

UNWELCOME AND UNPROTECTED

REFUGEES, ASYLUM-SEEKERS AND
MIGRANTS UNLAWFULLY DETAINED
IN TURKEY

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



POLİS

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Turkey's tradition of hospitality does not reach some of the most vulnerable people in the country, who have come there to seek asylum.

Every year in Turkey, hundreds of asylum-seekers, migrants and even recognized refugees are put behind bars in immigration detention centres. They are kept in detention for long periods, sometimes longer than a year. But they are not told how long they will be held, or why. Many detainees do not have access to advice from lawyers or from UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, and they are unable to make an asylum claim or to challenge the lawfulness of their detention.

Living conditions in these detention centres are appalling. Accommodation is often overcrowded and dirty and there is a lack of food and medical services. Unaccompanied children are detained in the same facilities with adults, in breach of international standards.

The European Court of Human Rights recently found that Turkey had violated international human rights law by arbitrarily detaining refugees in these centres. In two further cases, the Court found that living conditions in two detention centres – Fatih and Tunca – amounted to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment – and Turkey was again in violation of international law.

Write to the Minister of the Interior to call on Turkey to fulfil its international obligations towards refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants and to live up to its reputation for hospitality.

Right: Refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants held in the Kumkapı "Foreigners' Guesthouse" look out of barred windows, whilst activists demonstrate in solidarity in the street below, Istanbul, Turkey, 14 March 2010.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

WRITE TO THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR BEŞİR ATALAY, URGING HIM TO:

- End the detention in Turkey of all those held under regulations ruled to be unlawful by the European Court of Human Rights.
- Never detain refugees in immigration detention centres.
- Only detain asylum-seekers and migrants as a last resort and after all other alternatives have been considered and ruled out.
- Ensure that forthcoming asylum legislation prevents unlawful detention.
- Improve conditions for all detainees held in immigration detention centres and provide adequate access to legal advice.

Send your letters to:

Beşir Atalay
Minister of the Interior
İçişleri Bakanlığı
06644 Ankara
Turkey

Email: besir.atalay@icisleri.gov.tr
Tel: +90 312 425 7214
Fax: +90 312 418 1795
Salutation: Dear Minister

Front cover: Refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants look out of barred windows, during disturbances at the Kumkapı "Foreigners' Guesthouse" in Istanbul, Turkey, 13 October 2008.

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