

Dear Professor [Arthur Ogus](#),

It must be the spring semester of 1972, I was in your Modular Forms Class with about 10 - 12 students. We used to meet in one of those small rooms on the basement of Evans Hall:



40 years later Selvi May Akyıldız at Berkeley

Perhaps you may remember me if I put my pictures from those days:



Or, you may perhaps remember the "strange", i.e. a very smart guy, [Allan Adler](#), a student of *Michio Kuga* from Stony Brook, who was visiting me then and he used to come with me to attend your classes and make remarks which you appreciated.

You will not believe this: To listen to *Ichiro Satake's talk* at a regional meeting, either in Santa Barbara or in San Diego, on a Saturday morning we took HWY 101 all the way from Berkeley, and me driving, Allan explained me the [John Tate's PhD](#) thesis in words and "I thought I

understood everything"; such a good teacher *Allan* was. In return, he asked me to teach him the turkish grammar, which I did. On the way back he learnt enough turkish words, maybe about 100-150, and on Monday he ordered me not to speak english to him anymore unless he asks me the turkish version of a new word he has not yet learnt...

During mid 90's, when I saw his publications on [Magic Squares and Cubes](#) I got in touch with him. He had still no academic job and was working as an accountant at a big department store... I invited him to live in Turkey where he can have a university job, get married and live happily after. He asked me if he could kiss his lover on the street, my answer was "yess of course, I do it all the time, with a different lover each time..." Then he asked me about the health care in Turkey. I said we have very good doctors and hospitals. Then he said "I have a trailer full of books which are stored in the basement of a friend o mine. I could not transport them to Turkey and I can not live without them..." Unfortunately Allen disappeared from the math community. Perhaps he was too good for them... (reminding me of Selman Akbulut's story at MSU, next). Anyway, that is all about the past... [those were the days...](#)

Now the present:

Dear Arthur,

I just read [your Letter on Ayşe Berkman](#) who is also a colleague and a close friend of mine. I appreciate your concern and thank you for making the math community to be aware of her. There is one more case, which I believe is very important for the mathematics community in general and needs your immediate attention. As you are The Committee Chair of AMS Committee on Human Rights of Mathematicians, I am hoping that you will pay extra special attention to what MSU has been trying to do to **Selman Akbulut** and the final stage (dismissal) is coming very soon:

It is not only my opinion that another Berkeley graduate (PhD 1975, supervisor [R. Kirby](#)) [Selman Akbulut is a world class mathematician](#). At the moment he is face to face with losing everything he accumulated during the past 50 years as a mathematician (materially and spiritually) and dismissal form his department because of a dispute over a class he taught in the past, out of which 5 PhD Thesis and [a book from Oxford University Press](#) came out. You can find everything on this matter, including the official documents, on the website of Selman Akbulut in a chronological order:

<http://www.selmanakbulut.com>

Thank you for your attention and for any possible help on the matter.

Warm regards from Izmir, Turkey.

yilmaz akyildiz