

TAKE ACTION: Please cut and paste this letter onto your personal or Institutional letterhead urging that the Turkish government abolish Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code immediately.

October 18, 2007

President A Gül
President of the Republic of Turkey
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Ankara, Turkey
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Dear Mr. President,

As a member of PEN Canada, the Canadian centre of the international writers' organization, I am encouraged by the news that you are seriously considering the repeal of Article 301. However, I share PEN Canada's deep concern that arrests and sentences under Article 301 have not stopped.

I refer specifically to the following cases:

- On 11 October 2007, the Sisli Criminal Court in Istanbul sentenced **Arat Dink**, editor of the Armenian Turkish magazine, *Agos*, and the magazine's licence owner, **Sarkis Serkopyan** to one-year suspended prison terms for "insult to Turkishness."
- On 27 September, writer **Umur Hoztali** was convicted to a six month prison sentence, commuted to a fine of around 1,770 Euros.
- PEN Canada Honorary Member publisher **Ragıp Zarakolu**, was in court in October for the 12th hearing of a 2005 case for publishing George Jerjian's *History Will Set Us Free: Turkish-Armenian Conciliation*. The next hearing is set for 5 December 2007.

I join with my colleagues at PEN Canada, International PEN, Article 19 and the International Publishers Association in urging you to **abolish Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code immediately** and to stop the detentions and trials of writers and journalists simply for the expression of their views.

Turkey has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Turkey has an international legal obligation to respect and uphold the right to freedom of expression enshrined in both documents.

Sincerely,
[your name and address]

Copies to:

Prime Minister Recep Yayıp Erdogan
Deputy Prime Minister - Cemil Çiçek (formerly Minister of Justice)
Deputy Prime Minister - Hayati Yazıcı
Deputy Prime Minister - Nazim Ekren
Minister for Justice - Mehmet Ali Şahin
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Please send copies of your appeal to the following Canadian authorities:

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