

500 well known Turkish academicians, artists, journalists, physicians, lawyers, writers have made public a joint appeal, against the recent ultimatum of the military and anti-democratic assaults.

## **CITIZENS' DECLARATION**

The memorandum published by the Office of the Turkish Chief of General Staff on the night of 27 April 2007 has inflicted a severe wound to our already limited democracy.

It is unacceptable to have the military bureaucracy interfere in the political sphere, as it is unacceptable to have the regime kept under military guardianship. The memorandum issued by the Office of the Chief of General Staff is an open threat to democracy and an offence according to the Law.

### **We, the citizens whose signature figures below openly oppose this memorandum!**

The crisis we are going through in the political, economic and social fields is too deep to be solved with the election of the President of the Republic by the people (instead of the parliament). For, once voters will have elected their President, almost half of them will not be able to have their political preferences represented in Parliament, due to the current election system. With such a system, the crisis will continue, and new general elections will not solve the crisis but only postpone it for a short while.

The 12 September Regime has come to a complete stalemate

At the root of the problems we are faced with today lays the 1982 Constitution, itself a product of the 12 September (1980) military coup, and the system that the Constitution has set up. If Turkey is to lastingly overcome the crisis it is faced with, it must free itself as soon as possible of this Constitution.

As long as our country will not obtain a new, freedom promoting, pluralistic, pacifist, democratic Constitution, with secularism as a common denominator, and entwined with the principles of international law and principles; and as long as a new election law, in which election hurdles are removed and which provides means of representation to all sections of society has not been adopted, it will be impossible to neutralize the groups that feed from the repeated crises that this system produces.

What we have experienced in recent days, however, shows us that pretexts are sought to move from the present state of 'democracy under guardianship' towards an outright coup. We, the undersigned, are convinced that our secular Republic can be made to prevail only through more democracy, and not by relying on memorandums.

Our answer to those who are capable of declaring that "those who do not say they are happy to call themselves Turks are enemies": We are not enemies, on the contrary, we are this country's most responsible and sensitive citizens, and in the context that has been created we are not happy at all.

As citizens firmly intent in defending a free, democratic, secular Turkey, we declare openly that we have the right to resist any kind of intervention aimed at doing away with democracy.

Some of the signatories:

Adalet Ağaoğlu (Yazar), Adem Avcıkıran (Diyarbakır Tabip Odası Bşk.), Ahmet Abakay (ÇGD Genel Başkanı), Ahmet Altan (Yazar), Ahmet Aykaç (Prof. Dr.), Ahmet Çakmak (Prof. Dr.), Ahmet Hakan (Yazar) , Ahmet İçduygu (Prof. Dr.), Ahmet Insel (Prof. Dr.), Ahmet Ümit (Yazar), Akın Atalay (Avukat) , Ali Bayramoğlu (Yazar) , Ali İhsan Gündoğdu (Adıyaman Tabip Odası Bşk.), Ali Nesin (Prof. Dr.), Aydın Cıngı (SODEV Gn. Bşk.), Aydın

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