

WLT: I guess that sometimes you feel sad or alone. How do you stay positive?

Can Dündar: When I feel depressed or down, I read history books or biographies. They make me happy, they make me stand up. They remind me that I'm not the first and I will not be the last person, who lives such a collapse. There has been so many people throughout the history, threatened, attacked, jailed, sent to exile or even killed, but they were brave enough to challenge it. Without struggle, you cannot achieve anything. Nowadays we don't name leaders like Hitler, Stalin or Erdoğan with respect. But what about Che Guevara, Atatürk or Nelson Mandela? Thanks to their courage and their struggle, today we are living partly in a free world.

WLT: Society tends to remember the negative parts of history. Here in Germany, looking at the AfD, we say "History is repeating". But listening to you, we should never lose hope.

Can Dündar: Everything depends on your point of view, on how you see the world. Couple of months ago, there was a AfD meeting in Berlin, but at the same time there were seven other demonstrations against it. You have to see the whole picture. That may make you more optimistic. It's not easy to be optimistic, you need more effort, but it's worth it. Don't forget that once there was a wall in Berlin, separating the nation, the friends and the families, but as you saw even the strongest walls can be fallen. Therefore, history books are so important to me because they show me how darkness can be turned into light.

WLT: Talking about Turkey and Erdoğan. What do you think about the current situation? Do you think it might change soon?

Can Dündar: It depends on our struggle. I don't think that some aliens from the space will come and take Erdoğan into another planet. That would be nice, but it won't happen. So it depends on our struggle. I'm sure he will go. In Turkey, at least half of the people are resisting against him and I'm sure we will overcome this aggression. But of course we need to fight for it.

WLT: Christian told me that it was very important for you that your wife Dilek will be one focus of the play. Why is that?

Can Dündar: Usually the attention is on me. In fact, she deserves more care because she has worked and sacrificed a lot during this struggle. She suffered more than me. She is the hero behind the story. Thanks to the play and to Christian that there will be more light on her now. At the moment she is suffering a lot, but we are a bit shy to express this because there are so many people suffering in jail. We have to defend them. But thanks to this play we can show what our family has been going through; it's a great opportunity. I'm very thankful to Christian for giving my wife a place in his play.

WLT: She probably is very excited about the project, too?

Can Dündar: Oh yes. She talked to the actors and actresses via Skype and was very excited about it. She always asked me what to say, what to answer. You can imagine, we are not together as a family, but with his play Christian helps us to reunite – at least on the stage.

WLT: A last question. What are your current projects here in Germany?

Can Dündar: I'm still writing for my column in "Die Zeit". I also write for the website of the

Maxim Gorki Theatre and I make videos for Cosmo, doing documentaries for ARTE and ZDF. Furthermore, I have two book projects. I love writing. Writing is my harbour, my survival. When I have a pen and a paper, everything is possible. I don't feel insecure.