

Minister Süleyman Soylu
Minister of Interior
Devlet Mahallesi, İçişleri Bakanlığı
Çankaya, Ankara 06580
TÜRKİE

Dear Minister,

I am writing to ask you to guarantee the rights of those who are trying to raise awareness of their disappeared relatives by gathering at Galatasaray Square.

On 25 August 2018, police in Istanbul used tear gas and water cannons to disperse a peaceful gathering of mainly women, some in their 80s, known as the 'Saturday Mothers'. It was their 700th gathering to demand justice for their loved ones at Galatasaray Square. The women have been holding peaceful vigils protesting the enforced disappearance of their relatives since the mid-1990s. Now the authorities have banned their vigil.

I would like to urge you to allow the vigils to go ahead without any unlawful restrictions and to make sure that those participating in them are able to exercise their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, guaranteed under both domestic and international human rights law.

Yours sincerely,

Copy:

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