Hamburg Foundation

——— for politically persecuted persons Chairman**: Dr. Peter Tschentscher executive director: Ole von Beust**

**Press Release**

**Angel İstek Alcu – Journalist from Turkey**

**New fellow of the City of Hamburg in 2019**

**Hamburg, 12 June 2019**

Angel İstek Alcu has been the last guest of the Hamburg Foundation for Politically Persecuted Persons this year since Wednesday afternoon. The 35-year-old freelance journalist from Diyarbakir has made a name for herself above all as a translator and "fixer" for foreign colleagues in the Kurdish-Turkish crisis region. In recent years she has repeatedly worked for the British BBC, the Wall Street Journal and the public broadcaster in Sweden.

For her own reports on the Kurdish regions and the Turkish-Syrian border region, the journalist was awarded the Martin Adler Prize of the Rory Peck Foundation in 2016. Angel İstek Alcu, according to the laudation, "carefully avoided the propaganda of all parties involved and always tried to give the women and children concerned a voice".

Angel İstek Alcu has been fighting against violence and for justice since one of her teachers was shot in front of her eyes during a protest in the schoolyard. "His white shoes were suddenly full of blood," she recalled in a conversation with a Turkish colleague. Since then, she had "always believed that there must be another way than to react to violence with violence".

"I've been working as a fixer and film producer in conflict zones for 17 years. I feel that I really need time to have some rest and break," she writes.

Exhaustion is a dangerous state in her profession: every little mistake can be fatal for war reporters After many missions in the Kurdish-Turkish crisis region and in the contested border region to Syria, the young woman is now looking forward to her time out on the Elbe

"Many thanks to the Hamburg organization for giving me this opportunity. During the fellowship I would like to concentrate on my profession and to participate in some useful workshops".

The Hamburg Foundation for Politically Persecuted People grants a one-year scholarship on the Elbe to people who have worked for democratic reforms and for human rights and freedoms.

During this time, the Foundation supports the guests to refocus their own work and to network with German and international colleagues. In addition, the scholarship holders will meet to representatives from politics, economy and civil society.

Many thanks to the Sebastian Cobler Foundation for the support of her residence in Hamburg.

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