News Release

Contact: Sandra Soliz
713-906-7912
solizs@stthom.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UST Center for International Studies Presents Taner Akcam, author of "A Shameful Act"

WHAT: Taner Akcam will discuss his book "A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and the Question of Turkish Responsibility."

WHEN: 7 p.m. Friday, March 2, 2007

WHERE: University of St. Thomas
Cullen Hall, 4001 Mt. Vernon
Parking: Moran Center, 3807 Graustark at West Alabama

BACKGROUND: In 1915, under the cover of a world war, some one million Armenians were killed through starvation, forced marches, forced exile and mass acts of slaughter. Although Armenians and world opinion have held the Ottoman powers responsible, Turkey has consistently rejected any claim of intentional genocide. In his book, Turkish historian Taner Akçam has made use of Ottoman and other sources to produce a scrupulous charge sheet against the Turkish authorities. Akçam studied at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara. He was a student of Faculty of Administrative Sciences, Department of Economics. He received his Bachelor of Administrative Sciences in 1976. He stayed at the university as a master's student and assistant in the same department for some time.

In the mid-1970s, Akçam became a leading member of the militant group Dev Yol (Devrimci Yol-Revolutionary Path) and the editor of its periodical Devrimci Genclik Dergisi (Revolutionary Youth Magazine). Dev Yol was a splinter faction of the Turkish People's Liberation Party-Front (THKP/C) and also gave offspring to Dev Sol (Devrimci Sol-Revolutionary Left) which later changed its name to DHKP/C.

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In 1976 he was arrested and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. He escaped prison one year later. He has been living in the Federal Republic of Germany since early 1978 as a political refugee. He continued his political activities and in 1988 started working for the Hamburg Institute for Social Research on the history of violence and torture in Turkey. He earned his doctorate from the University of Hannover in 1995.

Currently he belongs to the scientific staff of the Hamburg Foundation to promote science and culture, working at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research. Akçam is currently a visiting associate professor of history at the University of Minnesota.

COST: Free and open to the public.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Diana Garcia at 713-525-3530.

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