

CURRICULUM VITAE OF H.E. MEHMET AYDIN

Mehmet Aydın was born in 1943 in Elazığ and graduated from the Faculty of Divinity of Ankara University in 1966 with distinction. He won a scholarship and was sent to England to complete his doctorate (Ph.D) in philosophy in 1967. He completed his Ph.D in the Department of Literature of the University of Edinburgh in 1971. In the same period, he did a one-year study in Paris.

After his return to Turkey, he worked in the Atatürk University for one academic year. He completed his military service in the office of the General Staff as a translator. Following his military service, he started to teach in the Faculty of Divinity in Ankara University (Department of Systematic Philosophy and Logic) and became an associate professor in 1978.

He was appointed as full professor to the Faculty of Divinity of the Dokuz Eylül University in İzmir in 1984. He was a member of the Board of the Faculty, the Administrative Board of the University and a member of the University Senate for many years. Between the period of 1993-1999, he was twice elected as dean of the Divinity Faculty. He was a member of the Administrative Board in the Institute of Social Sciences of Dokuz Eylül University for fifteen years.

Mehmet Aydın is a member of numerous official and voluntary academic institutions. Some of which are as follows:

- 1) Founding Member of the Turkish Philosophy Association (since 1987)
- 2) Atatürk Higher Institution for Culture, Language, and History
- 3) Inter-Cultural Dialogue Platform, (President), Istanbul
- 4) The President of the Abant Platform
- 5) The Civil Thought and Democracy Movement (Member of Advisory Council)
- 6) Member of the High Advisory Council of Human Rights (1997)
- 7) Religion Counts, USA, Chicago.
- 8) International Dialogues Foundation, Holland (Steering Committee, 1997)
- 9) International Scholars' Triologue Annual, USA. Tempel

In addition to his various memberships, he also sits on the academic and editorial boards of many academic journals.

He pursues his academic interests over a wide range of fields. He has twelve publications and two of his works were published in foreign languages. In the last fifteen years, Mr. Aydın has participated in an estimated number of twenty-five academic meetings per year, mainly held internationally. He has published more than fifty articles and papers, some of which were translated and printed in various languages.

He participates in academic debates on Islam, democracy, secularism, human rights (especially rights of women), tolerance, peace and conciliation, politics and ethics, the moral dimension of the economy, culture and development, social justice and liberalism, particularly at the United Nations and various institutions under the aegis of European Union and the Organization of Islamic Conference. He has also represented government institutions in cultural and educational activities.

Mehmet Aydın has strived great effort that his academic work did not only reach the public through his publications in journals and newspapers, but were also made available to wider audiences via over a hundred television and radio broadcasts.

He occasionally gives conferences particularly on "politics and religion" as well as "politics and ethics" for different political groups in the Turkish Grand National Assembly and administrators of political parties.

As a result of his contributions to academic, intellectual and cultural life and studies on human rights as well as his contribution on the understanding of tolerance, he has been awarded five times with "Award of Outstanding Service" by various institutions.

He became a member of the Parliament from the Justice and Development Party (AKP) as the delegate of Izmir after the general elections of 3rd of November 2002.

Mehmet Aydın is married with two daughters. His wife is a retired teacher from İzmir Balcova High School. One of his daughters works as a teacher and the other one is working on her Ph.D in sociology in New York.

His main publications in Turkish are as follows:

- God and Ethics Relations in the Contemporary English Literature and Kant
- The Philosophy of Religion
- Turkish Contribution to Philosophy (in English)
- Islam en dialog (in Dutch)
- Religion and Studies on Ethics
- A Critical Look Inside with Mehmet Aydın (Prepared by Mehmet Gündem)
- From the Universe to Allah
- The Universality of Islam
- Writings on Philosophy of Islam
- Why?