



RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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The Board		17 November 2004
About the Board	TUR43143.FE	
Biographies		
Organization Chart	Turkey: Situation of artists, specifically sculptors; treatment by Islamists of artists who portray nudes; state protection available to artists who are harassed or threatened by Islamists (2002-November 2004)	
Employment		
Legal and Policy	Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa	
References		
Publications	Information on the situation of artists in Turkey was scarce among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints for this Response.	
Tribunal		
Refugee Protection Division	An article in the <i>Turkish Daily News</i> reported that Turkish contemporary art is distributed internationally and that Turkish artists are showing their work at large exhibitions, in cities such as Venice, São Paulo and Kassel (1 Nov. 2002). However, according to an Agence France Presse (AFP) report, Turkey is "closed to contemporary artists" because of its conservative social and religious structure (10 Dec. 2002). An article in the <i>Turkish Daily News</i> said that Turkish artists are dissatisfied with the copyright law, which they say is insufficient because they are not receiving their royalties (7 Oct. 2003).	
Immigration Division		
Immigration Appeal Division		
Decisions		
Forms		
Statistics		
Research		
Research Program	In September 2001, 17 intellectuals and artists were acquitted after appearing in military court for publishing a book that discouraged people from carrying out their military service (IHF 23-25 Apr. 2002, 35). In February 2003, four artists were taken in for questioning after they participated in demonstrations against a possible war in Iraq (AFP 15 Feb. 2003). The International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) reported that 14 artists (2 Apr. 2002) appeared in court in Ankara on 8 April 2002 for supporting an "illegal" organization (IFEX 24 Apr. 2002). However, the artists were acquitted a week later because there was insufficient evidence (ibid. 16 Apr. 2002).	
National Documentation Packages		
Issue Papers and Country Fact Sheets		
Responses to Information Requests	This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.	
Recent Research		
Media Centre		
News		
Information Sheets		
Media Relations	References	
Proactive Disclosure	Agence France Presse (AFP). 15 February 2003. "Manifestation contre la guerre en Turquie : des artistes interpellés." (Courrier AFP)	

_____. 10 December 2002. Burak Ankinci. "Young Turks Dream of Work in the EU."

(Dialog)

International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX). 24 April 2002. Burak Bekdil, Hassan Oztoprak, Mehmed Uzun. "Alert Update: Update on Writers' and Journalists' Trials Underway in Turkey." (Writers in Prison Committee)

_____. 16 April 2002. "Writers and Artists Acquitted. (Writers in Prison Committee)

_____. 2 April 2002. Asiyeh Guzel Zeybek, Suleyman Yeter. "Report: Journalists and Writers Face Harsh Conditions in Turkish Prisons." (Writers in Prison Committee)

International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (IHF). 23-25 April 2002. *Judicial Systems and Human Rights in the OSCE Region in 2001*.

<http://www.ecoi.net/pub/nz78_00808osce.pdf> [Accessed 16 Nov. 2004]

Turkish Daily News [Ankara]. 7 October 2003. "Copyrights Law to Pass in Nov." (Dialog).

_____. 1 November 2002. Jan Jonker Roslants. "Seeing Things in a Different Light - Upcoming Exhibitions in Holland and Turkey." (Dialog)

Additional Sources Consulted

Attempts to contact the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa, the Ankara and Istanbul States Fine Arts Galleries Directorates, four professors specializing in Turkish art, two human rights organizations, the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (HRFT) and Mazlumder Istanbul, were unsuccessful.

Internet sites, including: Amnesty International (AI), European Country of Origin Information Network (ECOI), European Union (*2003 Regular Report on Turkey's Progress Towards Accession*), Freedom House, Human Rights Watch (HRW), United States Department of State, World News Connection (WNC).

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