

URGENT ACTION

EXCESSIVE FORCE AGAINST PROTESTORS MUST END

Since 29 May, over 2,000 people have been injured across Turkey after police used water cannon and teargas against demonstrators.

Protests began in Gezi Park in Taksim, in the centre of Turkey's largest city, Istanbul, on 27 May. A few hundred protestors occupied the park to demonstrate against its destruction to make way for the building of a shopping centre. In the early hours of 29 May, police started to disperse them, using tear gas and excessive force. During the night of Thursday 30 May, up to 3,000 protestors joined the protest. They were removed from the park in the early hours of the morning by police using tear gas and water cannon. Scores of people were injured during the police crack down.

Since Friday 31 May, protests spread across the country, and by Sunday 2 June, there were hundreds of protests in 67 provinces. According to the Turkish Medical Association, at least 1,500 people were injured in Istanbul; over 400 people were injured in Ankara, Turkey's capital and another 420 in Izmir, in western Turkey. The Turkish Medical Association stated that the majority of the injuries were caused by the use of water cannon and tear gas. Amnesty International condemns the widespread use of tear gas and water cannon to disperse peaceful protestors. Video evidence has documented police deliberately firing tear gas canisters at protestors. Members of the public who have not been protesting have been affected by the excessive use of tear gas, which has been used in confined spaces such as the metro station in Taksim and allegedly in buildings where protestors were sheltering.

The authorities claim to have detained close to 1000 people. Dozens of amateur videos taken at the scene of demonstrations show law enforcement officials hitting, kicking and beating protestors with truncheons, including when they had been incapacitated by the effects of tear gas.

Please write immediately in Turkish or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to immediately end the excessive use of force against peaceful protestors;
- Calling for them to ensure the right to freedom of expression and assembly;
- Urging for a prompt, independent and impartial investigation into the excessive use of force and bring to justice law enforcement officials found to have ill-treated demonstrators or other members of the public.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 17 JUNE 2013 TO:

Prime Minister

Mr Recep Tayyip Erdoğan,
Office of the Prime Minister,
Başbakanlık,
06573 Ankara, Turkey
Fax: +90 (312) 422 1899

Email: ozelkalem@basbakanlik.gov.tr

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Minister of Interior

Mr. Muammer Güler
İçişleri Bakanlığı
Bakanlıklar
Ankara, Turkey
Fax: +90 312 418 1795
Salutation: Dear Minister

And copies to:

Parliamentary Commission on Human Rights Chair

Ayhan Sefer Üstün
TBMM İnsan Hakları İnceleme
Komisyonu
Bakanlıklar, 06543 Ankara, Turkey
Fax: +90 312 420 53 94

Email: insanhaklarikom@tmm.gov.tr

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

According to international human rights standards, any decision to disperse an assembly should be taken only as a last resort and in line with the principles of necessity and proportionality. International standards contained in the United Nations Basic Principles on the use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials (See <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/UseOfForceAndFirearms.aspx>) require that in dispersing assemblies, police must avoid the use of force or, where that is not practicable, must restrict any such force to the minimum necessary.

Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Turkey is a state party, guarantees the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, stating that "no restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (ordre public), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others."

Name: Thousands of peaceful protestors in Turkey

Gender m/f: both

UA: 144/13 Index: EUR 44/014/2013 Issue Date: 3 June 2013