



SAMHÄLLS-
VETENSKAPLIGA
FAKULTETEN

Dear [REDACTED]

I have been asked to clarify some internal matters of the Faculty of Social Sciences, at Lund University, Sweden, that date back to 2018. I write in my capacity of Faculty Dean, a position I have held since January 2018, preceded by a post as Pro Faculty Dean in 2015-2017. During this time Dr Özkirimli was employed at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES), a research unit within the faculty of Social Sciences.

In March 2018, a junior researcher filed an harassment complaint, naming Dr Özkirimli. In accordance with Lund University policy, the Faculty immediately opened an investigation, assigning an external consultant to the task. In very condensed summary, the investigation found that the source of the problem was a broken relationship that had escalated to a conflict, which spilled over into the work environment and left the plaintive feeling harassed and victimized. The Faculty believed that for a senior faculty member, Dr Özkirimli's behaviour was inappropriate and thus issued a written reprimand. The outcome was communicated in a meeting on 1 June 2018, and the case was closed. Unfortunately, this did not settle the conflict, which as far as I can tell continues to this day.

Dr Özkirimli spent the academic year 2018/2019 on paid sabbatical leave, under agreement that he represent Lund University and CMES in all external communications and publications. In September 2019, it was decided that CMES should be reorganized. A significant aspect of the reorganization of this unit is that all employment contracts should either be transferred to regular departments within Lund University or terminated through other agreements. In October 2019, I immediately started to negotiate such transfers with Heads of Departments and other Faculty Deans. In our discussions it became clear that I was not able to meet Dr Özkirimli's requests, and he decided to leave Lund University as of 31 March 2020.

At the time of departure, I wrote a letter of reference underlining that prior to and during the investigation mentioned above, Dr Özkirimli was in the midst of a highly traumatic family situation. Given the circumstances, he handled the complaint and the investigation well. Feel free to contact me should you require any further information.

Lund, 10 June 2020,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christofer Edling'.

Christofer Edling
Professor of Sociology
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences
Lund University
Box 117, 221 00 Lund, Sweden
+46 46 222 88 62, christofer.edling@soc.lu.se