



## OPEN LETTER\*

Minister Abdülhamit GÜL  
Minister of Justice,  
Republic of Turkey

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

As Civil Society Organisations and individuals working on Human Rights field, we are writing to you to draw your attention to [29 incidents of "enforced disappearance"](#) between 2016 and 2020, to urgently locate these victims, and to ask you to take action and identify and bring to justice the perpetrators of this series of crimes, which is accepted as a crime against humanity.

Turkey was first confronted with incidents of abductions in the 1990s and unfortunately, in recent years, cases of forced abduction have started to come to the fore again. In the [report](#) titled "Police Torture and Abductions in Turkey" of 2017, Human Rights Watch (HRW) stated that the state officials did not speak out about the kidnapping, and the evidence obtained was horrifying.

The families of Yusuf Bilge Tunç, Sunay Elmas and Ayhan Oran still claim that were not found despite being abducted long months ago.

In another [report](#), HRW stated that Gökhan Türkmen, Erkan Irmak and Mesut Geçer gave information about their abduction to the court as detainees and that the abducted state officials still came to them in prison and threatened them and their families.

Therefore, we demand you to:

- Ensure an effective investigation to find Yusuf Bilge Tunç, Sunay Elmas and Ayhan Oran, who were allegedly kidnapped and still not heard from, as soon as possible;
- Provide detailed information about Gökhan Türkmen, Erkan Irmak and Mesut Geçer's abductions, initiate an effective investigation against all those responsible who kidnapped persons, approved their abduction, torture, and who did not notify the authorities of the crime committed and take action to ensure that they receive the necessary penalty.

As "Enforced Disappearance" involves crimes such as forced abduction, extralegal arrest, deprivation from freedom, excluding the victims from protection of law, torture, execution without trial, and moreover hiding the dead bodies (if any), it is a very heavy human rights violation. Hence, in order to identify and to prevent this crime from recurring, we also demand that you

- launch an 'investigation commission within the parliament for a proper investigation
- take the initiative to get United Nations International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance ratified by Turkey, and fulfil the responsibilities stated in the convention

- inform the public in a transparent manner about the decisions taken, judicial or administrative actions and or precautions taken by the government

**\* This Open Letter is launched by [Solidarity with Others](#) in collaboration with [International Observatory of Human Rights](#).**