

**CAMPAIGNING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN TURKEY**

**PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT BY  
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The Secretary General ended his statement by speaking of solidarity with those demanding respect for human rights within Turkey, and this is where I will start off.

The launch of an Amnesty International campaign is not just the release of a report.

It is truly the signal that our more than one million members around the globe will be campaigning for change.

It is a signal to the victims of human rights violations that our members around the world will not forget them - or their families.

From villages and towns and cities on every continent - letters, faxes and post cards will arrive here in Turkey.

Asking the government, the army, the police chiefs to bring an end to human rights violations in Turkey.

To investigate the cases of those who have "disappeared" or died in custody.

And to bring those responsible for these and other crimes to justice.

We are asking that those who have committed human rights abuses against your loved ones, your colleagues, your fellow citizens are held accountable for their actions.

And that the necessary, practical changes to both legislation and practices of the police and the security services in Turkey are made without delay.

We are also asking that **all** armed opposition groups end attacks against civilians immediately.

Only then will the pressure cease.

Our campaigning on behalf of the victims and their relatives will only end when Amnesty International can be certain that **all** the citizens of Turkey are guaranteed the human rights promised them in their own country's laws and in the many international and regional treaties to which Turkey is a state party.

Our work is completed only when the Turkish government accepts that there can be no true security for **all** Turkish citizens without full respect for their human rights.

And so from today, Amnesty International's members around the world will be standing with the people of this country.

We will be standing with your doctors, your lawyers, your teachers, your journalists, your trade unionists, and your women's organizations who are not only concerned but also taking practical steps in the right direction to put an end to these human rights abuses.

This past week, we have met many of these people, and we admire their courage and will be standing by them.

We will also be standing alongside the human rights movement here in Turkey. Again, this past week we have met many of our human rights colleagues, who are at great personal risk in raising their concerns. Today we salute them. They are our valued partners in this campaign.

We will be standing alongside all those who are helping to strengthen Turkey's healthy, democratic civil society through their defence of fundamental human rights and civil liberties.

In Uruguay, in Taiwan, in Canada, in Malaysia, in Slovenia, in the Gaza Strip, in Australia, in Poland and in Pakistan - Amnesty International's members will be organizing petitions, talking with their Foreign Ministries, holding press conferences and seminars, and gathering in public squares in vigils and demonstrations. They will be visiting Turkish Embassies in their capitals to discuss our concerns.

In Norway, in Korea, in the United States, in Germany, and in Japan, Amnesty members will be expressing their solidarity with Turkish human rights defenders, with those who have been denied their right to freedom of expression, and with the mothers, daughters and wives of the "disappeared" in this country.

Amnesty International's campaigning is both practical and effective.

We believe that if there are fewer prisoners of conscience in Turkey today than a decade ago, it is in part due to the tireless efforts of Amnesty members worldwide.

Through the work of our Urgent Action Network, which works daily on individual cases of "disappearance" and fear of torture, we believe that Amnesty International can actually help to save lives.

Amnesty International's action achieves concrete results.

We believe that this new campaign can serve the interests of **all** the people of Turkey well by promoting a program of realistic, easily-implemented reform.

Turkey is not the only country in Europe where Amnesty International has expressed particular concern about torture and ill-treatment in police custody.

Our recent actions on Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Romania, Russia and the United Kingdom, for example, make clear that the reforms we are asking your government to accept are the same as those we urge on all European states.

The reforms we are promoting today are not just high ideals or recipes for change cooked up by foreigners.

They reflect nothing more and nothing less than the principles by which the Turkish government has asked to be judged as a European nation and as a member of the international community.

They are nothing more and nothing less than the promises which the government has already made in its own laws to protect the human rights of **all** its citizens.

Amnesty International's members want to see those promises turned into reality, and to ensure that true security for **all** the people of this country is guaranteed from today.

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