

Network of Concerned Historians				NCH
Campaigns				
Year original	Year follow-up	Circular	Country	Names
2013		71	Turkey	<i>Ayşe Berktaş</i>

Announcement

In early October 2011, **Ayşe Berktaş**, an author and translator of historical works and a woman's activist in Turkey, was arrested as part of a crackdown related to the pro-Kurdish legal Party for Peace and Democracy (BDP). PEN International, the Initiative for Free Expression in Turkey, PEN American Center and the International Freedom of Expression Exchange have launched a petition for her release.

Among Ayşe Berktaş's works are *History and Society: New Perspectives* (2008), *The Ottoman Empire and the World Around* (with Suraiya Faroqhi; 2007); among her translations are *The Imperial Harem: Gender and Power in the Ottoman Empire, 1520–1656*, by Leslie Penn Pierce, and *The Ottoman Empire, 1700–1922*, by Donald Quataert. Over the past decade, Berktaş conducted work at the History Trust, where she was part of the Prime Minister's Advisory Board on Human Rights; the Women's Human Rights Trust; the Compatriots for Peace Initiative; the Truth Behind Diyarbakir Prison Research and Justice Commission; and the Women for Peace Initiative.

**** Please sign the petition in your professional capacity at:**

http://ifex.org/turkey/2013/05/06/free_ayse_petition/

**** Information on the historical work of Ayşe Berktaş:**

<http://www.pen.org/defending-writers/ay%C5%9Fe-berktay>

P.S. In the same case, the following are also involved: **Büşra Ersanlı** (political scientist, constitutional law expert, historian), who was released pending trial (see <http://www.concernedhistorians.org/content/ca.html>), and **Aziz Tunc** (a historian, human rights and author of *Anatomy and Background to the Marash Massacre*, working on *Marash History and Multiculturalism* [The Marash massacre refers to massacre of Kurdish Alevis by ultranationalist militants in 1978] when arrested).