

Amnesty International

IMPRISONED WRITERS



DAILY READINGS: TOP AUTHORS READ FROM WORK THAT HIGHLIGHTS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES & RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Saturday 25 August

Erdogan's Crackdown: Silencing Dissent

Today's readings:

Journalist and human rights defender **Murat Çelikkan** has been involved in various human rights organisations, including the Human Rights Association and Amnesty International Turkey since their inception. In February 2018, he received the Civil Defender of the Year award from the Stockholm-based organisation Civil Rights Defenders.

Selahattin Demirtaş is Turkey's pro-Kurdish opposition candidate. He campaigned for the June elections from his prison cell. On November 4, 2016, Demirtaş was arrested along with other opposition MPs, accused of spreading propaganda for militants fighting the Turkish state. On January 18, 2017, Turkish prosecutors announced they were seeking a 142-year prison sentence against him.

The Turkey correspondent for the German newspaper Die Welt, **Deniz Yücel**, became the first foreign journalist to be remanded in pre-trial detention since the attempted coup in February 2017. He had been added to a Twitter group with which some hacked emails had been shared. Deniz was released on 16 February 2018 after more than a year in prison. Today's reading was written by his wife Dilek Mayatürk Yücel on the occasion of his 200th day in prison.

Taner Kılıç is a lawyer, human rights defender, co-founder, former Chair and honorary president of Amnesty International Turkey. Taner was detained in the early hours of 6 June 2017 along with 22 other lawyers on suspicion of involvement with the 'terrorist organisation', Fethullah Gülen. Shortly after he was officially charged and remanded in pre-trial detention. He's now been locked up for over a year, torn apart from his wife and two young daughters. At a hearing in June, he was again returned to custody despite police reports and forensic evidence in his favour.

Today's readers:

Gina Miller is a transparency campaigner. Her new book, *Rise* is an unflinching account of what it means to stand up for justice, and for yourself, no matter what the cost.

Roxanne Bouchard is a Quebec writer, who's fifth novel, and the first to be translated into English, is *We Were the Salt of the Sea*. Still only available in French, her short story collection *Cinq balles dans la tête* was inspired by meeting men and women who served in Afghanistan whilst undertaking unprecedented research at Quebec's largest military base.

Gunnar Staalesen, known as the father of Nordic Noir made his debut at the age of 22 with *Seasons of Innocence* and in 1977 he published the first book in the *Varg Veum* series. He will be discussing *Big Sister*, the latest instalment in the *Varg Veum* series alongside David Mark tomorrow evening.

Helen McClory's debut story collection *On the Edges of Vision* won the Saltire First Book of the Year Award. Her new book, *Mayhem and Death* is a follow up to that successful debut.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CALL TO ACTION:

People in Turkey are living in a climate of fear and intimidation, where the government that should be protecting them is violating their rights. You can add your voice to a campaign that we intend to take to world leaders, to show them that they cannot keep doing 'business as usual' with Turkey. Together we can show the Turkish government that the world is watching and show human rights defenders in the country that they are not alone.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2018/04/turkey-human-rights-defenders-under-attack/>