

Minister of Interior
Ali Yerlikaya
T.C. İçişleri Bakanlığı, Bakanlıklar
Ankara, Türkiye

Groningen,

Dear Minister,

Since 8 April 2023, the Saturday Mothers/people have been trying to return to Galatasaray Square every Saturday to hold their weekly vigil free, in line with two Constitutional Court rulings in November 2022 and March 2023. Routinely, police officers use excessive and arbitrary force to disperse the peaceful protesters, with the apparent intent of inflicting pain and punishment on the participants of the vigils.

I urge you to ensure that the police allows the Saturday Mothers and other peaceful protesters to gather peacefully on Galatasaray Square. The police should protect peaceful protesters so that they can exercise their right to freedom of peaceful assembly without fear of being subject to excessive use of force, arbitrary arrest and detention. I also urge you to order the Beyoğlu governor to lift the ban and refrain from imposing new bans on assemblies in Galatasaray Square, in line with the above-mentioned rulings of the Constitutional Court.

Yours sincerely,