

Dear Mr/Ms,

Turkey has been in a turmoil following a failed coup in July 2016. Over 100,000 public officials have been dismissed due to alleged coup links, with courts jailing over 47,000 more on terrorism charges.

In addition to parliamentarians, journalists, media workers, and academicians the Turkish government's persecution and witch-hunt of critics and opponents have systematically and deliberately targeted vulnerable groups; women and children. Although, they have not committed any crime.

Around 17,000 women are in jail. The number of children ages 0 to 6 who are being held in Turkish prisons along with their parents rose from 560 to 668, according to government data. No toys allowed! In a statement to main opposition Republican Peoples' Party (CHP) deputy Gamze Ilgezdi's question, the Justice Ministry said the number of children staying with their mothers behind bars has hit 668 as of July 4, 2017, corresponding to the number of 560 in April 2017.

Numerous pregnant women are in jails with conditions unfit for a healthy person, let alone for a pregnant woman. Many end up giving birth in their cells without medical attention. Turkish Justice Ministry announced that 38 new prisons have been built in the last year to jail more.

Few dedicated women in the Bay Area including myself, intended to build a platform to be a voice and supporter of these suffered women and children. I believe you are the one who may guide us with experience and sympathy. We, Women's Advocacy Platform, would like to come and visit you to benefit from your experiences and ideas for our organization. We kindly ask for an appointment from you on your available time.

Moreover, in order to raise awareness on the issue, Women's Advocacy Platform is organizing a panel, "In The Name of Innocents: Women and Children as Refugees". We kindly request the honor of your presence as a speaker at the panel that will be tentatively held in

Yours Sincerely,
Your Name