



We Are Arrested: A Journalist's Notes from a Turkish Prison

Can Diindar

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"Can Dündar is a very courageous journalist." —Orhan Pamuk

In November 2015, Can Dündar, editor-in-chief of the Turkish daily newspaper *Cumhuriyet*, was arrested on charges of divulging state secrets and espionage. Condemned and arraigned by the President himself, Dündar's "crime" was informing the public of the discovery of a highly illegal covert arms shipment. The story revealed that the country's intelligence service was secretly shipping weapons to Syria, making Turkey a party to the Syrian civil war. This was a crime that it was in the government's interest to conceal, and a journalist's duty to expose.

The title of *We Are Arrested* is taken from Can Dündar's tweet on the day he was detained. This book is his account of the discovery, the decision to publish it, and the events that unfolded after that decision. Dündar and the newspaper faced police barricades, would-be suicide bombers and assassination attempts, and fierce attacks from pro-government media.

Incarcerated in Silivri Prison, Dündar decided to write down his experiences. Here, in isolation, he learned to appreciate the small things in life. Most importantly, he realised that courage in an age of fear is essential if the public's right to know is to be defended.

Following the events of July 2016, in which elements of Turkey's armed forces staged an attempted coup against the country's government, prompting backlash from President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, this book stands as a beacon for free speech.

Can Dündar is editor-in-chief of the venerable daily newspaper *Cumhuriyet*. In May of 2016 he was sentenced to imprisonment for five years and ten months for "leaking secret information of the state."

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