TOWARDS JUSTICE, DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION

with Fethiye Çetin

Thursday 9 September 2010, 12 noon-2pm.
Room 107, Mackie Building

Fethiye Çetin will reflect on the meaning of the story of her grandmother - what does it mean in her life and in her work as a writer and human rights lawyer in Turkey?

Fethiye discovered that her Turkish Muslim grandmother was born an Armenian Christian and a child survivor of the Armenian genocide in 1915 when she had been forcibly taken by the Turkish gendarme captain who went on to adopt her.

Fethiye will also tell of her work as lawyer for Hrant Dink during his life and after his murder. Hrant Dink was a Turkish-Armenian journalist, human rights campaigner and editor-in-chief of the bi-lingual Agos newspaper in Istanbul. On 19 January 2007, he was assassinated outside Agos’ offices in Istanbul. Hrant Dink is one of the 50 emblematic cases in International PEN’s campaign ‘Because Writers Speak their mind’ which acknowledges 50 years of advocacy of the Writers in Prison Committee.

My Grandmother has been published in nine languages and received France’s Prix Armenia in 2006. Her follow-up book, Torunlar (Grandchildren) is a book of interviews with 25 descendents of Armenian parents across Turkey.

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