

Baris Ince

Turkish journalist and writer



Baris Ince sounds amazingly calm as he talks about his personal as well as his country's situation. Yes, the chief editor of the Istanbul newspaper BirGün explains, since the failed coup three years ago, the freedom of speech and of the press have been under a lot of pressure. Many media business owners and journalists that had different views and did not readily praise the current government are already behind bars.

And yes, he himself and BirGün have not been and still are not immune to state and judicial repression.

During our conversation, it becomes obvious that Baris Ince has established a good network in Hamburg. Even from afar, he has managed to support his colleagues in their daily work as journalists. Here, he meets with

German colleagues and attends writer's conferences.

Above all, however, he was able to finish his favorite project: In July, his children's book will be published. In this book, the journalist and bestselling author describes the life and suffering but also the hopes of a refugee family and their kids living in a tent camp on the coast.

Until his return home, Baris Ince wants to enjoy the Hamburg summer. Because – and he emphasizes this once again – his time at the river Elbe was always intended as a time-out and never as a journey into exile.

“Even the prospect of several years in prison cannot keep me from going back,” says the brave journalist. “I belong with my people in Turkey.”



For more than 15 years, Shahindha Ismail from Malé has been fighting

for democratic reforms. In our next newsletter edition, you will find out the reasons why she does not consider the Maldives to be a paradise.



Finally, the journalist **Angel İstek Alcu** from Turkey has safely arrived in Hamburg. After

her many missions in the Kurdish-Turkish crisis region, she is looking forward to a time-out.

Editorial



Martina Bäurle

So, now it is sitting on my desk: one of thirty Golden Doves for Human Rights made by the German artist Richard Hillinger. Each one of them represents one of the thirty articles of the UN Charter on Human Rights.

Last year, the Dove landed at the “Heart Bridge” of the Albertinen Foundation. This is a project that supports medical care of children with cardiac defects from Afghanistan and other countries in Germany. Now, the Board of the Albertinen Foundation has appointed us as its worthy successor. We consider this – and the fact that this rotating prize has already been passed through the hands of Chancellor Angela Merkel, Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama – as a symbolic appreciation of our work of 33 years.

The award of the bronze sculpture with the olive branch in its beak is a clear mandate to continue our commitment against the enemies of freedom and for the victims of persecution.

Thank you for being at our side for so long. Together with you, we will achieve a great deal, entirely in the spirit of the award.

Yours truly,
Martina Bäurle

When a Golden Peace Dove takes a trip – it might unexpectedly arrive at the Hamburg City Hall. This is what happened on 20 May this year, when the First Mayor Dr. Peter Tschentscher and the Executive Director of the Hamburg Foundation Ole von Beust accepted the sculpture from the hands of Prof. Dr. Fokko ter Haseborg. Following a thorough exchange of ideas, there was a joyful celebration in the sun with current and former Foundation fellows from Turkey, Iraqe, Syria and the Maldives.



Members of the Board Hariolf Wenzler and Ole v. Beust

Dr. Peter Tschentscher, First Mayor of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg: **“I’d like to thank the Albertinen Foundation for passing on this prize to the Hamburg Foundation for Politically Persecuted People and thus creating plenty of momentum for the future.”**



Prof. Dr. Fokko ter Haseborg, Martina Bäurle, Ole von Beust, Dr. Peter Tschentscher

Ole von Beust, Executive Director of the Hamburg Foundation for Politically Persecuted People: **“The globally growing threat to human rights and freedom renders our work more important than ever.”**



Prof. Dr. Fokko ter Haseborg, Chairman of the Board of the Albertinen Foundation: **“The Hamburg Foundation for Politically Persecuted People deserves this Peace Dove for their important and successful work.”**



The Hamburg Foundation for Politically Persecuted People would like to thank the sponsors.



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