



National Federation of Cypriots in the UK
Working for a Free, United Cyprus



Mr Bill Kenwright
Chairman, Everton Football Club
Goodison Road
Liverpool
L4 4EL

13th January 2021

Dear Mr Kenwright,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Cypriot, Kurdish, Armenian and Egyptian communities in the UK regarding Cenk Tosun's appalling use of the Grey Wolves salute during Everton's match against Rotherham United on 9th January.

This incident has caused deep distress to our communities, who include families that took refuge in the UK because of massacres by the Grey Wolves. The trauma is very much an alive memory for many members of our communities. The Grey Wolves are a neo-fascist, ultra-nationalist organisation who are responsible for political murders and hate-crimes across Europe and Asia. France and Austria have recently outlawed them and their symbols, proscribing them as a terrorist organisation. The Grey Wolves have systematically and consistently persecuted Kurds, Alevis, Armenians, Jews, Greeks, Cypriots and many other ethnic minorities. Here are just a few brief examples:

- Maraş Massacre of 1978, killing over one hundred Alevi Kurdish civilians in eastern Turkey
- Murdered freedom protestor Tassos Isaac and journalist Kutlu Adali in 1996 in Cyprus
- They promote anti-Semitic conspiracies and distribute Hitler's *Mein Kampf* to their members
- Defaced an Armenian Genocide memorial near Lyon in 2020

The photographic evidence is damning, despite Mr Tosun's unsurprising denial. We witnessed Mr Tosun clearly raising his right-hand to point to the sky, but simultaneously raise his left-hand to make the Grey Wolves salute – this is a common combination. We are also concerned by the speed at which Everton FC appear to have cleared Mr Tosun of wrongdoing, given that he has form for political controversy. In 2019, whilst playing for Turkey, he was pictured doing a military salute on the pitch and then posted a pro-military message on social media afterwards. Any form of political gesture, or any act that is intended to provoke a reaction on political, ideological or religious beliefs, is prohibited by UEFA. We are concerned that Everton FC are not holding Mr Tosun accountable for these unacceptable actions.

If Everton FC are indeed certain that Mr Tosun did not make the Grey Wolves salute, we urge you to publicly condemn the Grey Wolves and show that they are not welcome in football. During the last twelve months, organisations and corporations have proactively addressed issues of racism and Everton has a proud record of this. We therefore urge you to act and ensure that our communities feel welcomed by Everton FC.

Yours sincerely,

Christos Karaolis
President, National Federation of Cypriots in the UK

Annette Moskofian
Chair, Armenian National Committee UK

Turkan Ozcan
Director, Kurdish People's Democratic Assembly of Britain

Mostafa Ragab
Chair, Egyptian Council in the UK

cc: The Football Association, Dan Carden MP