



Staff of Chechen Human Rights Magazine DOSH Receives 2010 IPA Freedom to Publish Prize at Istanbul Book Fair

Against Decision of European Court of Human Rights, Trial of Turkish Publisher of Apollinaire, Recipient of IPA's 2010 Special Award, Continues

Istanbul, Geneva – 2 November 2010

The President of the International Publishers Association (IPA), Herman P. Spruijt, formally awarded, on 2 November 2010, in Istanbul the 2010 IPA Freedom to Publish Prize to Israpil Shovkhalov, Editor-in-Chief, and Viktor Kogan-Yasny, publisher of the Dosh Magazine for their exemplary courage in upholding freedom to publish. Dosh is a Chechen Human Rights magazine. The Award Ceremony took place during the 29th Istanbul Book Fair. A special Award was also given to Turkish publisher Irfan Sancı (Sel Yayıncılık). The very day of his award, an Istanbul court, ignoring a previous decision of the European Court of Human Rights, decided to keep suing him for publishing a translation of Apollinaire. He faces up to 9 years in prison. The next hearing is due on 7 December 2010.

The Board of the IPA, meeting in Frankfurt on 6 October 2010, had selected Israpil Shovkhalov, Editor-in-Chief, and Viktor Kogan-Yasny, publisher of the Chechen Human Rights Magazine Dosh, as Prize-winners from among many highly commendable candidates. This year's Award was formally presented on 2 November 2010 by IPA President Herman P. Spruijt during the 29th Istanbul Book Fair, in an event marking the end of the international days of the Fair. A special Award was also given to Turkish Publisher Irfan Sancı (Sel Yayıncılık/Publishing) by the Chair of IPA's Freedom to Publish Committee, Bjørn Smith-Simonsen. The Awards came following keynote speeches by Turkish publisher Ragıp Zarakolu (Belge Publishing) who is also the Chair of the Freedom to Publish Committee of the Turkish Publishers Association (TPA), and famous Turkish writer and critic Doğan Hızlan.

IPA President Herman P. Spruijt declared: "Because of its fearless journalism and open commitment to human rights and understanding between the conflicting parties in the Caucasus, the editors, reporters and freelance journalists of the Dosh magazine are being threatened from all sides, and sometimes even harassed and threatened in an increasingly hostile environment. A serious incident as recent as March 2010 underlines the threats. Israpil Shovkhalov and executive editor Abdulla Duduev were on their way to make an interview with the President of the Republic of Ingushetia when they were abducted by unknown assailants who ended releasing them after a while. Through Israpil Shovkhalov and Viktor Kogan-Yansy, we award the 2010 IPA Freedom to Publish Prize to the entire staff of the Dosh Magazine, in deep respect for their courage, and as a

salute to the passion, and the integrity that they so marvellously demonstrate". The full speech of the President is available at:

http://www.internationalpublishers.org/images/stories/Speeches/2010/2010ipafpprize_hps_3.pdf

The other short-listed candidates nominated by IPA members, individual publishers and human rights' organisations were: **Bui Chat** (Giay Vun Publishing, Vietnam) and **Rosspen** (Publisher, Russia).

On the same occasion, IPA also awarded the "2010 IPA Freedom Prize—Special Award" to Turkish publisher İrfan Sancı of Sel Yayıncılık (publishing).

The owner of Sel publishing, İrfan Sancı, has been sued under Article 226 of the Turkish penal code (TPC; obscenity) for having published the following books: Ben Mila's *The Fairy's Pendulum*; Guillaume Apollinaire's *Adventures of the Young Don Juan*; and *Letters of a Learned and Well-mannered French Bourgeois Lady* by P.V., facing up to 9 years in jail.

IPA Freedom to Publish Committee Chair Bjørn Smith-Simonsen says: "The latest hearing was held this very morning. There is political censorship in the air. The European Court of Human Rights already condemned Turkey for banning Apollinaire. We therefore call for İrfan Sancı's and his translator's acquittal on 7 December 2010, and give a special award to İrfan Sancı to reward his courage to challenge new threats to freedom to publish books".

More about Dosh, and Israpil Shovkhalov, Editor-in-Chief of the Dosh Magazine, recipient of the 2010 IPA Freedom to Publish Prize:

The editor in chief, Israpil Shovkhalov, has long journalistic experiences and has worked for human rights in Russia for years. He was engaged as assistant to Duma-deputies from the Yabloko party from 1998-2003.

Dosh means «Word» in Chechen. It was founded in 2003 by "The Regular Civic Initiative – The Right to Live and Human Dignity Public Organisation", which is still publishing it. It is issued on paper four times a year, with a circulation of 5000 copies sold and spread over a wide area: Russia, Caucasus, and Europe. Its Internet-version is constantly updated with news and commentaries (www.doshdu.ru – also an English digest of the magazine). A pdf-version of the printed magazine is made available for readers "living far away from their motherland" as the home page states. A digest is published on paper, as a pdf-file and on the Internet in English.

The aim of the magazine is to bring news, commentaries, analysis and reports from the Caucasus, especially from the Chechen Republic. The magazine is one of the very few press-institutions that report and bring stories from both sides of the on-going, tragic conflict. It prints close-up reports of how the war inflicts on the concrete lives of single human beings, as well as analyses. It is obvious from the articles that the magazine centres its focus on single human beings and their dignity. It has, for example, brought the situation of children war-victims into the light. Dosh receive and print letters from people being imprisoned in Russia without trial. Thus, it concentrates its campaign for democracy, justice and an open society on the most practical and concrete starting-point: the single human being, its dignity, self-recognition and its recognition from others. The magazine views the conflicts in the Caucasus in a broad perspective which includes the need for Russia, its politicians, leaders and society, to reconsider their view of the past.

Dosh is widely read and receives a lot of letters praising the work of its editors and journalists, but at the same time they are met with increasing hostility from the authorities and large parts of society. The importance of such a magazine, and the fact that it has been regularly published over a relatively long period (almost eight years), should not be underestimated. It has become an institution, an island of human dignity and real news in a time when Russians, as well as members of the ethnic minorities in the Russian Federation, suffer from the power play among the authorities and ignorance from the main media outlets. The fact that Dosh is read by both Russians and Caucasian people in and outside Russia, as well as the perspective of its articles give in itself a hope for the future of an open society in Russia. The loss of Dosh could mean that a more brutal and inhuman Russian society is coming closer.

More about Irfan Sancı, Owner of Sel Publishing:

In May 2010, despite an experts' report from the Galatasaray and Bahcesehir Universities concluding that the books were works of literature, an Istanbul court decided to send the three books to the Prime Ministerial Board for the Protection of Children from Harmful Publications for review, deciding whether they constitute literature or obscenity. This is a first for this Board established in 1927 and can be assessed as a potential political censorship tool. The hardships encountered by Sel publishing are all the more surprising that Turkey was only recently condemned in February 2010 by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) for violating Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (Freedom of Expression) for having banned and condemned under Art. 226 TPC another book by Guillaume Apollinaire: Eleven Thousand Rods published by Rahmi Akdas in 1999. On that occasion, the ECHR ruled that censorship of this book "hindered public access to a work belonging to the European literary heritage.

More about the IPA Freedom to Publish Prize:

In 2005, IPA re-established the IPA Freedom to Publish Prize, a prize designed to honour each year a person or an organisation that has made an important contribution to the defence and promotion of freedom to publish anywhere in the world. While the 2006 IPA Freedom to Publish Prize was awarded to Iranian publisher Shalah Lahiji during the Göteborg Book Fair, the 2007 Prize was awarded to Zimbabwean publisher Trevor N'cube at the Cape Town Book Fair. Special Prizes were also given posthumously to Anna Politkovskaya (Russia) and Hrant Dink (Turkey/Armenia). The 2008 IPA Freedom to Publish Prize was awarded to Turkish publisher Ragıp Zarakolu during the opening ceremony of an international seminar on neo-censorship co-organised in Amsterdam by Amsterdam World Book Capital 2008 and IPA. The 2009 IPA Freedom to Publish Prize was awarded to Sihem Bensedrine, Nezih Rjiba and Mohamed Talbi, founders of the Observatory for the Freedom of the Press, Publishing and Creation in Tunisia (OLPEC), as part of the Global Forum on Freedom of Expression program, a Forum IPA was partner of.

Prize-winners receive the sum of 5'000 CHF.

More about IPA's Turkish member TYB, the Istanbul Book Fair, and the Award Ceremony for the 2010 IPA Freedom to Publish Prize:

The Turkish Publishers Association (TÜRKİYE YAYINCILAR BİRLİĞİ - TYB) was founded in 1985. TYB is by far the largest publishers' association in Turkey. It has been an active and important IPA member since 2002. Its goals are: To further the development of publishing; to find solutions to professional problems; for these purposes, to cooperate with ministries and all official/non-governmental institutions; to fight against

International Publishers Association

pirate publishing; to work to lift barriers on freedom of expression and publishing; to contribute to the development of culture, literature and art; to strive to make our country an international publishing centre; to gain support for social and scientific enquiry and to encourage book reading. For more about the TYB, please go to: www.turkyaybir.org.tr

The 29th Istanbul Book Fair, organized by TÜYAP Fair and Exhibition Organisation, Inc. and TYB, is taking place at the TÜYAP Fair and Convention Center, Beylikdüzü on 30 October – 7 November 2010. Spain is this year's guest of honour. The international hall was opened from 30 October until 2 November. For more about the Istanbul Book Fair, please see: www.istanbulbookfair.com

The Award Ceremony for the 2010 IPA Freedom to Publish Prize marked the end of the international days of the Istanbul Book Fair on 2 November. The Award Ceremony took place in international hall 5 from 4 to 6 p.m. on 2 November. The Award was formally presented by IPA President Herman P. Spruijt. Keynote speakers were: writer and critic Dogan Hizlan, and publisher Ragıp Zarakolu (TYB Freedom to Publish Committee Chair, Belge Yayinlari). Deniz Kavukoaglu, General Manager of Tüayp, acted as master of ceremony. The award ceremony was followed by a reception.

More about IPA:

The International Publishers Association (IPA) is an international industry federation representing all aspects of book and journal publishing. Established in 1896, IPA's mission is to promote and protect publishing and to raise awareness for publishing as a force for economic, cultural and political development. Around the world IPA actively fights against censorship and promotes copyright, literacy and freedom to publish. IPA is a trade association with a human rights mandate.

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