



Press Release July 8, 2021

## A CALL FROM TURKISH POETS TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA:

“Apologize to the people of Eastern Turkestan and all of humanity due to your actions incompatible with human dignity!”

### A Call from Turkish Poets for World Solidarity with Eastern Turkestan

Turkish poets made a global call for the solidarity with the people of Eastern Turkestan, and for the People's Republic of China to apologize to the Eastern Turkestan

people and all of humanity. The joint call was publicized in Turkish, Chinese, and English.

They warned countries, international organizations associated with the United Nations, and global rights groups under pressure from Chinese lobby groups who remain silent in the face of this systematic “ethnic and cultural genocide” in Eastern Turkestan.

### The Main Theme of the Call: “Ethnic and Cultural Genocide”

The poets demanded that the People's Republic of China cease its undertaking of an “ethnic and cultural genocide” directed at Uyghur, Kazakh, and Uzbek Muslims since 1949. The call highlighted rights violations under China's persistent “sinicization policy” which have been reported by international rights groups. It also underlined the issues of the imprisonment of intelligentsia, prohibition on having more children, and holding persons not attending “mandatory propaganda courses” in “secret detention centers”. Moreover, the poets also voiced their opposition to the “torture” inflicted on innocent men, women, children, and babies.

The first its kind from poets to the People's Republic of China, the call also pointed out that 500 thousand people in Eastern Turkestan were killed; that a systematic process of forced assimilation has been going on; that the freedom of belief has been precluded; that places of worship were seized; and that education in Uyghur in schools was banned.

Is it possible to remain silent in the face of such flagrant violations of the human rights with which people are born and struggle for? Unless the heartbreaking cry of Eastern Turkestan is heard, can humanity rise from where it has fallen? These were the questions the poets posed, and replied with a resounding “No!” in the face of what is happening.

“Where there are people, there is poetry. The aim of poetry is to advocate for all human values regardless of religion, language, race, class, or gender,” they said.



## Poet Mustafa Ruhi Şirin, President of Turkey's Children's Foundation, and Spokesman of the World Children's Embassy, stated his views regarding this call:

*"The world order has been struggling within a despair spiral, and has not been able to resolve the human rights violations of the fi the 21st century. Turkey's poets urge all of humanity to stand up against all incidents where human integrity and innocence are being destroyed through violations of rights. We hope that all poets of the world make their voices heard for the sake of global brotherhood and well-being everywhere, and especially in Eastern Turkestan where there is an attempt to kill."*

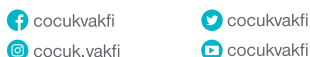
This call for Eastern Turkestan, signed by 88 poets, has been delivered in Turkish, Chinese, and English to international media, organizations under the United Nations, human rights organizations, and various embassies and representatives in Turkey.

## Poets From Turkey Call For Global Solidarity With Eastern Turkestan

Mustafa Akar, Hasan Akay, Gökhan Akçiçek, Hüseyin Akın, Yusuf Alper, Günel Altıntaş, Zeynep Arkan, Gökhan Arslan, Bahtiyar Aslan, Arif Ay, Mehmet Ayıcı, Ali Ayçil, Mustafa Aydoğan, Nihat Hayri Azamat, Alaettin Bahçekapılı, Mehmet Baş, Atif Bedir, Yaşar Bedri, Süreyya Berfe, Kâmil Eşfak Berki, Şeref Bilsel, Abdülkadir Budak, Rıdvan Canım, Veysel Çolak, İmdat Demir, İhsan Deniz, Nurettin Durman, Yusuf Dursun, Betül Dünder, Ahmet Efe, Mustafa Baki Efe, Ali Emre, Ömer Erdem, Haydar Ergülen, Siddik Ertaş, Mehmet Ocaktan, Mustafa Ökkeş Evren, Nurullah Genç, Çağrı Gürel, Hakan Güzeldere, Gülseli İnal, Adil İzci, Arife Kalender, Eşref Karadağ, Müştehir Karakaya, İsmail Karakurt, Hidayet Karakuş, Mualla Kâtip, Hüseyin Kaya, Bilal Kemikli, Cem Kertiş, Hakan Keysan, Hicabi Kırılancı, Cahit Koytak, Mustafa Köz, Şakir Kurtulmuş, Muhsin Macit, Ahmet Mercan, Salih Mercanoğlu, Mehmet Narlı, Şadi Oğuzhan, Cengizhan Orakçı, Mustafa Özçelik, Adnan Özer, Nâzım Payam, Kenan Sarıalioğlu, Melek Özlem Sezer, Murat Soyak, Özlem Maya Kılınçarslan (Sözbilir), Muhsin İlyas Subaşı, Esat Şenyuva, Tacettin Şimşek, Mustafa Ruhi Şirin, Ramazan Teknikel, Orhan Tepebaş, Adem Turan, Engin Turgut, Serkan Türk, Mustafa Uçurum, Nurgül Ulu, A. Ali Ural, Özcan Ünlü, Atakan Yavuz, Bestami Yazgan, Mavisel Yener, Ahmethan Yılmaz, H. Salih Zengin, Mevlâna İdris Zengin.

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