

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Vaclav Havel Library Foundation, www.vhlf.org

Contact: Pavla Niklova, Executive Director

212 988 1733

info@vhlf.org

Vaclav Havel Library Foundation Announces Asli Erdogan is Winner of the 2019 Disturbing the Peace Award to a Courageous Writer at Risk

August 20, 2019

New York. The **Vaclav Havel Library Foundation** announced today that the 2019 **Disturbing the Peace Award to a Courageous Writer at Risk** will go to the internationally renowned Turkish author and activist Ms. **Asli Erdogan**. The award is given annually to support a talented creative writer who has suffered persecution because of his or her outspoken commitment to human rights.

Erdogan is the author of eight best-selling works of fiction and essays, including her best-known novel, *The City in Crimson Cloak* (Soft Skull Press, 2007). Erdogan was also a columnist on human rights and related topics for the newspaper *Ozgur Gundem*, which the Turkish government closed down in 2018 because of its pro-Kurdish position.

In August 2016, Erdogan was arrested by Istanbul police and charged with supporting terrorism. After an international outcry, she was released from detention in 2017 and now lives in exile in Germany. Her novel *The Stone Building and Other Places* (City Lights, 2017) describes her harrowing experience in prison, including solitary confinement, and was a finalist for the 2019 PEN Translation Prize.

In addition to the Disturbing the Peace Award to a Courageous Writer at Risk, Erdogan is the recipient of the Simone de Beauvoir Prize and the Erich Maria Remarque Peace Prize. She was the subject of a profile in *The New Yorker* in June 2017.

Asli Erdogan will receive the Disturbing the Peace Award, which includes a \$5,000 cash prize, from Ms. Dagmar Havlova, the widow of the Czech president, dissident, and human rights activist Vaclav Havel, during a gala evening on September 26, 2019, at the Bohemian National Hall in New York City.

Previous recipients of the Disturbing the Peace Award are Chinese poet and journalist Liao Yiwu (2018), Kurdish novelist Burhan Sönmez (2017), and Burmese writer Ma Thida (2016).

###