



PEN CANADA
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FREE
EXPRESSION
MATTERS

Giving Tuesday 2022

Why I support PEN

Facts are unsettling.

Journalists discomfit societies by questioning their assumptions, by reporting on sensitive issues and acknowledging inconvenient facts. The greater the discomfort they cause, the likelier they are to face attacks and censorship.

Just for doing their work, they can be declared traitors, imprisoned, forced to leave their homes, or even killed. Those who flee, like myself, feel the pain of abandoning not only their countries but, to some extent, their very selves. Their homeland is a piece of paper, their flag a pen, their identity a press card. They belong only to their profession, they represent humanity rather than countries or states; they live to provide humans with real memories and historical records.

PEN is more than an organization for us; it is a home, a homeland, a flag, and a mirror that reflects us. We continue to tell the truth as long as we can look into that mirror.

I support PEN Canada because it helps exiled writers like me to recover their abandoned selves, to once again become the writers that they were. It reminds us who we are, wherever we are.



Arzu Yildiz

Turkish Journalist, Editor and Senior Reporter. Arzu is the recipient of the 2021 PEN Canada-Humber College Writers-In-Exile Scholarship.