

To
Minister of Justice Bekir Bozdağ
Ministry of Justice
Adalet Bakanlığı, 06659 Ankara
Türkiye

Oslo, February 24th 2023

Your Excellency Minister of Justice of Türkiye,

The Norwegian Writers in Prison Committee is deeply concerned about the situation of sociologist and writer Pınar Selek. She has been on a decades-long trial over charges for which she has already been acquitted by courts of law four times – in 2006, 2008, 2011 and 2014. Now, another trial has been opened against her, and a first hearing before the Istanbul Criminal Court has been set for 31 March 2023. The Committee will ask that the charges against Selek are dismissed, since she has already been found innocent four times.

PEN International believes that Pınar Selek's prosecution is linked to her work as a sociologist focusing on minority rights and Kurdish communities, and that she is being pursued through the courts as a means of penalising her for her legitimate research and commentary.

We call on the authorities of Türkiye to end the decades-long harassment of Selek and to unconditionally drop all charges against her.

Yours sincerely,

Elisabeth Solberg Holm
Member of Writers in Prison Committee
PEN Norway

COPY:
The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Embassy of Türkiye in Norway