A scientist, Prof. Dr. Onur Hamzaoglu, Chair of Public Health Department at Kocaeli University Faculty of Medicine is under investigation.

Why?Just because he fulfills his duties towards the society as a human, a physician and an academician.

Prof Dr. Onur Hamzaoglu deals with serious environmental and health problems that have been encountered in Kocaeli region, for many years.

He published the results of his study, namely,The Causes of Deaths in Industry-DenseAreas: Example of Dilovası in 2005and demonstrated the excessive number of cancer-related deaths. He shared his findings with local and national academic societies and political authorities. He also offered his solutions to Turkish Grand National Assembly in 2006.

What has changed since that day? Nothing!

Prof. Dr Onur Hamzaoglu recently presented the results of a new study, which he has managed,to public through the media.

The demands for investigation and trial began to occur after this statement.

In this study, which has been conducted by Onur Hamzaoglu together with the academicians from the Departments of Public Health, Child Health and Diseases and Medical Genetics at Kocaeli University and supported by the scientific research fund of University, certain heavy metals and trace elements have been detected in colostrum and meconium from the participants.

Prof. Dr. Onur Hamzaoglu, as a scientist who has a sense of responsibility, announced this information to public.

After a short period of time following this statement, Mayors of Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality and Dilovası Municipality submitted a lawsuit petition to Kocaeli Public Prosecution Office, demanding the trial of Prof. Dr. Onur Hamzaoglu.They claimed that“he had brought the issue into the notice of large mass of people by saying ‘We have detected zinc, iron, aluminium, lead and cadmium even in maternal breast milk in addition to blood and feces samples, thus, there is an enormous danger’and employed the results of the research with the intention of causing panic among the people’. Prosecution Office forwarded the file to Kocaeli University Rectorate in order that they examine mentioned act.

If the university permits,Prof. Dr. Onur Hamzaoglu will be on trial with the request for 2-4 years imprisonmentin accordance with Article 213 of Turkish Penal Code (TCK),

The criminal investigation conducted by Kocaeli University for this reason is ongoing.

However, a disciplinary proceeding was launched by Kocaeli University against Prof. Dr. Onur Hamzaoglu after The Cancer Control Directorate of Turkish Ministry of Health has sent an offical letter to The Council of Higher Education and the Council has submitted this letter for the review of Kocaeli University Rectorate and urged the Rectorate to take necessary action in this direction.

**What was the issue investigated by Onur Hamzaoglu? Why it caused a disturbance?**

It is a known fact that the serious environmental and health problems generated by Dilovası Organized Industrial Zone have been encountered in Kocaeli region. New organized industrial zones, which were planned to establish, brought the discussions on this issue tothe public agenda.

“Growth and Development Patterns in Infants Exposed to Heavy Metal,Who Born to MothersLiving in Dilovası and Kandıra Districts” is being investigated within the recent research project,which has been designed with the participation of the academicians from the Departments of Public Health, Child Health and Diseases and Medical Genetics at Kocaeli University and conducted by Onur Hamzaoglu and supported by the scientific research fund of this University. According to the final results obtained in this research, certain heavy metals and trace elements have been detected in colostrum and meconium from the participants.

Prof Dr. Onur Hamzaoglu has announced the unusual and scary findings of this study to public and experienced the same trouble as the honest and brave scientist from all over the world,who have strong sense of responsibility: Annoyance!

Actually, we know these annoyances very well.

[Dr. Irving Selikoff](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irving_Selikoff) had experienced the same annoyance since he had stated in 1964 that asbestosis was hazardous for human health.

[Dr. Herbert Needleman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbert_Needleman)had experienced the same annoyance in 1970, when he had announced the harmfulness of leadfor children’s health.

[Dr. Takeshi Nirayama](http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Takeshi_Hirayama)had encountered the same annoyance in 1981 when he had stated that passive smoking causes lung cancer.

[Dr. Benjamin Santer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_D._Santer)had experienced the same annoyance in 1996, when he had reported his findings onclimate change.

[Dr. Ignacio Chapela](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ignacio_Chapela)had encountered the same annoyance in 2000, when he had stated the danger with geneticallymodifiedMexico corn.

**Now, the time comes for Onur Hamzaoglu...**

Those who prioritize political and economic interests over human health are on one side and the public health, honorable scientists and Onur Hamzaoglu are on the other side.

The side that we take is apparent.

The people of Dilovası are our beloved.

Prof. Dr. Onur Hamzaoglu is our pride.

We do not let anybody lay a finger on Onur Hamzaoglu.

We protect our mothers’ breast milk and our babies’poo.

GIVE SUPPORT