

Network of Concerned Historians				NCH
Campaigns				
Year original	Year follow-up	Circular	Country	Names
2011		68	Turkey	<i>Büşra Ersanlı (and others)</i>
	2013			<i>follow-up 5</i>
	2012			<i>follow-up 4</i>
	2012			<i>follow-up 3</i>
	2011			<i>follow-up 2</i>
	2011			<i>follow-up 1</i>

### *Announcement*

Scholars at Risk (SAR) has sent a new call for action regarding the upcoming trial of Büşra Ersanlı (a professor of constitutional law, political scientist and historian at Marmara University in Istanbul, Turkey). We hope again that you can send the recommended urgent appeal immediately. Please remember to write in your professional capacity.

\*\* For the call, see below.

\*\* For a model letter of appeal, see:

<http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Education-Advocacy/Alerts-Scholars-in-Prison.php>

\*\* For a pdf-friendly version of this text, see:

<http://www.concernedhistorians.org/ca/68f5.pdf>

\*\* For an overview of five previous calls (2011–2012) on behalf of Büşra Ersanlı, see:

<http://www.concernedhistorians.org/content/ca.html>

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### **Scholars at Risk calls for letters on behalf of Professor Büşra Ersanlı of Turkey**

May 14, 2013

In advance of her upcoming May 27th trial, SAR calls for letters on behalf of Professor Büşra Ersanlı, a professor of political science at Marmara University in Istanbul, Turkey.

SAR asks for letters, faxes and emails respectfully urging the appropriate authorities to intervene in Professor Ersanlı's case, to ensure that any charges stemming from conduct protected under international

human rights instruments are dismissed, and to ensure that the trial on any charges not dismissed proceeds in a manner consistent with Turkey's obligations under domestic and international law, in particular internationally recognized standards of due process and fair trial procedures.

Scholars at Risk is an international network of over 320 higher education institutions in 35 countries dedicated to promoting academic freedom and constituent freedoms of thought, opinion, expression, association and travel. In cases like that of Professor Ersanlı, involving alleged infringement of these freedoms, Scholars at Risk intervenes hoping to clarify and resolve matters favorably.

SAR understands that Professor Ersanlı serves as a member of the constitutional commission of Peace and Democracy Party (BDP), a political party. Professor Ersanlı and dozens of others were arrested on October 28, 2011 in Istanbul during a police operation that appears to have targeted the BDP, and on November 1, 2011 Professor Ersanlı was charged with "membership of a terrorist organization" under Turkey's Anti Terror Law, a charge which reflects the authorities' allegation that the BDP is linked to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) which is banned in Turkey and designated a terrorist organization by multiple countries. SAR understands that the BDP publicly disavows this allegation. We are not aware of any allegation that Professor Ersanlı is a member directly in the PKK or otherwise associated with the PKK. We understand that the charge against her stems only from her work on the intra-party constitutional commission of the BDP. Professor Ersanlı was released on July 13, 2012, pending the remainder of her trial, which we understand will resume on May 27, 2013.

Absent any additional or contrary information which will help us to understand the situation more fully, the facts appear to indicate that Professor Ersanlı was arrested and charged as a result of nonviolent expressive activity and association with others, conduct which is expressly protected under international human rights instruments including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Turkey is a signatory, and the European Convention on Human Rights, to which Turkey is party.

Scholars at Risk therefore respectfully urges the appropriate authorities to intervene in Professor Ersanlı's case, to ensure that any charges stemming from conduct protected under these instruments are dismissed, and to ensure that the trial on any charges not dismissed proceeds in a manner consistent with Turkey's obligations under domestic and international law, in particular internationally recognized standards of due process and fair trial procedures.

**SCHOLARS AT RISK INVITES LETTERS, EMAILS AND FAXES BE SENT:**

**\*\*respectfully urging the appropriate authorities to intervene in Professor Ersanlı's case, to ensure that any charges stemming from conduct protected under international human rights instruments are dismissed; and**

**\*\*respectfully urging the appropriate authorities to ensure that the trial on any charges not dismissed proceeds in a manner consistent with Turkey's obligations under domestic and international law, in particular internationally recognized standards of due process and fair trial procedures.**

**PLEASE WRITE TO:**

President Abdullah Gül

**\*\*Office of the President**

**\*\*Cumhurbaşkanlığı Genel Sekreterliği**

**\*\*06689 Çankaya**

**\*\*Ankara, Turkey**

**\*\*Fax: +90 312 470 13 16**

**\*\*Email: cumhurbaskanligi@tccb.gov.tr**

**COPIES TO:**

Mr. Sadullah Ergin

**\*\*Minister of Justice**

**\*\*06669 Kizilay**

**\*\*Ankara, Turkey**

**\*\*Fax: +90 312 419 3370**

The Honorable Navanethem Pillay

**\*\*United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**\*\*Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**\*\*Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland**

The Honorable John F. Kerry

**\*\*United States Secretary of State**

**\*\*U.S. Department of State**

**\*\*2201 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20520, USA**

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_

Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to [YOUR COUNTRY]

\*\* [POSTAL ADDRESS]

\*\* [FAX]

\*\* [EMAIL]

(See <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkish-representations.en.mfa> for a list of Turkish embassies worldwide.)

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_

Ambassador of [YOUR COUNTRY] to the Republic of Turkey

\*\* [POSTAL ADDRESS]

\*\* [FAX]

\*\* [EMAIL]

*To view a model letter of appeal, as well as a copy of SAR's letter, please visit:*

*<http://scholarsatrisk.nyu.edu/Education-Advocacy/Alerts-Scholars-in-Prison.php>.*