



# INTERNATIONAL PEN

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Re: **Leyla Zana**

Your Excellencies,

The Women Writers Committee of International PEN, the largest worldwide association of writers, is shocked and worried to hear that **Leyla Zana** has been sentenced to more imprisonment.

Our organization has supported **Leyla Zana** for years. She is an outstanding person. She is a prizewinning author and public figure, an icon of peace and cultural diversity who has inspired many people around the world. I have her book of writing from prison in my bookshelf and I have enjoyed it very much.

Turkey is a great country. It deserves to have a positive attitude toward its cultural diversity and its outstanding literary and cultural figures. The harassment and punishment **Leyla Zana** has been subject to may be typical of some very unenlightened and backward spots; it should not happen in a great country beloved by many.

When I say many of us love Turkey: twelve women from this little town in Mexico, San Miguel de Allende, spent two weeks in Turkey this last October. We definitely love Turkey. This does not mean that we countenance the deficient attitude of its government toward Turkish people we admire, such as outstanding Kurdish people like Leyla Zana, outstanding Armenian people like Hrant Dink etc. We feel ourselves in a very bad position when these things become public. How can we possibly say the wonderful things about Turkey we want to say, considering the very bad human rights record against our own writer colleagues?

We don't know what to answer. We only beg you to intervene to improve this shocking and sad situation. Please intervene to stop the harassment of **Leyla Zana** and all peaceable Turkish people of Kurdish ethnicity.

Sincerely,

Lucina Kathmann  
Commissioner for Human Rights,  
International PEN Women Writers Committee