

PRESSRELEASE

Announcing the first book on the civil uprising in Turkey

FENOMENET GEZI: INDIVIDUALISM OCH DEMOKRATI

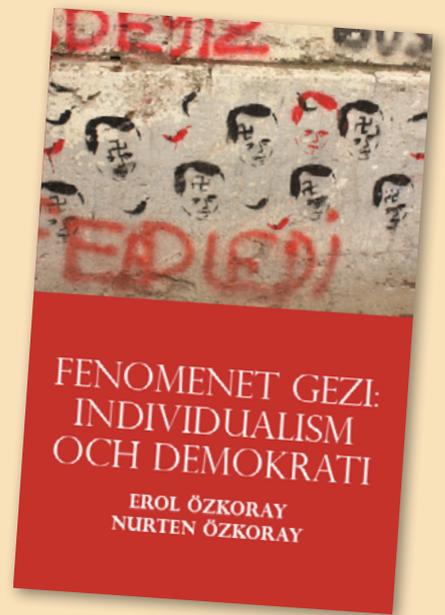
A book analyzing and documenting the first civil uprising in Turkey that started in Istanbul on 28 May 2013, *Fenomenet Gezi: Individualism och Demokrati*, by Erol and Nurten Özkoray, is published in Swedish by Trolltrumma Film och förlag. The translation has been accomplished with support from the Culture Council in coordination with Växjö Kommun and Det Fria Ordets Hus.

One of the writers of the book, Erol Özkoray, has been the guest writer of Växjö Municipality with his wife Nurten since 2015, through the ICORN program that provides a safe haven for persecuted writers and artists. Upon the publication of the book *Gezi phenomenon: Individualism and Democracy in Turkey* on July 2013 in Istanbul, Turkish authorities started an investigation of the writers on the grounds of defamation of then Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. As a result of the trial, Erol Özkoray was sentenced to 11 months and 20 days of prison on 23 September 2014. Özkorays left Turkey for Sweden in July 2015.

A historical uprising

The book starts with the outset of the Gezi Uprising in the end of May 2013 and documents the events that spread around Turkey during the following month. The uprising commenced after an attempt by the government to demolish Gezi Park in Taksim Square in central Istanbul and was inflamed with the brutal crackdown on the environmentalist group on watch in the park. Fueled by the anger against liberticidal policies of the Erdogan Government, youth, civil society organizations, secularists, and workers took to the streets in a civil uprising. The protests sometimes took the form of a festival for freedom with creative slogans, graffiti, music, chanting and humor. But Erdogan's government responded with a heavy police force attacking unarmed protesters with plastic bullets, tear gas, water cannons that resulted in the death of 8 protesters and many wounded.

Political scientist Erol Özkoray performs an analysis of the political Turkey of today. Co-writer sociologist Nurten Özkoray, on the other hand, focuses on the individualism aspect of the uprising by making parallels between individualism and democracy in Turkey. The book also has a journalistic annex with pictures, list of slogans and chronology of events. The book will be published through Trolltrumma Film och förlag and will be available on Adlibris and Bokus. More information is available on their web page: www.trolltrumma.se



Fenomenet Gezi: Individualism och Demokrati
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198 pages.
Translated to Swedish by **Nybat Johanson**
ISBN: 978-91-982809-3-7
Published by **Trolltrumma Film och förlag**
www.trolltrumma.se

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Documentary on the events:
Turkey's Civil Revolt: Istanbul Rising