

Habil Kılıç

“Habil Kılıç’s wife recounts:

I don’t want people to constantly ask me about the terrible event that happened. [...]. What happened to my husband and my family was simply too brutal, it was inhuman. I lost everything: my husband Habil, the father of my daughter, my source of income, my health. But worst of all, perhaps, I also lost the confidence of knowing what I should do. I no longer know where I belong.

I was born in Ankara. When I was ten years old, I came to Germany with my mother, studied here and worked as a chemist at Siemens. Back then, I felt as if I had landed in another world. I’ve now spent 40 years of my life in Munich. [...].

I like the Bavarians. They may be a little rough around the edges, but they’re also cheerful and sincere. If you were to ask me what I am today, I’d say: I’m a combination of Turkish, German and Bavarian. I have been a German citizen since 1999. After everything that has happened, I sometimes ask myself: what am I doing in this country? Why am I in Germany – where something so horrible happened to my husband and my family?

I got to know Habil while on holiday in Turkey. He was charming and handsome; I liked his friendly nature and how he treated me. [...] I was at home in Munich, but I think my husband never felt comfortable here. In Turkey, he had his own shop; here he couldn’t speak the language.

He worked at the wholesale market, even though he could have done more with himself. But there, he at least had a circle of friends who he could talk to and drink coffee with in the afternoon. Yet he would often say to me, ‘We have to go back to Turkey. I’m a nobody here. Nothing. This place is missing something. There’s no decent work for me. I’m not getting ahead here.’ But back then I wanted to stay here. I didn’t want to cut off part of my life, and he didn’t want to go without my daughter and me. That cost him his life – at precisely the grocery shop that I had taken over a few months earlier in the hope that me being there would be best for our family.”