

11th Istanbul Gathering

26 May 2018

Keynote speeches

Dr. Michiel Kolman, IPA President

and

Kristenn Einarsson, Chair of the IPA's Freedom to Publish Committee

Dr. Michiel Kolman

Greetings Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to address you at this 11th Istanbul Gathering. Istanbul is a city I was privileged to visit and I was impressed by her beauty. It is with sadness that not only can I not be with you in person but that this 11th Gathering must be virtual. At the same time, I must say that the Turkish publishing community is an inspiration to the international publishing community for the way that you are continuing to promote and defend freedom of expression and the freedom to publish. That you are holding this virtual gathering is a testament to your tenacity.

The freedom to publish is one of IPA's two pillars. The challenges that you are facing today demonstrate perfectly why it is an essential part of our mandate and why the IPA fully supports the activities of the Turkish Publishers Association. We are committed to raising the international profile of your struggle and providing a platform for Turkish publishers to share their first-hand experiences with a worldwide audience.

In an age when blogs, social media and self-publishing platforms empower anyone to become a publisher, and say whatever they want, many ask whether we can really fear for freedom to publish? The situation in Turkey shows how broad and violent repression can be.

The publishing industry lies at the junction of business, culture, ideas, science, and democracy. Your struggle is vital to so many aspects of life for Turkish citizens. You must continue, and we must continue to support you.

With that I hand over to Kristenn Einarsson, the Chair of our Freedom to Publish Committee.

Kristenn Einarsson

Thank you, Michiel

Greetings everyone.

As you know, last year's *Prix Voltaire*, which is the IPA's Freedom to Publish prize, was awarded to Turhan Günay and publishing house Evrensel. I have to thank Turhan's daughter, Elif, and Cavit Nacitarhan for being so generous in travelling to talk about the situation in Turkey, and to Turhan Günay for appearing at the Freedom to Publish seminar at the Istanbul Book Fair last year.

Unfortunately, Turkey is the country most represented by the recipients of the *Prix Voltaire* in all the years since the creation of the prize.

You must know that we will not forget last year's recipients. We will not forget you.

We must continue to promote both the personal plights of the *Prix Voltaire* recipients and the disastrous freedom of expression situation in Turkey.

We are with you.

Thank you