

TURKEY

Taner and the Istanbul 10 Persecuted for defending human rights

Right now, 11 people who have dedicated their lives to defending the human rights of journalists, activists and other dissenting voices in Turkey are themselves in danger. Among them are Amnesty International's Taner Kılıç and İdil Eser. All are on trial for "terrorism" related crimes – an absurd attempt to choke their human rights activism.



Artwork © Rebecca Hendin

9 June 2017 should have been an ordinary day for Taner Kılıç but his work to expose human rights abuses was suddenly interrupted. He was thrown in prison on the preposterous charges of membership in an "armed terrorist organization".

One month later, İdil Eser, head of Amnesty Turkey was attending a routine workshop for human rights activists in Istanbul. With her was friend and fellow activist Özlem Dalkıran, founder of Amnesty Turkey, now with Avaaz and the Citizens' Assembly, and eight other activists.

The third day of their workshop was about to start. Suddenly police raided the building, detaining them all.

In Rebecca Hendin's illustration are, **top row** (L-R): Özlem Dalkıran (Citizens' Assembly), Şeyhmus Özbekli (lawyer), Taner Kılıç (Chair, Amnesty International Turkey), Veli Acu (Human Rights Agenda Association), Nalan Erkem (Citizens' Assembly); **bottom row** (L-R): Günel Kurşun (Human Rights Agenda Association), Ali Gharavi (Digital strategy and wellbeing consultant, writer), İdil Eser (Director, Amnesty International Turkey), Nejat Taştan (Association for Monitoring Equal Rights), Peter Steudtner (non-violence and wellbeing trainer), and İlknur Üstün (Women's Coalition).

These detentions were a part of a series of government efforts to silence its critics. Since the attempted coup of July 2016, over 150,000 people have been placed under criminal investigation.

Following a global outcry, the Istanbul 10 were released on bail. But Taner is still in prison and the Istanbul 10 are still at risk. Laying criminal charges against them leaves everyone vulnerable to the government's ongoing crackdown on freedoms.

These brave individuals have dedicated their lives to defending the rights of others. We defend theirs rights.

Tell Turkey to stop persecuting these human rights defenders and drop the charges against them.

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media.

Article 19,
Universal Declaration
of Human Rights

WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Unleash your pens and keyboards!



Please write to the Minister of Justice.

- ◆ Start with Dear Minister.
- ◆ Describe who you are.
- ◆ Share your concern that Taner Kılıç and the Istanbul 10 are burdened with the unfounded charges that stifle their rights to freedom of expression and of association.
- ◆ Insist that he stops the persecution of these human rights defenders and drops the charges against them without further delay.

Send your message to

Minister of Justice Abdulhamit Gül
c/o Amnesty International
312 Laurier Avenue East
Ottawa ON K1N 1H9

Postage: \$.85
Amnesty International will collect all appeals and deliver them en masse in early January.

Support Taner, İdil, Özlem and the other 8 members of the Istanbul 10!

Create a message of greeting, courage and solidarity. Upload a photograph of it to freeistanbul10.tumblr.com to show that you support their struggle and that you are insisting on an end to the persecution of human rights defenders in Turkey.

Sample Tweets

[@abdulhamitgul](https://twitter.com/abdulhamitgul) Drop the unfounded charges against Taner Kilic & the #Istanbul 10 #FreeRightsDefenders #Turkey

Tell @abdulhamitgul to drop charges against Taner Kilic, Idil Eser & 9 other Turkish activists #HumanRightsDefenders #W4R17 #write4rights

Human rights defenders like the Istanbul 10 are at risk around the world. Join Amnesty's efforts to protect the rights of those who defend our rights. www.amnesty.ca/wedefend #WeDefend

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