new construction land in Dargecit to build a small house with the compensation money that we have been awarded. But it will not suffice to buy land for cultivation. Moreover, construction land is getting ever more expensive in Dargecit because of the increasing demand.

What kind of work are we supposed to do in the city? How are we supposed to earn a living? There are many questions like this that have yet to be answered. If things continue as they do we will be gravely disadvantaged.

We understand that DSI has concluded an agreement with the export credit agencies that includes 150 conditions. This agreement supposedly includes important conditions aimed at ensuring our standard of living and other aspects concerning our livelihoods. But we note that as concerns the current expropriations those conditions have not been met.

We demand that the experts in charge of our resettlement ensure that these important conditions are met in order to prevent that we will be the victims of this process. This will be equally crucial for future measures to be taken and is vital for our lives.

Sincerely yours,

Mehmet Celik\*  
Ilisu Village Head

\* Mr. Celik was not able to sign this letter personally because at precisely this moment, his house was raided by representatives of the military and Mr Celik, Christine Eberlein and Ercan Ayboga were taken to the military head quarters. After this incident he did not dare to sign the letter but asked for the letter to be handed over to relevant individuals in Europe. In 2006, Mr Celik had visited Germany, Switzerland and Austria on invitation from the Ilisu consortium. He is asking the ECAs urgently to help his village.