

Network of Concerned Historians (NCH)				
Campaigns				
Year original	Year follow-up	Circular	Country	Names
2011		68	Turkey	<i>Büşra Ersanlı</i>
	2011			<i>follow-up 1</i>

Announcement

PEN International has sent an update regarding the arrest of Büşra Ersanlı, a professor of political science, a constitutional law expert and a historian at Marmara University in Istanbul, and others. Ersanlı, author of the book “Peace and History,” was formally charged under the Anti Terror Law today. Please see below for this new development. We hope that you can send the recommended urgent appeal immediately. Please remember to write in your professional capacity.

PEN INTERNATIONAL (RAPID ACTION NETWORK)

1 November 2011

RAN 56/11, Update #1

TURKEY: WRITER AND ACADEMIC RAGIP ZARAKOLU FORMALLY CHARGED ALONGSIDE PROFESSOR BÜŞRA ERSANLI

The Writers in Prison Committee of PEN International has learned that writer, academic and publisher Ragip Zarakolu has today been formally charged under the Anti Terror Law, alongside Professor Büşra Ersanlı. PEN has received further details that lead it to fear that the charges are related to the exercise of their right to freedom of expression.

As reported by PEN on 31 October, Zarakolu was arrested alongside Professor Büşra Ersanlı as part of mass arrests two days earlier. PEN understands that Zarakolu has been charged with “membership of an illegal organisation”—reportedly related to a speech he made at an event by the pro-Kurdish

Peace and Democracy (BDP) party, and articles published in the newspaper Ögür Gündem (Free Agenda). He has reportedly filed an appeal. However, Zarakolu faces months in pre-trial detention if this is unsuccessful. PEN International is seeking further details in relation to his detention.

This afternoon, Zarakolu and Ersanlı were taken to the Istanbul Courthouse. Bianet.org reports that during their hearing hundreds of people gathered outside the courthouse in protest. They allegedly held copies of Ersanlı's book 'Peace and History' and chanted slogans demanding their release. Over 40 other individuals who were also arrested on 28 October 2011 were taken to the hearing and subsequently detained pending investigations.

BACKGROUND:

Please see yesterday's appeal at: www.concernedhistorians.org/ca/68.pdf

PLEASE SEND APPEALS:

****Condemning the charges against Ragip Zarakolu and Professor Büşra Ersanlı which appear to have resulted from their exercise of their right to free expression, and calling for their immediate release.**

SEND APPEALS TO:

****Mr Sadullah Ergin**

****Minister of Justice**

****06669 Kizilay**

****Ankara**

****Turkey**

****Fax: 00 90 312 419 3370**

Also to the Turkish ambassador in your country.

****Please contact NCH if sending appeals after 30 November 2011****