

# INTERNATIONAL ART CONTEST

**SUBMISSION TIMELINE:**  
**JUNE 1ST. - SEPTEMBER 1ST. 2018**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL, AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS  
ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONTEST.**

**WORKS OF ART SHOULD BE SENT TO  
[ARTCONTEST@SILENCEDTURKEY.ORG](mailto:ARTCONTEST@SILENCEDTURKEY.ORG)**

## PRIZES

**First Prize: \$ 250 -- Second Prize: \$ 150 -- Third Prize: \$ 100**

## CATEGORIES

Drawing  
Photography  
Cartoon  
True Story

Poetry  
Short Movie  
(Maximum 4 min.)  
Written Song (Türkü)

**THE WORKS OF ART MUST BE PREPARED WITH THE AIM OF CONTRIBUTING  
TO THE CONTEMPLATION AND DESCRIPTION OF SUFFERINGS AND  
VICTIMIZATIONS ENCOUNTERED THROUGH THE MEANS OF  
ARTISTIC CREATIVITY**

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[WWW.SILENCEDTURKEY.ORG](http://WWW.SILENCEDTURKEY.ORG)**



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**FINALISTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON OCTOBER 1, 2018**

**WORKS OF ART CHOSEN AS CONTEST FINALISTS,**

- **WILL BE DISPLAYED IN MAJOR CITIES SUCH AS NYC, BRUSSELS, WASHINGTON D.C. AND NAIROBI.**
- **WILL BE PUBLISHED IN A COMPREHENSIVE BOOKLET.**
- **WILL BE SUBMITTED AND PRESENTED TO THE RELEVANT LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS.**

## **THE PURPOSE OF THE CONTEST**

Human rights violations in Turkey, in the form of maltreatment and victimizations as they have been covered widely in a plethora of international reports, have touched the lives of thousands of innocent people.

According to the World Justice Report, Turkey fell in the rankings to the 101st place among 113 countries in the world in regard to the rule of law. Among more than 60 thousand people who have been jailed pending trial, there are numerous human rights advocates; more than 10 thousand women are in jail as political prisoners, and more than 600 children and infants have been imprisoned together with their mothers. According to official reports, more than 230 people have suffered from torture and ill-treatment while more than 160 thousand people have been dismissed from their professions and jobs due to political reasons.

In an era during which universal human rights norms and rules of law have been viciously undermined, tens of thousands of people have been persecuted and forced to leave Turkey. In this respect, human capital flight, or brain drain, towards democratic countries has been gathering pace. Families and innocent children who drowned in the Aegean Sea and the Maritsa River while fleeing away by boats to Greece illustrate the agonizing tragedy that has been the daily reality of Turkey.

More than 500 thousand people have been forced into exile over the past several years. The Kurdish population, the biggest minority group in Turkey, has been subjected to severe human rights abuses, and leaders and countless deputies of People's Democratic Party have been unjustly imprisoned. Negative discrimination against religious minorities and harassment of liberals and secularists have become the norm, not the exception. Exploitation of religion and the use of religious discourse for political gain has triggered immense socio-cultural problems, including systemic human rights violations such as torture, ill-treatment, and social exclusion. For these reasons, the Advocates of Silenced Turkey (AST) has decided to organize an international art contest to give artists an outlet to reflect and describe the cruelties and oppressions encountered in Turkey through the language of art and literature.

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