

I was born in Maratha (Murataga) in 1956 where I carried on living until the day of the coup d'état of June 1974 against Makarios that was followed by Turkey's invasion. I lost my mother, my two sisters and two brothers in a massacre committed by EOKA B followers. That year I had also completed my secondary education and sat for university examination in a hope to be able to study veterinary surgery to develop my family's husbandry.

When I got back from prisoners camp after 96 days of imprisonment, I found out bitterly that there were neither any family member nor any livelihood that remained at my village. At the same time I received the news of my acceptance to the veterinary faculty of Istanbul University, though I couldn't manage to carry on my profession on the Northern Part of Cyprus because of the very heavy discriminative and partisan spirit of Denktash regime.

My life-long dream of Veterinary Surgery has opened different avenues where I had to shift to another profession in order to survive, so I have started teaching GCE Biology at College level in different schools since then.

During university years, from 1974 to 1980, I took part at the forefront of the progressive youth movement of Turkish Cypriot students (KÖGEF) in Turkey. On my return to country I continued to take part in trade union and political movement with the aim of re-uniting our divided country.

Since 2006, with other Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot friends we established the "Bicommunal Initiative of Missing Persons, Victims of Massacres and Other Victims of 1963-74 Events, Together We Can" .

Hüseyin Akansoy