



Yavuz Ekinci from Turkey

Yavuz Ekinci (44) is one of the few internationally renowned Kurdish voices in contemporary Turkish literature. His numerous works have been translated into 10 languages, two of them into German.

The Supreme Criminal Court in Istanbul sentenced him to a suspended sentence for his books and opinions.

“As a writer, I am the soul, the memory, and the conscience of our time. It is inconceivable that I exist completely detached from what is happening in the world around me. Of course, I cannot remain silent. I have not remained silent and will not do so in the future.” (Excerpt from an interview in the German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine). In 2018, he published the novel “The Prophet’s Fear” and was targeted by those loyal to Erdogan. He received threats. In 2022, the Istanbul Criminal Court finally banned his novel “Broken Dreams” without prior notice and rejected a request

for an appeal. According to the author, the sole purpose of all pending and threatened proceedings by the public prosecutor’s office was to intimidate and demoralize him.

Yavuz is finishing his latest novel in Hamburg, without fear and in safety. At the same time, he accepts numerous invitations to read from his novel “The Distant Village of My Childhood”, which was published in German in 2023. On February 21, 2024, he received the “Prize for Thought and Freedom of Expression” awarded by the Turkish Publishers Association. Many writers and journalists came to honor him.



Reading on 14 June 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Yavuz Ekinci: “The Distant Village of My Childhood”
Mut! Theater, Amandastr.58, 20357 Hamburg

Editorial



In my job, joy and sorrow go hand in hand. In mid-April, our former Ukrainian guest Stanislav Aseyev was wounded on the eastern Ukrainian front and hospitalized for a short time. At the same time, the artists from Iran that we hosted received worldwide recognition.

The documentary “My stolen planet“ had its world premiere at this year’s Berlinale. In it, Farahnaz Sharifi recounts her life in Iran and her personal resistance against the Mullah regime. The film is currently being shown at many international festivals. The film’s music score was composed by Atena Eshtiaghi, who also received awards for it. She is currently organizing a major Iranian music festival as part of the Intro Scholarship Program of the Hamburg Department of Culture: “Hastam” will take place at the Bürgerhaus Wilhelmsburg at the end of August 2024.

And last but not least, the Tamil photographer Kumanan Kana-pathipillai returned safely to his home country of Sri Lanka. Hamburg, he said, had given him back his mental balance, the courage and the strength he needed for his work.

Yours,
Martina Bäurle



Julia Cimaŋiejeva from Belarus is a writer and translator

Her works have been translated into several languages, including the poetry collections "Circus", "The Stone of Fear", "The City that I Miss" and "MINSK.DIARY", which have been translated into German. In it, the author deals with the mass protests following the falsified election of Belarusian ruler Lukashenko in August 2020 and the bloody response of the Minsk regime. Julia Cimaŋiejeva was a direct participant and eyewitness to these events. In 2020, she took part in the peaceful protests and read protest poems in front of the Philharmonic Hall in Minsk:

"My fear was given to me as an heirloom – a family relic, a precious stone passed down from generation to generation. Our fieldstone is plain and round, once stolen from the landowner's land." (Excerpt from "The Stone of Fear")

Thousands of Belarusian dissidents disappeared in torture prisons, tens of thousands emigrated. As did Julia Cimaŋiejeva together with her husband and writer Alhierd Bacharevi. After close family members and friends had already been arrested, it was only a matter of time before they themselves were taken away.

Julia Cimaŋiejeva is also very active in Hamburg. She uses her time-out scholarship for numerous readings and appearances to keep Belarus alive in the public consciousness and to remember those who fought in the resistance, held out in prisons or were murdered.



Reading on 21 June 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Julia Cimaŋiejeva "The Stone of Fear" and Alhierd Bacharevi "Europe's Dogs"
Mut! Theater, Amandastr.58, 20357 Hamburg

Sponsors

The Hamburg Foundation for Politically Persecuted People would like to thank the sponsors.



Donation account

Hamburger Sparkasse:
BIC: HASPDEHHXXX
IBAN: DE 5320 0505 5010 2225 0359

Hamburger Stiftung für politisch Verfolgte
Osterbekstr. 96, 22083 Hamburg
Telefon: +49 (0)40 42863 5757
Kontakt@Hamburger-Stiftung.de
www.Hamburger-Stiftung.de

Latest News

Two of our guests presented their new books at the Leipzig Book Fair in March:



In "Bloody Alliances", the Ukrainian journalist Aleksej Bobrovnikov recounts how his research assignment on alleged smuggling deals between Ukrainian officers and Russian and separatist units gets out of hand. When his informants are murdered, the investigative reporter goes into hiding. On the run from his pursuers in uniform, he finally finds refuge in Hamburg. Today, Bobrovnikov lives in Kyiv again.



The Belarusian writer Alhierd Bacharevi is the author of the novel "Europe's Dogs", which has now been translated into German to critical acclaim. The work, in which the protagonist uses a language he has invented to transport himself into a world of his own that is only accessible to a few, is also a reckoning with the Belarusian dictatorship. It is no wonder that "Europe's Dogs" was banned by the regime in Minsk and the author declared a "terrorist".

Imprint

Chairman: Dr. Peter Tschentscher,
Erster Bürgermeister der Freien und Hansestadt Hamburg

Honorary Chairman: Dr. Klaus von Dohnanyi

Executive Director: Dr. Carsten Brosda

Board of Directors: Dr. Christel Oldenburg,
Anja Reschke, Ann Kathrin Scheerer, Dr. Hariolf Wenzler, Albert Wiederspiel

Managing director: Martina Bäurle