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**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS OFFICE**

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Dear Secretary General,

**ADDING INJUSTICE TO INJURY: ONE YEAR ON FROM THE GEZI PARK PROTESTS IN TURKEY**

Amnesty International would like to draw your attention to our enclosed report [Adding injustice to injury: One year on from the Gezi Park protests in Turkey](#), published on 10 June 2014. The report analyses the ongoing clampdown on peaceful protest, the prosecution of protesters, and the rampant impunity for police violence in Turkey since the Gezi Park demonstrations broke out one year ago.

In summer 2013, the Gezi Park protests turned into nationwide anti-government protests, with an estimated 3.5 million participants. The reaction of the Turkish authorities was brutal and uncompromising. Police repeatedly used abusive force, using tear gas, water cannons and beatings to prevent and disperse peaceful demonstrations. Journalists, doctors and lawyers were arrested, beaten and threatened in relation to the Gezi Park events as the government sought to smear those speaking out against it. Amnesty International monitored demonstrations in Istanbul and Ankara and documented abuses in its report [Gezi Park protests: Brutal denial of the right to peaceful assembly in Turkey](#), published in October 2013.

One year on from the Gezi Park protests, the authorities have continued their attempts to crush the protest movement. Anti-government demonstrations have continued to be banned and brutally dispersed with tear gas, water cannons and beatings. More than 5,500 individuals have been prosecuted for simply participating in or organising the Gezi Park protests. Many peaceful protesters face trumped up charges of violent conduct, and hundreds have been charged under anti-terrorism or organised crime provisions. The authorities have sought to sanction medical associations and doctors who provided first aid, and have introduced legislative amendments that could be used to criminalise the provision of emergency care during protests. They have also prosecuted social media users active during the protests, and attempted to block the sites that carried their words and videos.

The police however enjoyed near total impunity for the large-scale abuses that took place. Eight thousand people were injured during the Gezi Park protests and at least four died as a direct result of police violence. But investigations into police abuses have stalled, been obstructed, or closed. As of April 2014, only five police officers have stood trial, and a further two were awaiting trial. The government has rarely acknowledged the abuses that took place, and has failed to show political will to ensure justice for victims and accountability for perpetrators.

Amnesty International urges you to continue calling on the Turkish authorities to allow peaceful protests and ensure that both legislation and actions respect the right to peaceful assembly and the principles of proportionality and non-discrimination as guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights. In particular, the government must revise the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations and repeal provisions used to criminalise peaceful protest, and ensure that other laws, including anti-terrorism legislation and organised crime offences are not used to prosecute people for exercising their right to organise and take part in peaceful assemblies. We further urge you to call on the competent authorities to carry out effective and impartial investigations into all cases of alleged ill-treatment by law enforcement officials, and bring those responsible to justice.

We thank you for your attention and we remain at your disposal should you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

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Cc: Directorate of Human Rights  
Directorate of Political Advice  
CPT Secretariat  
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