

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

PEN International has sent a new update regarding the arrest of Büşra Ersanlı (a professor of constitutional law and a historian at Marmara University in Istanbul), Ragip Zarakolu (a publisher) and others. Büşra Ersanlı has been released pending trial. We hope again that you can send the recommended urgent appeal immediately. Please remember to write in your professional capacity.

PEN INTERNATIONAL RAPID ACTION NETWORK

16 July 2012—RAN 56/11 Update #6

TURKEY: Büsra Ersanlı Freed Pending Trial

From the day that the prosecutor ruled my detention, until now, everything has been upside down. I am speechless and now going back to Silivri [prison] to pack my bag – Büsra Ersanlı

Büşra Ersanlı, university professor and political scientist, was among 16 people freed on 13 July on the closure of the first hearing of the Union of Communities in Kurdistan (Koma Civaken Kurdistan – KCK) case held in a court in Silivri prison, outside Istanbul. However the trial continues, resuming on 1 October, and it is likely to go on for some months. While welcoming Ersanlı's release, PEN International's Writers in Prison Committee remains concerned that writers, academics and journalists charged in this case are being tried in violation of their rights to non-violent freedom of expression and association. These are principles to which the Turkish government is committed as a signatory to the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Over 200 people are being tried in the KCK trial, half of whom remain in prison. Among the defendants are writers, journalists and academics. These include publisher and human rights activist, Ragıp Zarakolu; university professor and political scientist, Büşra Ersanlı; and translator and academic, Ayşe Berktaş. The three face sentences of 7.5 to 22.5 years in prison if found guilty as charged under the Anti Terror Law (ATL).

Ragıp Zarakolu, who has had a long history of legal battles with the Turkish authorities for his publications, is accused of “aiding and abetting an illegal organisation.” Ersanlı, who has written on minority rights in Turkey and has provided advice on constitutional issues to the pro-Kurdish Peace and Democracy Party (BDP), is accused of “leadership of an illegal organisation.” Berktaş, an academic and translator specialising in Kurdish issues, is accused of taking part in KCK’s “overseas operations” through her attendance at events, such as the World Social Forum and the European Network for Peace and Human Rights. All three were arrested in October 2011. Zarakolu was released pending trial in April 2012; Berktaş remains detained. Also still in prison in this case is Deniz Zarakolu, an academic and translator, and son of Ragıp Zarakolu.

For more information on these cases and the KCK trial please see the PEN International website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:

** *Hurriyet Daily News*

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/16-released-out-of-140-in-alleged-terror-case.aspx?pageID=238&nID=25481&NewsCatID=338>

** Busra Ersanlı speaks to the press on her release (in Turkish)

<http://webtv.hurriyet.com.tr/2/35142/0/1/busra-ersanli-cezaevinden-cikti.aspx>

PLEASE SEND APPEALS:

** Welcoming the release pending trial of Büsra Ersanlı

** Expressing regret that she was not freed unconditionally;

** Expressing concern that Professor Büşra Ersanlı, translator Ayşe Berktaş, publisher Ragıp Zarakolu and Zarakolu's son, Deniz Zarakolu and other writers and journalists are similarly being tried because of their alleged affiliation with Kurdish political parties.

Referring to concerns that these detentions and trials flout international standards protecting the rights to freedom of expression and association as guaranteed by both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the European Convention on Human and Democratic Rights, to which Turkey is a signatory.

SEND APPEALS TO:

Mr Sadullah Ergin

**Minister of Justice

**06669 Kızılay

**Ankara

**Turkey

**Fax: 00 90 312 419 3370

**Email: sadullahergin@adalet.gov.tr

Also to the Turkish ambassador in your country.

Please contact the Network of Concerned Historians (antoondebaets@concernedhistorians.org) if sending appeals after 1 October 2012