Since its establishment in 1986, 23 members and executives of İHD (Turkish Human Rights Association) have lost their lives as a result of extrajudicial killings. Between 1998 and 2002, two chairpersons of the association were attacked at the headquarters of the association.

Eren Keskin is the Co-Chair of the İHD. In this context, given the organized structure of the smear campaign against Eren Keskin and İHD, there is utmost concern over the serious and imminent nature of the threats Eren Keskin and the organization face.

Eren Keskin has been continuously judicially harassed and intimidated for the past decades because of her peaceful human rights activities and exercise of freedom of expression.

On January 8, 2024, X (formerly Twitter) accounts close to the ultra-nationalist movement started to share posts using a photo of Eren Keskin taken during a press conference for the Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day on April 24, 2023, in which she participated. These accounts with large number of followers directly targeted Eren Keskin and the İHD in a smear campaign due to their criticism of Turkey's denial of the Armenian Genocide and failure to apologise and provide reparations. In replies to and via re-sharing of these posts, numerous threats and insults were directed at Eren Keskin, other people who took part in the press conference, and the İHD. Such violent rhetoric was also shared from the official account of the Kocaeli Branch of the ultra-nationalist Victory Party (Zafer Partisi), furthering the gravity of the organised attacks.

On January 9, 2024, the same photo was shared by Semih Tufan Gülaltay, responsible for the planning and instigation of an assassination attempt against former İHD Chairperson, **Akın Birdal**, in 1998, on his X account alongside an insulting and threatening caption directly targeting Eren Keskin.

12/08/2023

Turkish police continue crackdown on Saturday Mothers protest, detaining activists

The Saturday Mothers, a group that has been holding sit-in protests in Galatasaray Square since 1995 demanding information about their disappeared relatives who went missing in custody and calling for those responsible to be held accountable, faced another obstacle in their continuing quest for justice. In the 959th week of their protest, the police once again prevented them from holding their peaceful demonstration and detained them.

The 959th vigil organized by the Saturday Mothers, a collective of women steadfast in their demand for justice for their relatives who have disappeared in custody, was again met with police intervention. The intervention escalated into physical attacks on the Saturday Mothers and activists who stood in solidarity with their cause.



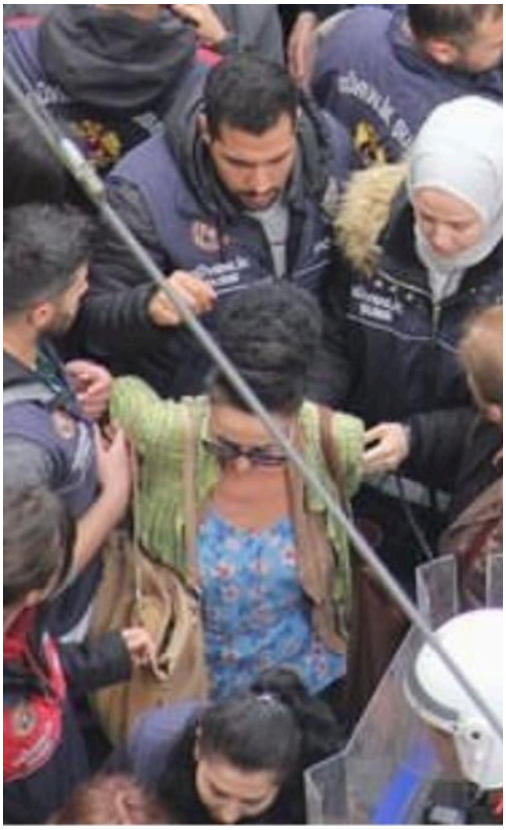
Despite the "violation" verdict of the Turkish Constitutional Court (AYM) against the police intervention, the 19-week-long police blockade of Galatasaray Square continued. Many streets in the square were blocked by police forces and detention vehicles in anticipation of the planned action. Another group of supporters, including members and deputies of the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) and the pro-Kurdish Green Left Party, were also met with a police cordon.

After the blockade, journalists were forcibly removed from the area, effectively preventing them from taking photographs.

Before the arrests, the police announced that the action had been banned by the district governor's office. On 23 February, however, the AYM ruled that the police's use of force against the Saturday Mothers' peaceful protests violated human rights, but despite this ruling, the court's decision has yet to be effectively implemented.

Subsequently, the co-chair of the Human Rights Association (İHD), **Eren Keskin**, was handcuffed and detained at the edge of the blockade together with other demonstrators, including two members of the public, who naturally reacted to the harsh police intervention and arrests. The reported number of arrests was close to 20.

Meanwhile, another demonstration in support of the Saturday Mothers organized by the İHD in Adana was violently attacked and around 39 people were arrested, including four lawyers.





Eren Keskin

@KeskinEren1

Biz sadece Barış , demokrasi ve insan haklarını savunurken onlar bize ‘ters kelepçe’ taktılar böyle. Anayasa Mahkemesi kararını hiçe sayan devlet daha neler yapmaz!!

While we were just defending peace, democracy and human rights, they put us in 'reverse handcuffs' like this. What more does the state do, which ignores the decision of the Constitutional Court!!

https://anfenglish.com/human-rights/saturday-mothers-detained-in-istanbul-66505