

PEN INTERNATIONAL
DELEGATION TO TURKEY
12-18 NOVEMBER

-ONLINE PRESS REPORT-

13 November

<http://www.mesop.de/2012/11/15/turkish-president-tells-pen-free-speech-violations-cast-shadow-over-turkeys-progress/>

Turkish President tells PEN free speech violations cast shadow over Turkey's progress

ANKARA 13 NOVEMBER, 2012 (UPDATED 17.30) - In a meeting today with a PEN International delegation including English PEN director Jo Glanville, President Abdullah Gül expressed his personal commitment to free speech. Responding to PEN's concerns over a rising number of writers, journalists and publishers in prison or on trial in Turkey, the president assured the delegation that he has been following the cases closely.

"There are many good things unfolding in Turkey, but these concerns cast a shadow over the progress we are achieving," the president told PEN. "They also have international repercussions. These developments deeply sadden me, and as President, I more than anyone else want to see that they are resolved and no longer on the country's agenda."

Underlining the significant democratic progress in Turkey the last 10 years, President Gul continued:

"Thanks to these reforms, there has been a liberalization in the public sphere, and many issues which were formerly taboos are now freely discussed. Hand in hand, economic and democratic reforms have brought wealth and freedoms, and transformed Turkish society immensely. There may of course be some problematic practices, as in any democracy; however, I would not want any concerns to cast a shadow on this important accomplishment."

The president added that such criticisms, when voiced without appreciation of reforms, become unfair.



The PEN delegation presented the president with an outline of PEN's concerns, including key cases of writers, journalists, and publishers who are either in prison or on trial in Turkey. PEN requested that the government immediately review all such cases to ensure that no one is being penalized for the legitimate exercise of the right to peaceful freedom of expression, and release all those currently detained, imprisoned, or facing prosecution in violation of this right.

The delegation conveyed to the president PEN's specific concerns about Turkey's Anti-Terror Law, which defines offenses too broadly and is applied inconsistently and often against those who have not supported, plotted, or carried out acts of terrorism or violence.

President Gül reiterated his belief that the best way to combat and isolate terrorism is to raise the standards of democracy, and argued that "terrorist groups are uneasy about democratic reforms in Turkey.

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<http://www.tccb.gov.tr/news/397/84366/gul-receives-pen-international-board-members.html>





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Gül Receives PEN International Board Members

13.11.2012



<http://www.englishpen.org/turkey-president-tells-pen-international-free-speech-violations-cast-shadow-over-turkeys-progress/>

Turkish President tells PEN free speech violations cast shadow over Turkey's progress

PEN Posted November 13th, 2012 by **Cat Lucas** & filed under **Campaigns, Press**.

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<http://www.habermonitor.com/en/haber/detay/the-president-of-pen-international-board-memb/8651/>



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President Abdullah Gul, PEN International Board members agreed to Cankaya Presidential Palace.

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President Abdullah Gul, PEN International Board members agreed to Cankaya Presidential Palace. Köşkü'ndeki Cankaya acceptance, was closed to the press.

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<http://www.sondakika.com/haber/haber-cumhurbaskani-gul-pen-international-yonetim-kurulu-4086706/>

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Cumhurbaşkanı Abdullah Gül, PEN International Yönetim Kurulu Üyeleri'ni Çankaya Köşkü'nde kabul etti. Çankaya Köşkü'ndeki kabul, basına kapalı gerçekleşti.

14 November



Analiz

Tüm Yazıları

Utku Çakırözer

ucakirozer@cumhuriyet.com.tr



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Takip et: @cumhuriyetgzt

Gül: Hapisteki Gazeteciler Demokrasiye Gölge

Ülkemizde ifade özgürlüğü alanında yaşanan olumsuz gelişmeler ve cezaevindeki gazeteciler meselesine tepki amacıyla Türkiye'de devlet ve hükümet yetkilileriyle görüşmeye gelen uluslararası kuruluşlara son olarak Uluslararası Yazarlar Birliği (PEN) de eklendi. PEN Yönetim Kurulu üyeleri ve dünyanın çeşitli ülkelerinden gelen 20 yazar, cezaevlerindeki gazetecilerin özgürlüğüne kavuşması mesajı için Türkiye'ye geldi.

'90'lara dönüşolmasın'

Dün Cumhurbaşkanı Abdullah Gül ile bir araya gelen heyetten PEN Başkanı John Saul, dünkü görüşmemizde izlenimlerini şöyle aktardı:

"Son bir yıl içinde Türkiye'de gazeteciler, yazarlar ve yayıncılarla ilgili takip ettiğimiz davalarda kaygı verici artış yaşandı. Şu anda 70'ten fazla yazar ve gazeteci tutuklu. En az 60'ının ise yargılaması sürüyor. Rakamlarda son dönem gözlenen artış, 1990'lı yıllardaki durumu anımsatıyor. Sayın Cumhurbaşkanı bize bir saat 15 dakika ayırarak Türkiye'de ifade ve basın özgürlüğü alanında artan kaygılarımıza ne kadar önem verdiğini gösterdi. Kendisine isim isim tutuklu ya da tutuksuz yargılanan gazeteci, yazar ve yayıncıların durumunu aktardık. Bu durumun Türkiye'nin imajına katkısı olmadığını aktardık."

'Artık gündemden düşmeli'

Gazeteci ve yazarların yargılandığı davaları yakından takip ettiğini belirten Gül ise PEN heyetine şu mesajları vermiş:

"Türkiye'de reformlar sayesinde birçok iyi gelişme yaşanıyor, geçmişte tabu olan birçok konu serbestçe tartışılabilir. Ancak bahsettiğiniz bu kaygılar, katettiğimiz ilerlemeye gölge düşürüyor. Bunların uluslararası yansımaları da oluyor ve bu gelişmeler beni derinden üzüyor. Bu ülkenin

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/jailing-scribes-clouds-progress-in-turkey.aspx?pageID=238&nID=34606&NewsCatID=339>

Jailing scribes 'clouds progress in Turkey'

ANKARA - Hürriyet Daily News

President Gül reportedly admits that the jailing of journalists deeply hurts the country during a visit by PEN International, which says the situation is 'worsening'

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Sevil Küçükkoşum
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Turkish President Abdullah Gül has expressed his deep concern about the issue of imprisoned journalists and writers, according to a leading international authors' association.

"There are many good things unfolding in Turkey, but these concerns cast a shadow over the progress we are achieving," Gül told a visiting delegation from the PEN International Writers Association yesterday, according to a written statement from the group.

President Gül (L) shakes hands with John Ralston Saul, president of PEN International Writers Association, in this photo taken from the president's website. Gül expressed his deep concerns on the issue of jailed journalists, Saul says.

Gül noted his "sadness" over the issue, which was the main item on the agenda of PEN's 20-member delegation.

The president cited the "international repercussions" of those cases and said "those developments deeply sadden" him, the statement said.

"As president, I, more than anyone else, want to see that they are resolved and no longer on the country's agenda," Gül said.

Jailing Scribes ‘Clouds Progress in Turkey’

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Gül assured the delegation that he had been following the cases closely, John Ralston Saul, president of PEN International, told the Hürriyet Daily News after the meeting.

Recalling Turkey's reforms which PEN had welcomed in previous years, Saul said the situation of trials and pre-trial detentions in Turkey were seriously worsening again over the last year. Saul implied that there were different numbers as to the number of imprisoned writers, but said his group believed there was an "enormous" number of 70 such people in jail.

Another concern for them was that lengthy trials and pre-detentions scare other writers not facing legal charges, Saul said.

PEN admires the reforms Turkey has made so far, "but we are disturbed by what we see going on again," he said.

"We know there are reforms that have happened, and there are reforms coming; that does not change the reality of the damage being done to people's lives," PEN's chairman said.

The delegation gave the president a report of selected group cases that "require release or a different kind of treatment," he said.

PEN requested the government "immediately review all such cases to ensure that no one is being penalized for the legitimate exercise of the right to peaceful freedom of expression, and release all those currently detained, imprisoned, or facing prosecution in violation of this right."

Gül made clear he was closely following the issue and he "hopes to see these cases resolved as soon as possible," said Saul.

"The president's recognition of the negative impact of free speech violations on Turkey's future is important," he said.

The PEN delegation also raised specific concerns about Turkey's Anti-Terror Law, which "defines offenses too broadly and is applied inconsistently and often against those who have not supported, plotted, or carried out acts of terrorism or violence."

Gül reiterated his belief that the best way to combat and isolate terrorism is to raise the standards of democracy, Saul said.

PEN International also requested an appointment from Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, but has not received a reply yet, he said.

PEN's visit came on the heels of a visit by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), which released a report last month in which the organization accused the Turkish government of engaging in a broad

<http://www.turkeytribune.com/turkey-tribune/jailing-scribes-clouds-progress-turkey.html>

Jailing scribes 'clouds progress in Turkey'

President Gül reportedly admits that the jailing of journalists deeply hurts the country during a visit by PEN International, which says the situation is 'worsening'.



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BRITISH EMBASSY IN TURKEY

<http://ukinturkey.fco.gov.uk/en/news/?view=News&id=835110282>

PEN visit to Turkey

14 November 2012

The British Ambassador, David Reddaway, recently hosted a reception to mark a visit to Turkey by a major delegation from PEN International.

Since its foundation in 1921, PEN has been promoting literature and freedom of expression around the world. PEN now has representatives in over 100 countries, including Turkey.






Welcoming the delegation to Ankara, Ambassador David Reddaway said:

"The UK strongly supports PEN's vision and support for freedom of expression. Freedom of expression in Turkey is an issue which has attracted a lot of attention both here and around the world in recent weeks. Last month, the European Commission's annual Progress Report on Turkey's EU membership bid noted that 'increasing incidence of violations of freedom of expression raise serious concerns, and freedom of the media continued to be further restricted in practice.'. The report also stated that 'Turkey needs to amend its penal code and anti-terror legislation to make a clear distinction between the incitement to violence and the expression of non-violent ideas'.

In the UK, we regard vigorous debate in the media and civil society, as one of the very best things about our way of life, even if it is often uncomfortable for the Establishment: look, for example, at what the BBC – of which I am a committed supporter - is going through at the moment.

15 November

PEN calls for reforms against repression of Turkish writers

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15 November 2012 / YONCA POYRAZ DOĞAN, İSTANBUL

Marking Nov. 15, the Day of the Imprisoned Writer, a delegation of 20 PEN International Writers Association members -- the biggest ever group of PEN members sent to another country to express concerns -- called on the Turkish government to take urgent action to lift pressures on Turkey's writers, journalists, publishers and translators.

PEN International President John Ralston Saul said at a press conference on Wednesday that many positive developments related to Turkey's democratization process have been overshadowed by concerns about freedom of expression in the country. Indicating that eight members of PEN Turkey are in prison, Saul said: "We are asking the government of Turkey to act now to ensure that no one is being penalized for practicing the right to peaceful freedom of expression, and release all who may be held in violation of that right."

Saul also said that their main concern relates to the broad and arbitrary use of anti-terrorism laws in Turkey.

"There are anti-terror laws in many countries and they are misused in many countries. There are officials here who believe they need anti-terror laws to fight terror," he said, adding that PEN has always been against violence. "However, there is no need to use it broadly and apply it to limit freedom of expression."

<http://www.thestar.com/news/world/article/1288302--canadians-in-istanbul-denouncing-anti-terrorist-laws-urging-press-freedom>



Canadians in Istanbul denouncing anti-terrorist laws, urging press freedom

Published on Thursday November 15, 2012

Michelle Shephard
National Security Reporter

ISTANBUL, TURKEY—Newruz Kirkaya says the last time she spoke with her husband he was the one reassuring her, despite the 11 months he has spent in jail without trial and 12 days without food to protest his detention.

"He told me, 'I'm losing weight but it's OK.' I think he was trying to prepare me psychologically for this," she said one night this week, as she wrapped her hands around a cup of tea.

"This is an attack on our personal lives and it's all about our ethnic identity."

Kenan Kirkaya is a Kurdish reporter and one of dozens of writers and journalists being tried for terrorism. He is accused of membership in the Union of Kurdistan Communities (KCK), an umbrella group allegedly linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

His wife, 33, claims the prosecution's evidence consists mainly of articles he has covered on Kurdish issues.

"He is only a journalist. The only problem is that he's a Kurdish journalist. That's the only thing," she said.

Kurds make up about one-fifth of Turkey's population and the PKK has waged a war to separate for more than three decades, claiming more than 40,000 lives.



Newruz Kirkaya's husband, Kenan, has been in jail for 11 months and on a hunger-strike for 42 days. The 33-year-old said her husband, a journalist, was only detained because he is Kurdish. On Nov. 14 a high-level PEN delegation visited Turkey to protest the plight of detained writers.

MICHELLE SHEPHARD/TORONTO STAR

AMERICAN PEN WEBSITE

<http://www.pen.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/6718/prmID/174>



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November 15, 2012:
Turkey: Reform Laws Stifling Writers, Publishers, Translators, Journalists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
For more information contact:
Sara Whyatt, PEN International, +44 (0)78 753 1071 738 or +44 (0)207 405 0338

Istanbul, Turkey, November 15, 2012—A delegation of writers from PEN International today called on the government of Turkey to take “quick and concrete action” to reverse an alarming rise in the number of writers, journalists, translators, and publishers who are in prison or on trial in the country. Speaking at a press conference today in Istanbul, PEN International President John Ralston Saul warned that positive political and economic developments are being overshadowed by concerns about the freedom to write in Turkey.

“We recognize that Turkey has seen important gains in democratization and civil and political rights in recent years, and we believe the momentum for reform is ongoing,” Saul said. “But for our many colleagues currently in prison or on trial—including members of PEN Turkey—processes and promises are no consolation. We are asking the government of Turkey to act now to ensure that no one is being penalized for practicing the right to peaceful freedom of expression, and to release all who may be held in violation of that right.”

Joining Saul were PEN members from Japan, Switzerland, Lebanon, the United States, Norway, Canada, and the United Kingdom, part of a 20-member delegation that he said “conveys the seriousness and urgency of PEN’s concern over the rising tide of trials of their colleagues in Turkey.”

Today’s press conference followed meetings in Ankara this week with President Abdullah Gül and Minister for European Union Affairs Egemen Bağış. The delegation pressed for reforms to Turkey’s Anti-Terror Law, to clearly distinguish between incitement to violence and the expression of non-violent, if controversial, ideas, and an end to lengthy pre-trial detentions and legal proceedings that can drag on for years. They also presented the president and the minister with a list of key cases of writers, journalists, translators, and publishers who are in detention, on trial or facing prosecution in violation of their right to freedom of expression. PEN will be submitting further information to the government regarding these cases.

The PEN delegation also met with Öztürk Türkdoğan, president of the Human Rights Association, who underlined the organization’s concerns with the deteriorating situation for freedom of expression in Turkey.

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Turkish press crackdown creating climate of fear - watchdog

Reuters

1:54 PM CST, November 15, 2012

By Ayla Jean Yackley

ISTANBUL, Nov 15 (Reuters) - Turkey's widespread use of anti-terrorism laws has led to criminal cases against more than 100 journalists and created a climate of fear that is undermining recent democratic reforms, a media watchdog said on Thursday.

Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's government is also exerting "heavy pressure" on the judiciary to keep journalists in custody before and during their trials, London-based PEN International said.

The main focus of Turkey's anti-terrorism laws has been militant separatist activities, but the government has faced growing criticism from the European Union, which Turkey seeks to join, and others for applying the laws too widely.

"No situation of violence justifies a broad, badly defined anti-terror law which is used to deal not with violence but with limiting freedom of expression," John Ralston Saul, president of PEN International, said in a news conference in Istanbul.

"The current situation creates an atmosphere of uncertainty and fear which then leads to self-censorship and the limitation of freedom of expression."



"Never make a concession from the truth"

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PEN: Anti-Terror Law defining offenses too broadly

16:29 15.11.2012

NEWS CENTER (DIHA) - In a meeting today with a PEN International delegation including English PEN director Jo Glanville, President Abdullah Gül expressed his personal commitment to free speech. Responding to PEN's concerns over a rising number of writers, journalists and publishers in prison or on trial in Turkey, the president assured the delegation that he has been following the cases closely.

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'Anti-Terror Law defining offenses too broadly'

The delegation conveyed to the president PEN's specific concerns about Turkey's Anti-Terror Law, which defines offenses too broadly and is applied inconsistently and often against those who have not supported, plotted, or carried out acts of terrorism or violence.

PEN International president John Ralston Saul said after the meeting. "As for our colleagues who are in prison in Turkey, we hope that today's meeting will help speed their release."

"This meeting will contribute to democratization in Turkey," said Tarik Günersel, President of PEN Turkey and one of 20 representatives from around the PEN world who are in Turkey this week to raise PEN's concerns.

http://www.ifex.org/turkey/2012/11/21/call_for_legal_reform/

Free expression concerns in Turkey overshadow positive developments, says PEN International

Source: **Writers in Prison Committee, PEN International**



PEN held a press conference in Ankara on 15 November, the Day of the Imprisoned Writer to highlight cases of jailed Turkish journalists, writers, translators and publishers

PEN International

(WiPC/IFEX) - Istanbul, 15 November 2012 - A



delegation of writers from PEN International today called on the government of Turkey to take "quick and concrete action" to reverse an alarming rise in the number of writers, journalists, translators and publishers who are in prison or on trial in the country. Speaking at a press conference today in Istanbul, PEN International president John Ralston Saul warned that positive political and economic developments are being overshadowed by concerns about the freedom to write in Turkey.

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http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/news/international/Turkish_press_crackdown_creating_climate_of_fear_-_watchdog.html?cid=33970466



Nov 15, 2012 - 20:54

Turkish press crackdown creating climate of fear - watchdog

Turkey's Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan attends the opening session of the 28th session of the COMCEC in Istanbul (reuters,tickers)

By Ayla Jean Yackley

ISTANBUL (Reuters) - Turkey's widespread use of anti-terrorism laws has led to criminal cases against more than 100 journalists and created a climate of fear that is undermining recent democratic reforms, a media watchdog said on Thursday.

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"The current situation creates an atmosphere of uncertainty and fear which then leads to self-censorship and the limitation of freedom of expression."

Between 60 and 70 members of the press are in jail during their trials, and another 60 to 70 journalists are on trial but are not in custody, PEN said.

That compares with 800 writers, journalists, bloggers and other media workers in prison or at risk of being jailed worldwide, it said.

The trials threaten to undermine the expansion of democratic rights Erdogan ushered in during his first term in office, many aimed at meeting European Union membership criteria, Saul said.

GROWING CRITICISM

Once hailed as a reformer by the EU and other observers, Erdogan more recently has faced accusations of taking an authoritarian approach towards his political opponents.

For his part, Erdogan has argued that the mass trials of hundreds of people, including journalists, accused of plotting to overthrow his government has helped stabilise NATO-member Turkey, which is enjoying unprecedented economic prosperity.

Most of the journalists Turkey has imprisoned are accused of links with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). More than 40,000 people have been killed in the conflict between Turkey and the PKK, which launched its insurgency in 1984 and seeks greater autonomy for the country's estimated 15 million ethnic Kurds.

The PEN criticism followed last month's EU progress report on Turkey which spoke of an "increasing tendency to imprison journalists", and a report from the U.S.-based Committee to Protect Journalists which said Erdogan's government was carrying out one of the world's biggest crackdowns against press freedom.

The number of writers, publishers and journalists prosecuted in Turkey has roughly tripled since 2010, said Sara Whyatt, PEN International's deputy director.

The PEN delegation met Turkish President Abdullah Gul, who expressed hope the situation would be resolved, Saul said.

16 November

Türkiye'ye müdahale için en doğru an bu - ÖZGÜN ÖZÇER -

16.11.2012



PEN Başkanı Saul, açlık grevi eylemlerini “ifade özgürlüğünün bir parçası” olarak nitelendirdi: İster onaylayın ister onaylamayın ciddi bir eylemdir, saygı gösterilmeli

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İNGİLİZCE KONUŞMANIN TAM ZAMANI! NASIL MI TIKLAYINI!

Uluslararası PEN'in 2009'dan beri başkanlığını yapan Kanadalı John Ralston Saul, küreselleşme, ifade özgürlüğünün toplumdaki rolü gibi konularda çok sayıda denemeleri olan bir sosyolog. Saul, romanlarında da toplumsal konuları işlemeyi ihmal etmiyor. Tutuklu gazeteci ve yazarlarla ilgili çeşitli temaslarda bulunmak üzere Türkiye'ye gelen Saul, dün İstanbul'da düzenlediği basın toplantısının ardından Taraf'ın sorularını yanıtladı.

Türkiye'ye bugüne kadarki en büyük çıkartmanızı yaptığınızı söylediniz. Ama sonuçta burası zaafı olsa da demokratik bir ülke. Çelişkili değil mi sizce?

Farklı tarihî dönemler vardır. Bir ülke önemli ilerlemeler kaydediyordur. Sonra aniden bir şeyler ters gitmeye başlar. İşte o an müdahale etmek çok önemlidir. Biz de Türkiye'nin tarihî bir dönüm noktasında olduğunu düşünüyoruz.

PEN: Türkiye hızla geriye gidiyor

Dünya Yazarlar Birliği PEN, 15 Kasım Tutuklu Yazarları Anma Günü nedeniyle, Türkiye'deki tutuklu yazar ve gazetecilere dikkat çekmek amacıyla dün Cezayir Restoran'da bir basın toplantısı düzenledi.

Cumhuriyet



9



2



Takip et: @cumhuriyetgzt

Meltem Yılmaz- Dünya Yazarlar Birliği PEN, 15 Kasım Tutuklu Yazarları Anma Günü nedeniyle, Türkiye'deki tutuklu yazar ve gazetecilere dikkat çekmek amacıyla dün Cezayir Restoran'da bir basın toplantısı düzenledi.

Aralarında ABD, İngiltere, Japonya, İsviçre, Lübnan ve Kanada'nın da bulunduğu ülkelerden 20 PEN üyesinin katıldığı toplantıda, KCK davasında tutuklu yargılanan yayıncı Ragıp Zarakolu ile Oda TV davasında tutuklu yargılanan Ahmet Şık da izleyici olarak bulundu.

Toplantının açılış konuşmasını yapan PEN Türkiye Merkezi Başkanı Tarık Günersel, PEN'in 91 yıllık tarihinde ilk kez bir ülkede 20 kişilik delegasyon ile bulunduğu dikkat çekerek, **"Bu durumun üzerinde düşünülmesi gerektiği kanısındayız"** dedi.

PEN Uluslararası Başkanı John Ralston Saul ise, Türkiye'nin son iki yılda ifade özgürlüğü alanında bir hızla geriye gittiğini söyledi. Saul, **"PEN, birkaç yıl, Türkiye'de hapiste tutulan ya da sonu gelmeyen hukuk dehlizlerinde olan yazarların sayısında azalmaya tanık oldu.**



WORLD

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Turkey's media crackdown 'creates fear'

AYLA JEAN YACKLEY



Last updated 09:11 16/11/2012

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Reuters

Turkey's Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan.

Turkey's widespread use of anti-terrorism laws has led to criminal cases against more than 100 journalists and created a climate of fear that is undermining recent democratic reforms, a media watchdog says.

Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's government is also exerting "heavy pressure" on the judiciary to keep journalists in custody before and during their trials, London-based PEN International said.

The main focus of Turkey's anti-terrorism laws has been militant separatist activities, but the government has faced growing criticism from the European Union, which Turkey seeks to join, and others for applying the laws too widely.

"No situation of violence justifies a broad, badly defined anti-terror law which is used to deal not with violence but with limiting freedom of expression," John Ralston Saul, president of PEN International, said in a news conference in Istanbul.

TURKISHNEWS.COM

<http://www.turkishnews.com/en/content/2012/11/16/canadians-in-istanbul-denouncing-anti-terrorist-laws-urging-press-freedom/>

Canadians in Istanbul denouncing anti-terrorist laws, urging press freedom

<http://www.turkishnews.com/en/content/2012/11/16/canadians-in-istanbul-denouncing-anti-terrorist-laws-urging-press-freedom/>

November 26, 2012

Newruz Kirkay's husband, Kenan, has been in jail for 11 months and on a hunger-strike for 42 days. The 33-year-old said her husband, a journalist, was only detained because he is Kurdish. On Nov. 14 a high-level PEN delegation visited Turkey to protest the plight of detained writers.

Michelle Shephard

National Security Reporter



ISTANBUL, TURKEY—Newruz Kirkaya says the last time she spoke with her husband he was the one reassuring her, despite the 11 months he has spent in jail without trial and 42 days without food to protest his detention.

"He told me, 'I'm losing weight but it's OK.' I think he was trying to prepare me psychologically for this," she said one night this week, as she wrapped her hands around a cup of tea.

"This is an attack on our personal lives and it's all about our ethnic identity."

Kenan Kirkaya is a Kurdish reporter and one of dozens of writers and journalists being tried for



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Ceylanpınar'da kitleye müdahale



2 PKK'li yaşamını yitirdi iddiası

Anasayfaya Dön

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06 Temmuz 2012 Cuma 11:30

Dubious Theft Overshadows IPA, PEN Representatives' Court Visit

Representatives of the International Publishers Association (IPA) and PEN International who arrived in Turkey to monitor the ongoing Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK) trial met with a dubious surprise when they found out their files pertaining to the inve



Representatives of the International Publishers Association (IPA) and PEN International who arrived in Istanbul's Silivri district to watch the ongoing Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK) trial met with a dubious surprise when they realized that their files pertaining to the trial had been stolen from their automobile despite the presence of gendarmerie troops 15 meters away.

Bjorn Smith-Simonsen, the chair of IPA's Freedom to Publish Committee, **Alexis Krikorian**, the IPA's Freedom to Publish Director, **Sara Whyatt**, the director of PEN's Writers in Prison Committee, and PEN International's Deputy Chair **Eugene Schougin** arrived in Istanbul to monitor the trial and show their solidarity with the writers, journalists and publishers facing charges within the scope of the KCK probe.

18 November

HUMANRIGHTSHOUSE.ORG – HUMAN RIGHTS HOUSE

<http://humanrightshouse.org/noop/page.php?p=Articles/18862.html&print=1>

PEN delegation in Turkey: promises are no consolation for our colleagues in prison

This week a delegation of 20 PEN members from around the world, including English PEN director Jo Glanville, met with the Turkish President Abdullah Gül, Minister for European Union Affairs Egemen Bağış and president of the Human Rights Association Öztürk Türkođan. The delegation called for release and reform of laws stifling Turkey's writers, publishers, translators, and journalists.

HRH London, based on English PEN press releases. - Published: Sunday, 18 November 2012

PEN members from Japan, Switzerland, Lebanon, the United States, Turkey, Norway, Canada, and the United Kingdom in the meetings with Turkey's officials "conveyed the seriousness and urgency of PEN's concern over the **rising tide of trials** of their colleagues in Turkey".



On 13 November the delegation met with the President Abdullah Gül. The President expressed his personal commitment to free speech and assured the delegation that he has been following the cases of imprisoned writers, journalists and publishers closely.

President: these concerns cast a shadow over our progress

"There are many good things unfolding in Turkey, but these concerns cast a shadow over the progress we are achieving", the president told PEN. "They also have international repercussions. These developments deeply sadden me, and as President, I more than anyone else want to see that they are resolved and no longer on the country's agenda".

The PEN delegation presented the president with an outline of PEN's concerns, including key cases of writers, journalists, and publishers who are either in prison or on trial in Turkey.

PEN requested that the government immediately review all such cases to ensure that no one is being penalized for the legitimate exercise of the right to peaceful freedom of expression, and release all those currently detained, imprisoned, or facing prosecution in violation of this right.

Anti-Terror Law needs to be reformed

The delegation conveyed to the president PEN's specific concerns about Turkey's Anti-Terror Law, which defines offenses too broadly and is applied inconsistently and often against those who have not supported, plotted, or carried out acts of terrorism or violence.

The PEN members underlined that reforms to Turkey's Anti-Terror Law are needed, to clearly distinguish between incitement to violence and the expression of non-violent, if controversial, ideas and an end to lengthy pre-trial detentions and legal proceedings that can drag on for years.

President Gül reiterated his belief that the best way to combat and isolate terrorism is to raise the standards of democracy, and argued that "terrorist groups are uneasy about democratic reforms in Turkey, and that they increase terrorist acts to undermine this process".

ISTANBULIAN BLOG

<http://istanbulian.blogspot.ca/>

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2012

PEN President Saul: You Can't Leave Police Officers or Prosecutors Leeway to Interpret the Laws

John Ralston Saul, President of PEN International is in Istanbul. He will leave tomorrow.

He led a delegation of twenty PEN members, which is a historical record for this respected organization, to visit Turkey in order to support the jailed journalists. Eight of those journalists are PEN members.

In Ankara, the PEN delegation met President Abdullah Gul, as well as EU Minister Egemen Bagis.

I had a [brief interview](#) with Mr. Saul three days ago in Istanbul and asked about his impressions. His speech was nothing short of a great lecture on the importance of the freedom of expression.

So, here it is:



The image shows a SoundCloud player interface. On the left is a square thumbnail image of a man with dark hair, wearing a light blue shirt and a dark tie, looking directly at the camera. To the right of the image is the audio player. At the top right of the player, the name 'Emre Kizilkaya' is displayed, followed by the title 'Interview with PEN Presiden...'. Below the title is a waveform visualization of the audio. At the bottom of the player, there is a play button icon, the number '8', and the SoundCloud logo.

19 November



- » Veranstaltungskalender
- » Salon Exil
- » Reden
- » Aktuelle Liste der verfolgten Autoren und Journalisten
- » Archiv 2011
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- » Archiv 2007
- » Archiv 2006

19.11.2012 - PEN International trifft türkischen Präsidenten Abdullah Gül

TÜRKISCHER PRÄSIDENT GEGENÜBER PEN INTERNATIONAL : VERSTÖSSE GEGEN REDEFREIHEIT WERFEN SCHATTEN AUF FORTSCHRITTE DER TÜRKEI

ANKARA, 13. NOVEMBER 2012: Anlässlich eines Treffens mit einer Delegation von PEN International brachte Präsident Abdullah Gül sein persönliches Engagement für das Recht auf freie Meinungsäußerung zum Ausdruck. Angesprochen auf die Besorgnis von PEN angesichts der zunehmenden Anzahl inhaftierter oder vor Gericht gestellter Schriftsteller, Journalisten und Herausgeber versicherte der Präsident den Delegationsmitgliedern, dass er diese Fälle sehr genau im Auge behalte.

"Viele Dinge entwickeln sich in der Türkei zum Guten, aber diese Verfahren werfen einen Schatten auf den Fortschritt, den die Türkei ansonsten erzielt," sagte der Präsident gegenüber PEN. "Sie zeigen auch internationale Auswirkungen. Solche Entwicklungen machen mich sehr traurig und als Präsident habe ich am allermeisten Interesse daran, dass Lösungen gefunden werden und diese Probleme nicht länger auf der Traktandenliste der Türkei erscheinen."

Die zwölköpfige PEN-Delegation überreichte dem Präsidenten eine Übersicht über die Anliegen ihres Verbandes, darunter eine Dokumentation zu den wichtigsten Fällen von bedrängten Schriftstellern, Journalisten und Herausgebern in der Türkei, die entweder im Gefängnis sind oder vor Gericht stehen. PEN hat die türkische Regierung ersucht, alle derartigen Fälle unverzüglich zu überprüfen und sicherzustellen, dass niemand für die legale Ausübung des Rechtes auf friedliche Meinungsäußerung bestraft werde, und dass alle zur Zeit wegen der Ausübung dieses Rechtes in Untersuchungshaft, im Gefängnis oder unter Strafverfolgung stehenden Personen freigelassen werden, bzw. das Verfahren gegen sie eingestellt werde.

Die Delegation sprach mit dem Präsidenten auch über PENs Beunruhigung bezüglich des türkischen Anti-Terror-Gesetzes. Dieses fasse die möglichen Vergehen zu weit und werde zudem uneinheitlich angewendet, und zwar oft gegen Personen, die keinerlei terroristischen Taten oder Gewaltakte unterstützt, geplant oder ausgeführt hätten. Präsident Gül brachte daraufhin erneut seine Überzeugung zum Ausdruck, dass die Stärkung der demokratischen Rechte der beste Weg sei, um den Terrorismus zu bekämpfen und zu isolieren.

"Die Tatsache, dass Präsident Gül die negativen Auswirkungen von Verstößen gegen die Redefreiheit auf die Türkei und ihre Zukunft anerkennt, ist sehr wichtig. Besonders ermutigt waren wir von seinem persönlichen Engagement für freie Meinungsäußerung und für die Stärkung der Grundrechte als das wirksamste Mittel gegen den Terrorismus", sagte John Ralston Saul, Präsident von PEN International, im Anschluss an das Treffen. "Wir hoffen, dass diese Begegnung zu einer rascheren Freilassung unserer in der Türkei inhaftierten Kolleginnen und Kollegen beitragen wird."

"Dieses Treffen wird einen Beitrag zur weiteren Demokratisierung der Türkei leisten", meinte Tarik Günersel, seines Zeichens Präsident von PEN Türkei und einer der Vertreter von PEN International, die sich diese Woche in der Türkei trafen, um die Besorgnis von PEN über die Lage der Freiheit des Wortes dort zum Ausdruck zu bringen. "Präsident Gül versteht und unterstützt unsere Anliegen in Bezug auf die Menschenrechte und speziell auf das Recht der freien Meinungsäußerung in der Türkei."

Die Delegation von PEN International traf sich in Ankara mit Politikern, Behördenvertretern und Diplomaten. In Istanbul standen Treffen mit Schriftstellern und Verlegern auf dem Programm.

21 November

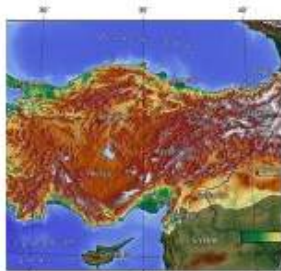


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PEN Gives Support To Jailed Writers In Turkey

NOVEMBER 21, 2012 10:41 PM



Map of Turkey. Image: Captainblood

In some countries, people aren't allowed to say anything bad about their government. They don't have "freedom of expression."

Some writers who have spoken out against their governments have been put in jail by those governments.

Fortunately, there's a group called PEN International, which defends freedom of expression. PEN International fights for the rights of writers around the world.

Last week, PEN International went to Turkey. The group was led by Canadian author John Ralson Saul, the president of PEN International.

They met with Turkish President Abdullah Gül to show their concern for writers and journalists in Turkish prisons.

PEN asked the Turkish government to consider shortening jail time for prisoners before their trials. This period can often last for years. Another problem is that prisoners aren't able to see their lawyers quickly. According to one report in *The Toronto Star*, one man has been kept from talking to his lawyer for over a year.

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25 November



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'Tehlikeli Sözcükler'

Bugün TÜYAP Kitap Fuarı'nın son günü... Fuarda uluslararası PEN'le birlikte düzenlediğimiz panellerden birini de ben yönetiyordum. Panelimizin konusu benden çıkmıştı. Bugün birçok insanımız, kullandıkları, yazdıkları, söyledikleri sözcükler nedeniyle cezalandırılıyor ülkemde. Demek ki sözcükler tehlikeli...

"Tehlikeli Sözcükler" başlığı, programa, "Tehlikeli Kelimeler" diye yansıdı. O panelde vurgulanan birkaç noktayı paylaşmak istiyorum:

Öcü komünist-silahsız terörist

Uluslararası PEN Başkanı John R. Soul'a göre, hükümetler her zaman ama her zaman tehlikeli bir sözcük bulur. Hükümetler bu tehlikeyi işleye işleye, yaygınlaştırır; önündeki 15-20 yıla yayar; kamuya benimsetir; yandaş hükümetlere telkin eder, onlar da bunu kabullenir... Bir kez bu süreç ve mekanizma işlemeye başladı mı, geri dönüşü yoktur; hükümet istediğini yapmak için o tehlikeli sözcüğü kullanarak düşmanı belirlemiştir artık!

John Soul örnek olarak geçmişten "Komünizm" sözcüğü; günümüzden "terörizm" sözcüğünü verdi ve "terörist" kelimesinin yeniden tanımlanması; doğru, kesin ve şeffaf tanımlanması gerektiğini belirtti. (Ben içimden: Benim ülkemde "Komünist, Che Guevara, Deniz Gezmiş" hâlâ çok tehlikeli sözcükler; hapislerde eline silah almamış terörist gani gani...)

Ne değil, kim söyledi?

PEN Başkan Yardımcısı Eugene Schougin, Türkiye'yi yakından tanıyan bir yazar. Bizdeki tabuların çokluğundan yakındıktan sonra çok doğru bir noktayı vurguladı:

Türkiye'de onun aklının ermediği konu şuydu: Bir sorunu bakanlar, Başbakan dile getirirse hiçbir sorun olmuyordu da aynı sorunu aynı