

May 2019

**Ambassador Serdar Kiliç**  
*Embassy of the Republic of Turkey*  
*2525 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20008*

Dear Ambassador,

I am deeply concerned about the jailing of over 600 women who are pregnant or who have young children in Turkey. This is a violation of your own laws and International Standards and Rules.

Mothers have been arrested in the hospital immediately after delivering a baby without a chance to recover. In other cases, women were shackled as they gave birth. Conditions in some women's prisons have caused serious health problems for pregnant mothers or mothers with babies. Children kept in jail with their mothers cannot thrive.

Turkey has signed onto many International Standards, including the ***Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment*** and ***Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders***. The United Nations has stated that all nations must ensure appropriate pre and post-natal health care for mothers and not hold mothers in jail before their trial.

Please insist that mothers of babies and young children or pregnant women are released pending trial. There are many viable alternatives to incarceration during the pre-trial period.

I will be watching this issue closely in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Country \_\_\_\_\_

May 2019

Mr Abdülhamit Gül  
Minister of Justice of the Republic of Turkey  
Adalet Bakanlığı  
06659 Ankara, Turkey

Dear Minister,

I am deeply concerned about the jailing of over 600 women who are pregnant or who have young children in Turkey. This is a violation of your own laws and International Standards and Rules.

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Sincerely,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Country \_\_\_\_\_

25 April 2019

**Mrs.Zehra Zümriit Selçuk**  
**Minister of Family, Labor and Social Services**  
Emek Mahallesi 17. Cadde No:13 Pk: 06520 Emek  
Ankara, TURKEY

Dear Minister,

I am deeply concerned about the jailing of over 600 women who are pregnant or who have young children in Turkey. This is a violation of your own laws and International Standards and Rules.

Mothers have been arrested in the hospital immediately after delivering a baby without a chance to recover. In other cases, women were shackled as they gave birth. Conditions in some women's prisons have caused serious health problems for pregnant mothers or mothers with babies. Children kept in jail with their mothers cannot thrive.

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I urge you to do all in your power to ensure that mothers are released pending trial to ensure a healthy pregnancy and delivery, as well as an appropriate environment for a baby or young child. There are many viable alternatives to incarceration during the pre-trial period.

I will be watching this issue closely in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Country \_\_\_\_\_