

recherche internationale e.V.

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Merowingerstr. 5-7, D-50677 Köln

Merowingerstraße 5-7
D-50677 Köln
Tel. *49 - (0)221 - 31 70 91
Fax *49 - (0)221 - 331 87 52
Albrecht.Kieser@rjb-koeln.de

Press release 06

Doğan Akhanlı now imprisoned since 3 months Numerous prominents demand his release at International Writers in Prison Day



9 November 2010

At November 10 already 3 months have gone by since Doğan Akhanlı is in unjustified custody in Turkey.

With regard to the upcoming “Writers in Prison-Day” on November 15 (<http://www.writersinprison.org/>) which is drawing our attention towards the hundreds of detained authors numerous prominents have demanded the immediate release of Mr Akhanlı.

Amongst these prominents are the Nobel Prize Laureates Günter Grass and Orhan Pamuk and world-wide known writers and artists as Yaşar Kemal (winner of Turkish State Prize), Edgar Hilsenrath (winner of Alfred Döblin Prize and of Armenian National Prize for Literature), and Zülfi Zivaneli and Mikis Theodorakis (musicians).

The following signatories and organisations have declared their backing for an appeal “Freedom and Justice for Doğan Akhanlı” (http://gerechtigkeit-fuer-dogan-akhanli.de/blog/?page_id=294) and addressed the Turkish judiciary demanding to respect rule of law standards for the trial starting in Istanbul at 8 December and Mr Akhanli’s full rehabilitation:

Herbert Wiesner, General Secretary of the German PEN Centre; Johano Strasser, President of the of the German PEN Centre; Christa Schuenke, Vice-President and in charge of Writers in Prison of the German PEN Centre; Imre Török, Federal Chairman of the Union of German Writers (VS); Heinrich Bleicher-Nagelsmann, Federal Executive Director of the Union of German Writers (VS); Dr. Christian Staffa, Executive Director of Action Reconciliation Service for Peace (ARSP); Osman Okkan, Speaker of the Executive board of the Cultural Forums TurkeyGermany; Ilkay Yilmaz, Tüday, Human rights Association Tiurkey Germany; Memo Sahin, Speaker oh the European Peace Council Turkey/Kurdistan, Tessa Hofmann, Working Group Recognition. Against Genocide – Towards International Understanding e.V.; Ali

Ertem, Association of Opponents to Genocide, Frankfurt; Ulrich Klan, Board member of the International Armin T. Wegner Society; Martin Glasenapp, medico international; Rainer Huhle, Nürnberg Human Rights Centre; Bianca Schmolze, Coordinator of the internationalen Campaign against impunity, „Healing Justice“; Hajo Leib, Peter Liebermann, EL-DE-Haus Association, Cologne; Prof. Dr. Dietger Pforte, Chairman of the Anna Seghers Foundation; Angelika Ebbinghaus, Karl Heinz Roth, Social History Foundation, Bremen; Ursula Mende, Federal Executive Director of the Association of Democratic Jurists, Günter Wallraff, writer; Christian von Ditfurth, writer; Kadir Konuk, writer and journalist; Mark Terkessidis, author and journalist; Uwe Friesel, writer; Shelley Frisch, translator; Renate Wiggershaus, writer; Prof. Dr. Jürgen Baumann, literary scholar; Max Kruse, writer; Rainer Wedler, writer; Wolfgang Windhausen, poet and graphic artist; Andreas Rumler, author and journalist; Achim Bröger, youth and children's book writer; Dr. Dr. Hanh Nghi Bui, author; Regina Scheer, writer; Dr. Klaus Martens, author, University professor (em.); Matthias Mala, writer und illustrator; Alissa Walser, writer, painter and translator; Gerald Grünekle, publicist; Heinz G. Schmidt, author and journalist; Prof. Dr. Rajko Djuric, writer and literary scholar; Prof. Dr. Harro Zimmermann, literary scholar; Dr. Werner Rügemeier, publicist, business crime control; Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Schlüter; Muriel Mirak-Weissbach, writer and author; Necla Kelek, author; Pinar Selek, sociologist, author; Prof. Dr. Astrid Messerschmidt, educationalist; Prof. Dr. Erol Yildiz; Prof. Dr. Norbert Mecklenburg; Prof. Dr. Zehra Ipsiroglu et.al. at.al

For your questions please turn to Mr Albrecht Kieser (Albrecht.Kieser@rjb-koeln.de); Tel. 0049 178/903 99 98 (mobil) or 0049/ 221/ 31 70 91

We kindly request that you publish and circulate this press release.