

Fethiye Çetin's statement on May 09, 2015

I am very much honored to be in this wonderful environment and to be considered for this very meaningful prize.

On the other hand, I am also full of embarrassment and shame.

I feel shame because even after the passage of a hundred years, we have not settled the issue on hand.

I am embarrassed because the state, of which I am a citizen, and its rulers still continue to relate with the perpetrators of this crime, and still continue their immoral and inhuman statements.

As you well know, there are various turning points in a person's lifetime. The first turning point in my life was when my grandmother lifted the veil from over my eyes and the shackles from my brain and said: "Go fly, go!" "Here is the truth, here is justice" and set me free.

And my journey of seeing the truth and reaching for justice that started on that day has brought me to this place where I am able to meet with you all.

I am humbly accepting this very precious prize in the name of our grandmothers and grandfathers who were the victims of genocide. May they rest in peace.

During my journey I have had many comrades. We walked together, we shed tears together, we lifted our tired and destitute ones from the ground and assisted each other and learned from each other.

I would especially like to remember one very special friend, Hirant Dink, who they took forcefully and violently away from us in 2007. I am accepting this prize especially on his behalf.

Today has become another turning point for me in my life journey.

This time you, my dear friends, told me "you are on the right track, keep flying!"

Now in your presence I say "my word is my honor, dear friends. Whatever happens, I will continue seeking justice and the truth as long as I have power in my body and my life permits."

My promise is a solemn promise.