

**International PEN Writers in Prison Committee
“Defamation and Insult: Writers React”**

Turkey

List of writers, publishers and journalists on trial

November 2006

Trials under Article 301 – Denigrating Turkishness

Arif ASLAN and Mustafa SEVEN: editors placed under investigation in early November 2006 for possible charges of insult to the police and “influencing the course of justice” for an article on the killing of a child during a police shoot out.

Mustafa BALBAL: writer sentenced to 10 months in prison reduced to a fine in July 2006 for his book *Blood Flows from the Captive General on Mount Ararat* on an uprising in the Ararat region in the early 1900s.

Neval BARLAS and Enis TAYMAN: editor and journalist, on trial since March 2006 for an interview published in their newspaper with a Kurdish activist who referred to the Turkish army having occupied “Northern Kurdistan”.

Ahment Sami BELEK and Sahin BAYAR: newspaper owner and editor on trial on a number of charges, including under 301, for an article on the Semdinli Incident in November 2005 when a book store was bombed and government agents implicated.

Faruk ÇAKIR: editor on trial since July 2006 for an article on the killing of judge in May 2006 which claimed that the attack was linked to an extreme right group that had among its members retired military servicemen

Hrant DİNK and Sarkis SEROPYAN: editors of the Armenian language *Agos* magazine. Dink has had four cases under Article 301 against him, one of which resulted in a six months suspended sentence which he has brought for appeal to the European Court on Human Rights. He was acquitted on another. All relate to comments on the mass killings of Armenians by Turkish troops in the early 20th Century.

Ersen KORKMAZ: editor on trial since July 2005 and believed to be ongoing related to an article entitled “Turkey Towards May Day”.

Sirri ÖZTÜRK and Osman TIFTOKÇI: publisher and writer respectively. On trial in connection with Tiftokçı’s book *Osmanli dan Günümüze Ordunun Evrimi (The Evolution of the Army from the Ottomans to Today* seen to be “publicly degrading to the army”.

Murat PABUÇ: a former army officer on trial and acquitted in early 2006 in two cases of insult to the armed forces for his writings on military issues. Now on trial under Article 301 for a speech.

Fatih TAŞ: publisher, Aram Publishing House, who has several insult cases against him including for the Turkish translation of a book by US academic John Tirman and Noam Chomsky's *Manufacturing Consent*.

Taylan TOSUN, Amer Faruk KURHAN, Omer FARUK and Aysel YILDIRIM: editors and translators for the Aram Publishing House who are also on trial with Fatih Tas (see above) for translations of the works by John Tirman and Noam Chomsky.

Ali Rıza VURAL: publisher, Doz Publishing House, on trial since April 2006 for a book published in February 2003 entitled *Barzani and the Kurdish National Movement*.

Ragıp ZARAKOLU: publisher for Belge Publishing House has had several trials against him including two for publishing books by authors with Armenian backgrounds that explore Turkish Armenian relations of the early 19th Century.

Article 5816 – Insult to the Memory of Atatürk

Ipek ÇALISLAR and Necdet TATLICAN: author and editor in chief of *Hürriyet* on trial for Çalısar's biography of Atatürk's first wife, *Latife Hanım (Lady Latife)*.

Ahmet ÖNAL and Hüseyin BEYSULEN: publisher and author on trial for Beysulen's book *Alevism in Dersim* deemed to be insulting to the memory of Atatürk.

Mehmet Ali VARIS: owner of the Tohum Publishing House on trial for insult to Atatürk for his book *Kemal, the Sitting Man* and others.