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TURKEY: MINISTRY OF JUSTICE REJECTS MEETING WITH WOMEN OF SREBRENICA  
AND GALATASARAY

Amnesty International deeply regrets the Ministry of Justice's refusal to meet Hatid\_i\_ Hren and Munira-Beba Had\_i\_, representatives of the relatives of the "missing" of Srebrenica who are currently in Istanbul as part of the Amnesty International delegation which will join the vigil of the "Saturday Mothers" at Galatasaray on 26 October.

The Bosnian women had hoped to discuss the responsibilities of states, including Turkey, to investigate and prevent "disappearances" as outlined in the 1992 United Nations Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance. These two visitors from Srebrenica share a tragic loss with the women who meet in Galatasaray every Saturday, and are therefore well placed to voice the arguments for prompt, impartial, and expert investigation as an effective measure to prevent further "disappearances".

By refusing to respond to Amnesty International's written requests for a meeting, the Ministry of Justice caused the Minister Sevket Kazan to miss an opportunity to confront, and thereby take the first steps to end, the dramatic pattern of "disappearances" which emerged in Turkey in the 1990s.

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