

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



## Banned Books Week

Each year during *Banned Books Week*, Amnesty International draws attention to people around the world who have been imprisoned, threatened, or murdered because of what they wrote or published or because of their work in the publishing or media industries. In solidarity with the American Library Association (ALA) and organizations across the U.S. and around the world, Amnesty activists work to fight challenges to freedom of expression.

## BUYING BOOKS, AMPLIFYING VOICES:

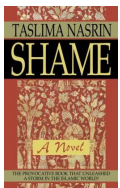
The following books are written by or about authors identified by Amnesty International as individuals arrested, murdered, harassed, exiled, or executed for their published creative works (writing, photography, etc.). These texts are available in English from domestic and international book sellers.

Libraries and bookstores are encouraged to buy and make available books by or about authors and publishers who have been imprisoned, murdered, or harassed in light of their writing or publications. The act of purchasing and making available the words of such authors is a counterweight to the censorship of authoritarian regimes. Inclusion of such texts in a college or university library is likely to broaden the discussion of relevant global issues and help students and faculty understand the nature and effects of censorship.

Note: Titles listed below, are not necessarily the *cause* of the author's persecution; rather, they represent the work of the author and the possible silencing of a voice. Book descriptions and cover art are drawn from Amazon.com or the publisher website unless otherwise noted. Information regarding cases is drawn from Amnesty International.

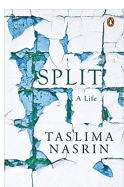
### TASLIMA NASRIN (Bangladesh) - Novelist Threatened with Death; Living in Exile

Taslima Nasrin fled Bangladesh in 1994 when former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government ordered her arrest after an Indian newspaper quoted her as saying the Koran should be rewritten. Taslima maintains she was misquoted but does favor changes in Islamic law to give more rights to women. The writer had previously been subjected to threats from the Islamist group, Council of Soldiers of Islam, who called for her death in October 1993. They claimed that her bestselling novel *Lajja* (Shame) - which is about a Hindu family attacked by Muslims after the destruction of the Babri Mosque in India in 1992 - had hurt their religious sentiments.



BANGLADESH - *Shame* by Taslima Nasrin; Prometheus (1997); 978-1573921657

"In late 1992, a long-standing animosity reached a crisis when Hindu extremists destroyed a mosque in Ayodhya, India. Enraged Muslims responded with a protracted persecution of Hindus throughout the subcontinent. This work recounts that campaign of retaliatory terror as experienced by one Hindu family in Bangladesh."




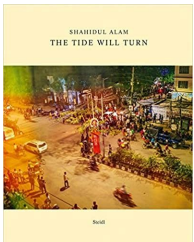
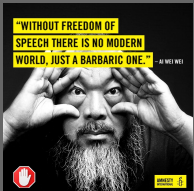

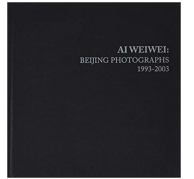

BANGLADESH - *Split: a Life* by Tslima Nasrin; Penguin India (2018); 978-0670090181

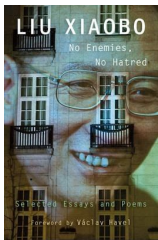
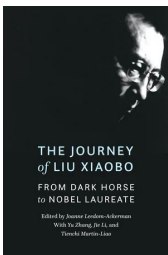
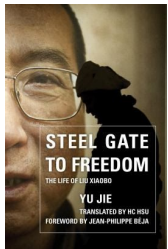
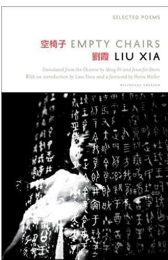
Taslima Nasrin is known for powerful writing on women's rights and uncompromising criticism of religious fundamentalism. This defiance ... had led to the ban on the Bengali original of this book in West Bengal [and] Bangladesh in 2003. Nasrin was eventually driven out of Kolkata and forced to expunge passages, besides facing a four-million-dollar defamation lawsuit. *Split: A Life* opens a window to the experiences and works of one of the bravest writers of our times.



BANGLADESH - *Exiled: a Memoir* by Tslima Nasrin; Penguin (2016); 978-0670088744

On 21 November 2007, the city of Kolkata came to a rude, screeching halt as a virulent mob of religious fanatics took to the streets. Armed with a fatwa from their ideologues, the mob demanded that Taslima Nasrin leave the city immediately. While the police stood watching ... [the government] decided to ban her book and drive her out of the city ... *Exile* is a moving and shocking chronicle of Taslima Nasrin's struggles in India over a period of seven months.

	<p>SHAHIDUL ALAM (Bangladesh) - Photojournalist RELEASED after spending over 100 days in prison</p> <p>Shahidul had been arrested and charged on August 5, 2018 of violating Section 57 of Bangladesh's Information and Communication Technology Act (ICT) after giving an interview to Al Jazeera on the current wave of student protests in Bangladesh against unsafe roads. He faced 14 years in prison. After spending more than 100 days behind bars he was released from prison on November 20, 2018.</p>
	<p>BANGLADESH - <i>Shahidul Alam: The Tide Will Turn</i> by Arundhati Roy and Shahidul Alam; Steidl (2020); 978-3958296930</p> <p><i>The Tide Will Turn</i> centers on the 100 days the esteemed photographer spent in prison for protesting Bangladesh's religious, nationalist government, but also wisely focuses on the conditions that made his arrest inevitable. (Jonah Goldman Kay <i>Hyperallergic</i>; Amazon.com) "On the night of 5 August, I did not know if I was going to live or die," writes Shahidul Alam ... one of Bangladesh's most respected photojournalists, essayists and social activists, remembering his arrest, torture and eventual 101-day incarceration in Keraniganj Jail in 2018.</p>
	<p>AI WEIWEI (China) - RELEASED - Artist previously detained</p> <p>Ai Weiwei, is an internationally known Chinese artist, and government critic. In 2009 he was briefly detained and severely beaten by security officials. Again in 2011, following persistent harassment from the authorities, Ai Weiwei was detained for 81 days without charge as part of a wider crackdown on 130 activists detained in February. He has lived outside of China since 2015 and has recreated a full-size replica of his cell as an artwork exhibited around the world. He continues to speak out for individuals whose freedom of expression is at risk.</p>
	<p>CHINA - <i>Ai Weiwei's Blog</i> by Ai Weiwei; The MIT Press (2011); 978-0262015219</p> <p>"In 2006, even though he could barely type, China's most famous artist started blogging. For more than three years, Ai Weiwei turned out a steady stream of scathing social commentary, criticism of government policy, thoughts on art and architecture, and autobiographical writings ... Then, on June 1, 2009, Chinese authorities shut down the blog."</p>
	<p>CHINA - <i>Ai Weiwei: Beijing Photographs, 1993-2003</i>; The MIT Press (2019); 978-0262015219</p> <p>Ai Weiwei: Beijing Photographs 1993–2003 is an autobiography in pictures. This book, prohibited from publication in China, offers an intimate look at Ai Weiwei's world in the years after his return from New York and preceding his imprisonment and global superstardom. The photographs capture Ai's emergence as the uniquely provocative artist that he is today. There is no more revealing portrait of Ai Weiwei's life in China than this. The book contains more than 600 carefully sequenced images culled from an archive of more than 40,000 photographs taken by Ai: a narrative arc carefully shaped by an artist keenly aware of photography's ability to tell stories.</p>
	<p>CHINA - <i>Yours Truly: Art, Human Rights, and the Power of Writing a Letter</i> by Ai Weiwei; Chronicle Books (2018); 978-1452159294</p> <p>"Five former prisoners and their loved ones reflect on the experience of receiving hundreds of postcards while imprisoned."</p>

	<p>LIU XIAOBO (China) - DIED IN CUSTODY while serving 11 year sentence</p> <p>Liu Xiaobo is a world-renowned writer and political activist who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010. Liu Xiaobo played an instrumental role in the 1989 pro-democracy movement, for which he spent 2 years in prison; and was then imprisoned again because of his political writings from 1996 – 1999. In 2008 Liu Xiaobo contributed to the “Charter 08” manifesto which called for political change in China. He was detained in December 2008, and sentenced to 11 years in prison for “incitement to subvert state power”. He died of liver cancer at the age of 61.</p> <p>Liu Xia was held under illegal house arrest since Liu Xiaobo was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010. She was closely monitored by state security agents and could only be reached by her closest friends by phone in limited circumstances. In July 2018 she was released from house arrest and allowed to leave China.</p>
	<p>CHINA - <i>No Enemies, No Hatred</i> by Liu Xiaobo; Belknap Press (2013); 978-0674072329</p> <p>Collection of essays and poetry written by Nobel Peace Prize winning Liu Xiaobo -- a mix of politics and passions that provide “insight into all aspects of Chinese life ... chronic[ing] a leading dissident’s struggle against tyranny [and] enrich[ing] the record of universal longing for freedom and dignity.” (Harvard University Press)</p>
	<p>CHINA - <i>The Journey of Liu Xiaobo: From Dark Horse to Nobel Laureate</i> edited by Joanne Leedom-Ackerman; Potomac Books (University of Nebraska Press) (2020); 978-1640122246</p> <p>The Journey of Liu Xiaobo draws together essays and reflections on the “Nelson Mandela of China.” The Dalai Lama, artist and activist Ai Weiwei, ... Marco Rubio, and Chris Smith illuminate Liu's journey from his youth and student years, through his indispensable activism, and to his defiant last days. Many of the pieces were written immediately after Liu's death, adding to the emotions stirred by his loss. Original and powerful, The Journey of Liu Xiaobo combines memory with insightful analysis to evaluate Liu's impact on his era, nation, and the cause of human freedom.</p>
	<p>CHINA - <i>Steel Gate to Freedom: The Life of Liu Xiaobo</i> by Yu Jie; Rowman &amp; Littlefield Publishers (2015); 978-1442237131</p> <p>“Yu Jie traces an extraordinary man’s odyssey, from growing up in the northeast and Inner Mongolia during the Cultural Revolution, through his meteoric rise in Beijing’s intellectual circles and his pivotal role in the Tiananmen protests and subsequent imprisonments, to the founding of the controversial Independent Chinese PEN and groundbreaking Charter 08, his poignant relationship with wife Liu Xia, and winning the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize. It is also a love story between two poets who, though separated by three hundred miles and eleven years behind bars, are united in their persistence to speak truth to power, inspiring countless others.” (Rowman &amp; Littlefield)</p>
	<p>CHINA - <i>Empty Chairs: Selected Poems</i> by Xia Liu; Graywolf Press; (2015); 978-1555977252</p> <p>“Empty Chairs presents the poetry of Liu Xia for the first time freely in both English translation and in the Chinese original. Selected from thirty years of her work, and including some of her haunting photography, this book creates a portrait of a life lived under duress, a voice in danger of being silenced, and a spirit that is shaken but so far indomitable. Liu Xia's poems are potent, acute moments of inquiry that peel back to expose the fraught complexity of an interior world. They are felt and insightful, colored through with political constraints even as they seep beyond those constraints and toward love.” (Graywolf Press)</p>

	<p><b>ILHAM TOHTI (China / Uyghur) - Writer / Professor sentenced to LIFE in PRISON</b></p> <p>Ilham Tohti, was an economics professor in Beijing, the founder of "Uighur Online" website, and a well-known critic of China's ethnic and religious policies in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR). He was sentenced to life imprisonment on September 23, 2014. He was first taken away from his home in Beijing on January 15, 2014 and charged with "separatism", a charge that has often been used against Uighurs who speak out against human rights violations. He was held incommunicado for over five months, and according to his lawyers, he was denied food for 10 days, and had his feet shackled for 20 days in March 2014.</p>
	<p><b>CHINA - A Uyghur's Fight to Free Her Father by Jewher Ilham; University of New Orleans Press (2015); 978-1608011056; From Series: <i>Broken Silence</i></b></p> <p>"When Jewher Ilham's father, Ilham Tohti, was detained at the Beijing airport in February 2013 on charges of "separatism," Jewher had two choices: she could stay in China or fly to America alone. Jewher boarded the plane for Indiana and began a new life apart from her family and was half a world away when her father was sentenced to life in prison..."</p>
	<p><b>HOMA HOODFAR (Iran) - Scholar / Researcher RELEASED after 3 months</b></p> <p>Dr. Homa Hoodfar, a Canadian-Iranian citizen and professor of Anthropology at Concordia University, was arrested June 6, 2016 following months of questioning by the Revolutionary Guards. Homa was held incommunicado throughout the majority of her detention in Evin Prison in Iran. She was denied access to the specialized medical care that she needed for a neurological condition that she suffers from. Dr. Hoodfar was released in September 2016 after making a bail payment of five billion rials (US\$ 159,000).</p>
	<p><b>IRAN - <i>Sexuality in Muslim Contexts: Restrictions and Resistance</i> by Anissa Hélie (Editor), Homa Hoodfar (Editor); Zed Books (October 11, 2012); 978-1780322858</b></p> <p>The book explores women's resistance against the policing of sexuality in Muslim societies. Many Muslim majority countries still use religious discourse to enforce stigmatization and repression of those who do not conform to sexual norms. In this context, Islam is often stigmatized in Western discourse for being intrinsically restrictive with respect to women's rights and sexuality. This insightful collection shows that conservative Muslim discourse does not necessarily match practices and that women's empowerment is facilitated where indigenous and culturally appropriate strategies are developed.</p>
	<p><b>IRAN - <i>Women's Sport as Politics in Muslim Contexts</i> - Edited by Homa Hoodfar; Women Living Under Muslim Laws (2016); 978-1907024207</b></p> <p>This book provides an urgently needed analysis of the bravery and creativity exhibited by Muslim women in the realm of sports, which has emerged as a major realm of contestation between proponents of women's rights and political Islamist forces in Muslim contexts. Through focused case studies, this volume tracks the many sophisticated, context-specific, and constantly evolving strategies of women's resistance to their exclusion in sport. Hoodfar and other contributors have provided a ground-breaking analysis of the landscape of gender and sports in diverse Muslim contexts.</p>



	<p>KEN SARO-WIWA (Nigeria) - Novelist, Screenwriter, Activist - EXECUTED</p> <p>Ken Saro-Wiwa was an environmental human rights defender and writer who was a recipient of the Goldman Environmental Prize, primarily for his work as president of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP). The Nigerian military tried and executed Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other MOSOP leaders in 1995. The deaths of the Ogoni 9 are widely acknowledged to be the result of MOSOP's peaceful protests against the Royal Dutch Petroleum (Shell) oil company and its human rights abuses in Nigeria.</p>
	<p>NIGERIA - <i>Silence Would Be Treason: Last writings of Ken Saro-Wiwa</i>; CODESRIA (2013); 978-2869785571</p> <p>A unique collection of the last writings of Ken Saro-Wiwa that reveals the indomitable mind and spirit of the legendary campaigner for justice in the last months before his execution. Clear and direct, these letters and poems are the last expression of a voice the regime was determined to silence: a voice for indigenous rights, environmental survival and democracy, many of whose battles were won despite his death and whose voice comes alive today again in these extraordinary letters.</p>
	<p>NIGERIA - <i>A Month and a Day: A Detention Diary</i> by Ken Saro-Wiwa; Penguin Books; (1996); 978-0140259148</p> <p>This is the extraordinary and moving account of Ken Saro-Wiwa's period of detention in 1993, and is also a personal history of the man who gave voice to the campaign for basic human and political rights for the Ogoni people. It was fear of his success that made Saro-Wiwa the target of the despotic Nigerian military regime. Arrested on 21 June 1993, ostensibly for his part in election-day disturbances, he describes in harrowing detail the conditions under which he was held. He writes of his involvement with the Ogoni cause and his instrumental role in the setting up of the movement for the survival of the Ogoni people.</p>
	<p>NIGERIA - <i>Sozaboy: A Novel in Rotten English</i> by Ken Saro-Wiwa; Pearson; (1995); 978-0582236998</p> <p>Written in what the author describes as "rotten English," a mixture of Nigerian Standard English and pidgin English, the book re-creates the language of Nigeria's poor and dispossessed. When the book was published in 1985, the country was struggling with the political fallout of the revolution and the environmental ravages brought on by extensive oil exploration and extraction. These crises resonate behind Saro-Wiwa's portrait of the war. Ten years after the book's publication, Saro-Wiwa's crusade against governmental and corporate corruption led to his execution. The international outrage that accompanied his death has fueled interest in the novel and its depiction of a simple man's attempt to survive in a society dominated by corruption, greed, and war. (Literature of War; St. James Press)</p>
	<p>NIGERIA - <i>Ken Saro-Wiwa (Ohio Short Histories of Africa)</i> by Roy Doron (Author), Toyin Falola (Author) Ohio University Press (May 19, 2016); 978-0821422014</p> <p>Named a <i>Choice Reviews</i> Outstanding Academic Title for 2017</p> <p>Hanged by the Nigerian government on November 10, 1995, Ken Saro-Wiwa became a martyr for the Ogoni people and human rights activists, and a symbol of modern Africans' struggle against military dictatorship, corporate power, and environmental exploitation. Though he is rightly known for his human rights and environmental activism, he wore many hats: writer, television producer, businessman, and civil servant, among others. While the book sheds light on his many legacies, it is above all about Saro-Wiwa the man, not just Saro-Wiwa the symbol. Like others in the Ohio Short Histories of Africa series, <i>Ken Saro-Wiwa</i> is written to be accessible to the casual reader and student, yet indispensable to scholars.</p>

	<p>MARIA A. RESSA (Philippines) - Executive Editor of Online News Website &amp; Journalist - Convicted of cyber-libel and facing 6 years in prison.</p> <p>Maria Ressa, executive editor of the online news outlet Rappler and press freedom advocate, was arrested twice and released on bail in February and March of 2019, on what appear to be politically-motivated charges. Rappler has been a consistent critic of President Rodrigo Duterte and his deadly 'war on drugs' which has seen the extrajudicial killing of thousands. Maria Ressa's arrest appears to be part of a broader campaign to silence critics of the government. On June 15, 2020 Maria Ressa, and former journalist Reynaldo Santos, were convicted of cyber libel. Both now face up to six years in prison.</p>
	<p>PHILIPPINES - <i>A Thousand Cuts</i> - a documentary film by Romona S. Diaz (2020) about Maria Ressa and suppression of journalism in the Philippines. <a href="http://www.athousandcuts.film/">http://www.athousandcuts.film/</a></p> <p>"Nowhere is the worldwide erosion of democracy, fueled by social media disinformation campaigns, more starkly evident than in the authoritarian regime of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte. Journalist Maria Ressa places the tools of the free press—and her freedom—on the line in defense of truth and democracy."</p>
	<p>PHILIPPINES - <i>From Bin Laden to Facebook: 10 Days of Abduction, 10 Years of Terrorism</i> by Maria A. Ressa; World Scientific Pub Co Inc (2013); 978-1908979537.</p> <p>"The two most wanted terrorists in Southeast Asia -- a Malaysian and a Singaporean -- are on the run in the Philippines, but they manage to keep their friends and family updated on <i>Facebook</i>. ... The book forms the powerful narrative that glues together the social networks -- both physical and virtual -- which spread the jihadi virus from bin Laden to <i>Facebook</i>."</p>
	<p>ANNA POLITKOVSKAYA (Russia) - Journalist MURDERED with impunity</p> <p>Anna Politkovskaya is a Russian journalist and human rights defender who was murdered outside her apartment on October 7, 2006. This was almost certainly because of her work as a journalist, in which she exposed human rights violations throughout Russia. After she began writing about the armed conflict in Chechnya and the North Caucasus in 1999, she was detained and threatened with serious reprisals, including death threats, on several occasions.</p>
	<p>ASHRAF FAYADH (Saudi Arabia) - Poet sentenced to 8 years &amp; 800 lashes</p> <p>Ashraf Fayadh is a Palestinian poet and artist, living in Saudi Arabia. He was first arrested on August 6, 2013, released the next day, but then rearrested on January 1, 2014 and charged with apostasy due to his supposed questioning of religion and spreading atheist thought via his poetry. On February 2, 2016 he was sentenced to eight years in prison and 800 lashes.</p>
	<p>SAUDI ARABIA - <i>Instructions Within</i> (bilingual) by Ashraf Fayadh; The Operating System (2016); 978-0986050572.</p> <p>Longlisted for the Best Translated Book Award for poetry; Originally published by Beirut-based Dar al-Farabi in 2008.</p>


	<p><b>RAIF BADAWI (Saudi Arabia) - Blogger sentenced to 10 years and 1000 lashes</b></p> <p>Raif Badawi is a blogger and activist who founded an online forum for political and social debate, called “Saudi Arabian Liberals.” He was arrested on June 17, 2012 and has been detained in a Saudi prison since then. Raif was charged with violating Saudi Arabia’s information technology law and insulting Islamic religious figures by creating and managing an online forum. On May 7, 2014, Raif was sentenced to 10 years in prison, 1,000 lashes, and a fine of 1 million Saudi Riyal (about US \$266,600). He was also banned from travelling for 10 years and from participating in the media once he has completed his prison sentence.</p>
	<p><b>SAUDI ARABIA - <i>1000 Lashes: Because I Say What I Think</i> by Raif Badawi; Greystone Books (2015); 978-1771642095</b></p> <p>Raif Badawi, a Saudi Arabian blogger, shared his thoughts on politics, religion, and liberalism online. He was sentenced to 1,000 lashes, ten years in prison, and a fine of 1 million Saudi Riyal, over a quarter of a million U.S. dollars. This politically topical polemic gathers together Badawi’s pivotal texts. He expresses his opinions on life in an autocratic-Islamic state under the Sharia and his perception of freedom of expression, human and civil rights, tolerance and the necessary separation of state and religion.</p>
	<p><b>SAUDI ARABIA - <i>Raif Badawi, The Voice of Freedom: My Husband, Our Story</i> by Ensaf Haidar (Author), Andrea Claudia Hoffmann (Author); Other Press (2016); 978-1590518014</b></p> <p>Ensaf Haidar’s unforgettable account of her marriage to imprisoned Saudi blogger Raif Badawi tells the story of the survival of their love against all odds, and of her courageous fight for her husband’s freedom. ... This profoundly moving memoir is both a love story and an inspiring account of the making of not one but two heroic human rights activists.</p>
	<p><b>CAN DUNDAR (Turkey) - Journalist - Forced Exile - Facing Charges &amp; Threats</b></p> <p><b>On May 29, 2015 a criminal investigation</b> into Can Dündar was announced, who is one of Turkey’s most prominent journalists and the editor-in-chief of the Cumhuriyet newspaper, following the publication of articles about the alleged secret transfer of weapons to armed groups in Syria. On June 1, 2015, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan announced on state television that he had filed personally criminal complaint against Can Dündar and the Cumhuriyet newspaper, warning that they would “pay a high price” for their actions. On February 26, 2016 he was released, but then on May 6, 2016 another court convicted Dunder to five years and 10 months in prison, but he was not detained. Dunder left Turkey and is now in exile.</p>
	<p><b>TURKEY - <i>Mischief Festival: WE ARE ARRESTED &amp; DAY OF THE LIVING</i> (Oberon Modern Playwrights) by Can Dündar; Oberon Books (2018); 978-1786825575</b></p> <p><i>We Are Arrested:</i> When a journalist receives a flash-drive containing critical evidence of illegal government activity, he is duty-bound to publish the story. But with the nation destabilised and divided, a sinister power is eroding the rule of law, and he soon finds himself risking everything for his profession. This play is the true story of a journalist’s commitment and personal risks and a tribute to the bravery of journalists under threat.</p>
	<p><b>TURKEY - <i>We Are Arrested: A Journalist's Notes from a Turkish Prison</i> by Can Dündar and Juliet Gilkes Romero; Biteback Publishing (2016); 978-1785901386</b></p> <p>The title of <i>We Are Arrested</i> is taken from Can Dündar’s tweet on the day he was detained. Book is his account of the discovery, the decision to publish it, and the events that unfolded after that decision. Dündar and the newspaper faced police barricades, would-be suicide bombers and assassination attempts, and fierce attacks from pro-government media. While incarcerated Dündar decided to write down his experiences.</p>

	<p>AHMET ALTAN (Turkey) - Novelist / Journalist - Sentenced to 10.5 years in prison</p> <p>Ahmet Altan is a well-known author and former newspaper editor. Ahmet has been imprisoned since 2016 and was sentenced to life imprisonment in February 2018 for 'attempting to overthrow the constitutional order'. This was based on his participation in a TV debate. The prosecution was brought on without a single piece of evidence being presented. In November 2019, after an appeal and retrial, he was sentenced to ten and half years in prison.</p>
	<p>TURKEY - <i>I Will Never See the World Again: The Memoir of an Imprisoned Writer</i> by Ahmet Altan; Other Press (October 1, 2019); 978-1590519929.</p> <p>"A resilient Turkish writer's inspiring account of his imprisonment that provides crucial insight into political censorship amidst the global rise of authoritarianism."</p>
	<p>TURKEY - <i>Endgame</i> by Ahmet Altan; Europa Editions (April 18, 2017); (April 2017); 978-1609453770.</p> <p>"Ahmet Altan bravely crafts a novel about the ways in which corruption envelops contemporary Turkish life ... An atmospheric and enigmatic literary noir, in which an unnamed writer visits a small town and finds himself involved in a mystery with existentialist implications." <i>Washington Post</i> 50 Notable Books of 2017.</p>
	<p>TURKEY - <i>Like a Sword Wound</i> by Ahmet Altan; Europa Editions (October 2018); 978-1609454746.</p> <p>"Here is a Turkish saga reminiscent of <i>War and Peace</i>, written in lively, contemporary prose that traces not only the social currents of the time but also the erotic and emotional lives of its characters."</p>
	<p>ASLI ERDOĞAN (Turkey) - Journalist - RELEASED after 5 months in prison</p> <p>Aslı Erdoğan, renowned novelist and PEN member, was arrested on August 17, 2016 at her home in Istanbul, Turkey. She was a columnist and advisory board member of the pro-Kurdish opposition daily <i>Özgür Gündem</i>, which was shut down under the state of emergency that followed the failed coup of July 2016. Her arrest came alongside that of more than 20 other journalists and employees of the paper. She was released in December 2016 and now lives in exile.</p>
	<p>TURKEY - <i>The City in Crimson Cloak</i> by Asli Erdogan; Soft Skull Press (2007)</p> <p>Özgür is poor, hungry, and on the verge of a mental breakdown, with only one weapon against Rio: to write the city that has robbed her of everything. Reading the bits and pieces of Özgür's unfinished eponymous novel, with its autobiographical protagonist named Ö, Özgür's story begins to emerge. As Özgür follows Ö through the shanty towns, Condomble rituals, and the violence and sexuality of the streets to her own death, the narrator searches for a way to make peace with life. The two concentric novels, the borderline between the two Rio's — Özgür's Rio as a metaphor for death and Rio as life — begin to blur. Asli Erdogan's brilliantly evocative, experimental second novel was a major hit in Turkey and Europe.</p>
	<p>TURKEY - <i>The Stone Building and Other Places</i> by Asli Erdogan; City Lights Publishers (February 27, 2018); 978-0872867505 - Finalist for the 2019 PEN Translation Prize</p> <p>Three interconnected stories feature women whose lives have been interrupted by forces beyond their control. Exile, serious illness, or the imprisonment of one's beloved are each met with versions of strength and daring, while there is no undoing what fate has wrought. These atmospheric, introspective tales culminate in an experimental, multi-voiced novella, whose "stone building" is a metaphor for the various oppressive institutions—prisons, police headquarters, ospitals, and psychiatric asylums—that dominate the lives of these characters.</p>




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### Banned Books Week

Each year during Banned Books Week, Amnesty International draws attention to people around the world who have been imprisoned, threatened, or murdered because of what they wrote or published. In solidarity with the American Library Association and organizations around the world, Amnesty activists work to fight challenges to freedom of expression.



### Defend Free Speech

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

— Article 19 —  
*Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

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**2020 Amnesty International  
Banned Books Cases**

**Yang Hengjun** - *China* - Novelist, Academic & Blogger - Facing from 3 years in prison up to death

**Masrat Zahra** - *India* - Photojournalist - Facing up to 7 years in prison

**Yulia Tsvetkova** - *Russia* - LGBTI & Women's Rights Activist - Facing prosecution and harassment

**Shakthika Sathkumara** - *Sri Lanka* - Writer - Facing up to 10 years in prison

**Andrea Sahouri** - *USA* - Journalist - Arrested covering a protest and charged with failure to disperse and interference

**Nguyen Van Hoa** - *Vietnam* - Environmental Reporter - Sentenced to 7 years in prison and tortured

**Akram al-Walidi, Abdelkhaleq Amran, Hareth Hamid and Tawfiq al-Mansouri** - *Yemen* - Journalists - Sentenced to death

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