

TURKEY UPDATE

October 2, 2007.

1. PEN, Article 19 and IPA Issue Joint Statement Calling for 301 Repeal

2. Noted Writer and Editor Among Those Facing New 301 Charges

3. Trial against Hrant Dink's killers continues

Nine months after the 19 January murder of Armenian Turkish editor, Hrant Dink, writers, journalists and publishers continue to be tried under Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code, accused of insult to "Turkishness" and to Turkish institutions.

In a joint statement issued on 10 September 2007, International PEN, Article 19 and the International Publishers Association called for the abolition of Article 301, citing its adverse effect on the right to freedom of expression. See RAN #34.

Writer Perihan Magden and Editor Hasan Çakalkurt Among Those Facing New 301 Charges

The joint statement refers to 18 trials against 24 writers and journalists under Article 301 current as of July. More cases have been brought for prosecution since, notably against author **Perihan Magden** and newspaper editor **Hasan Çakalkurt**.

Perihan Magden is a well known author and commentator, who was acquitted last year of charges of encouraging military objection for an article that protested the imprisonment of a conscientious objector. In August charges were reportedly filed against her for an article published in *Radikal* that questioned the press embargo against reporting on the discovery of arms in a house in Istanbul. Editor in chief of the same newspaper, **Hasan Çakalkurt** is also threatened with prosecution under Article 301 for a piece in his newspaper containing a translation of a book *The Forgotten Holocaust* by British journalist, Robert Fisk, published in August, on the mass killings and deportations of Armenians in the early 20th century. Charges have also been filed against Çakalkurt for another article, this time with a translation from an article by American journalist Jeff Jacoby, also referring to the Armenian genocide, and published in August in the *Boston Globe*.

Trial against Hrant Dink's killers continues

The trial against Ogun Samast, the killer of Hrant Dink, and 17 others implicated in his murder, continues, with the next hearing set for 1 October. Lawyers representing Dink's family have protested the decision not to prosecute other police in the Trabzon region for "neglect of duty". These policemen had been aware of the plan to assassinate Hrant Dink as it was being planned by the group who carried out the killing, but had not taken action. After questioning the officers concerned, the Trabzon Governor's Office concluded that the police were "not at fault".

