

URGENT ACTION

PRIDE BAN ENFORCED BY EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE

On the day of the banned Istanbul Pride march on 26 June, police used tear gas and plastic bullets against small groups of LGBTI activists and their allies who were in various locations around the Beyoğlu district of Istanbul. Twenty-nine activists were detained and were all eventually released on the same day. Istanbul Pride organizers were also prevented from reading a statement about the ban of the march for the second year.

The Istanbul Pride Organizing Committee announced on 23 June that they would not insist on going ahead with the Pride march. On 23 June they also informed the Istanbul Governor's Office that they would read out a press statement in late afternoon on 26 June. The Istanbul Governorship stated that organizers would be prevented from reading the statement.

On 26 June, hundreds of riot police were present in Taksim Square and along the Pride march's traditional route of Istiklal Street, Beyoğlu district, in Istanbul. Dozens of riot police officers blocked each street, and water cannons and armoured vehicles were deployed along Istiklal Street. Police indiscriminately fired tear gas and plastic bullets to disperse small groups of LGBTI activists and others throughout the afternoon and into the evening, without warning.

For further information see: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2016/07/lgbti-rights-struggle-in-turkey/>

Thank you to all those who campaigned on this case. No further action is requested from the UA network.

This is the first update of UA 143/16. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur44/4283/2016/en/>

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