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FÖRSVARAR DET FRIA ORDET
GRUNDAT 1922



● SVERIGES FÖRFATTARFÖRBUND

Minister of Justice Abdulhamit Gül
Ministry of Justice, Adalet Bakanlığı
06659 Ankara
Turkey

Stockholm 13 May 2019

Your Excellency,

We the undersigned organizations, Swedish Writers' Association, Swedish Publishers' Association and Swedish PEN, are seriously concerned about the fate of well-known writer, journalist and publisher, Ayşe Düzkan, who was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment in January 2018. It is our strong belief that Ayşe Düzkan was sentenced on trumped-up charges in grave violation of her fundamental right to freedom of expression.

The deteriorating situation for freedom of expression in Turkey is deeply worrying. With grave concern we are witnessing how scores of writers and journalists have been imprisoned, falsely charged with terrorism.

It is our strong conviction that freedom of opinion and expression make the necessary and unquestionable basis of a democratic society, such as it is written in the UN Declaration of Human Rights, article 19: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

We call on the Turkish authorities to end the persecution and detention of writers and journalists simply based on the content of their writing or alleged affiliation.

We call for the immediate and unconditional release of Ayşe Düzkan and all those held in prison for exercising their rights to freedom of opinion and expression.

Yours sincerely,

Grethe Rottböll
President
Swedish Writers' Association

Jesper Bengtsson
President
Swedish PEN

Eva Gedin
President
Swedish Publishers' Association