



TURKEY

# ***Bombed Publisher*** **BURNS WITH PASSION**

*Mustafa Efe, founder and general manager of Mujde Publishing ([www.gnmmujde.com](http://www.gnmmujde.com)) in Istanbul, Turkey, talked to InterLit about the successes and challenges of publishing in this predominantly Muslim nation.*

**C**hristian publishers serving in societies hostile to the faith face many dangers. The staff of Mujde Publishing—Turkish for Good News Publishing House—were traumatized when an explosion ripped up their stand at a book fair. The stand was severely damaged and 25 people were severely injured. Fortunately, there were no fatalities. Cost of the damages was U.S. \$ 6,000. Investigation later revealed that a bomb was planted by a radical Islamic group opposed to Mujde’s spreading of the Christian message.

Mujde’s founder and general manager sees this and related incidents as Satan’s efforts to stop his organization from fulfilling its goal which is to “plant God’s Word on every inch of Turkey’s soil.” Efe says his organization is “burning with a passion” to bring Turkey back to Christ.

Despite Turkey’s rich Christian heritage—Antioch, Galatia, Ephesus and many other churches mentioned in the New Testament were located in



*A bomb planted by a radical Muslim group ripped through Mujde’s book stand. “We continue to pray against Satan’s efforts to stop God’s work,” says Mustafa Efe, general manager of Mujde Publishing.*

present day Turkey—the country is now 99 percent Muslim. Out of the country’s 75 million people, there are only 6000 known Christians. “We have a vision for our country—we would like to see churches planted in all the provinces of Turkey,” says Efe.

Publishing and distributing literature is one key way Mujde wants to spread the Word in

Turkey. “We need to build up believers and help them grow and literature is one of the best ways to do this,” says Efe.

Mujde’s publishing program started in 1991 when Efe, frustrated by the lack of books “for struggling believers” began a publishing house. “My wife and I decided to use part of our house and began our publishing life.” It was not easy. “We

had no support,” recalls Efe. What kept them going was their passion for publishing. “We had the desire to publish books about the life and teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ in Turkey.”

Their initiative and determination paid off. Today Mujde has a back list of about 100 titles and is distributing New Testaments and evangelistic tracks. But Efe would like

to see their publishing expand. "We are determined to produce many more books. We would like to get more books into the hands of Turkish people," he says. Mujde hopes to publish 20 million

## ***We will continue to have booths at every book fair in Turkey.***

scripture portions for wide distribution in the country.

Besides publishing and book distribution, Mujde also operates an FM radio station with an estimated audience of 15 million, runs a Bible correspondence course, and shows the Jesus movie. All these programs reflect Mujde's vision for reaching Turkey with the Word of God.

However, Mujde's vision for Turkey faces a lot of religious and political opposition. The Turkish constitution protects freedom of religion, but some radical nationalist and Islamic elements in society are hostile to the work of Mujde. Some of these elements are trying to use government institutions and judicial procedures to cripple Mujde's operations. By press time Mujde faced a series of court cases in which it was being sued by a government agency or was counter-suing for some unconstitutional government action taken against it. Mujde staff also suspected that their work was being monitored by police.

Efe is not too enthusiastic to talk about these developments. "I am usually not the type of person to share openly about our struggles," he confesses. All Efe can say is that prayer is the best response to these

attempts at shutting down Turkey's most prominent Christian communications organization. "We continue to pray against Satan's efforts to stop God's work in Turkey." Efe also hopes that Christians around the world will keep Mujde in prayer. "Hearing of others praying for us would be greatly encouraging."

While Efe and thirteen other Mujde staff would not like to experience another bomb attack, they will not be intimidated either. "We will continue to have booths at every book fair in Turkey," says Efe. "For we know that no one can stand against the Lord and no one can stop what God has started." ❖



Most of Mujde Publishing's books, tracts, CD-Roms, audio and video products are in Turkish, but some of its products are also available in English.

*September 4-9, 2002*  
International Book Fair,  
Moscow, Russia  
[www.bookfair.ru](http://www.bookfair.ru)

*September 8-19, 2002*  
Leading Publishing Organizations,  
International Christian Publishing  
Institute, Colorado Springs, CO USA  
[www.ccmi.org](http://www.ccmi.org)

*September 10-13, 2002*  
CBA Asia Regional Convention,  
Singapore  
[www.cbaonline.org](http://www.cbaonline.org)

*September 14-22, 2002*  
International Book Fair,  
Philippines  
[www.philippinebookfair.com](http://www.philippinebookfair.com)

*September 29 - October 3, 2002*  
Children and Books Congress, Inter-  
national Board on Books for Young  
People, Basel, Switzerland  
[www.ibby.org](http://www.ibby.org)

*October 4-6, 2002*  
Eastern Europe Training Workshop,  
Media Associates International,  
Poland  
[www.littworld.org](http://www.littworld.org)

*October 9-14, 2002*  
Frankfurt Book Fair,  
Frankfurt, Germany  
[www.frankfurt-book-fair.com](http://www.frankfurt-book-fair.com)

*October 23-26, 2002*  
Christian Book Fair,  
St. Petersburg, Russia  
[www.triad.ru](http://www.triad.ru)

*October 24-25, 2002*  
International Book Fair,  
Santiago, Chile  
[www.camilibro.cl](http://www.camilibro.cl)

*October 26 - November 3, 2002*  
International Book Fair,  
Istanbul, Turkey  
[www.tuyap.com](http://www.tuyap.com)

*November 3-8, 2002*  
Litt-World 2002, Media Associates  
International, Philippines  
[www.littworld.org](http://www.littworld.org)