

The Jury of the Human Rights section of the Marisa Giorgetti International Prize,
composed for the 2017 by

Daniela Schifani Luchetta
Don Pierluigi Di Piazza
Livio Pepino

has assigned the 2017 Prize to

Cagla Aykac and the group “Academics for Peace”

for Academics for Peace’s courageous defense of the human rights of individuals and minorities in Turkey. The group’s actions stem from their awareness that the main duty of women and men of culture in a democratic country should be to watch over the respect of the fundamental rights of individuals, to report any violations and to counteract anti-democratic drifts.

Cagla Aykac and the other members of Academics for Peace have carried out this fundamental task in a rigorous, free and peaceful manner, and for this reason they have been subjected to intimidation and acts of violence, many of them have been fired, incarcerated and forced to leave the country, or in other cases prevented from doing so. The political trials that have been initiated against them, together with the pervasive repression against any form of dissent, alarmingly highlight the authoritarian involution, which is currently taking place in Turkey.