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Minister of Interior
Ali Yerlikaya
T.C. İçişleri Bakanlığı
Bakanlıklar/ANKARA
Türkiye

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Dear Minister,

**I am writing to call on you to intervene, without further delay, to fully open Galatasaray Square to Saturday Mothers/People’s weekly peaceful vigil**. This long overdue decision would be in line with the two Constitutional Court rulings in 2022 and 2023 and the acquittals in March 2025 of 45 defendants who have been prosecuted under the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations since 2021.

While the group has been able to return to Galatasaray Square since November 2023, the round the clock presence of metal barriers and armed police, and the arbitrary limit on the numbers of protesters to 10 people allowed to gather each Saturday, continue to represent an unlawful restriction to Saturday Mothers/People’s enjoyment of their right to peaceful assembly.

The positive duty of all states party to binding international human rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights is to ensure the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly of all without discrimination. In the case of Saturday Mothers/People and all those who wish to assemble peacefully, Galatasaray Square is a location of symbolic importance that has become synonymous with the group over the last 30 years.

**I call on you to ensure the Saturday Mothers/People’s right to peaceful assembly, open up the Square and lift all the current restrictions immediately.**

Yours sincerely,

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**Copie**

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