

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

AI Index: EUR 44/008/2014
19 March 2014

Turkey: Candidates and parties contesting local elections showing support for Amnesty International call

On 14 March Amnesty International publicly called on all candidates and political parties taking part in the 2014 local elections in Turkey to commit to conduct urban transformation projects in a way which respects the human rights of all residents.

The Republican People's Party (CHP), Democratic Left Party (DSP), Liberal Democrat Party (LDP) and Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) all responded positively. The ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) declined to respond.

Amnesty International publicly called on all candidates and parties to commit to the following standards when conducting urban transformation projects within their municipality:

- Explore all alternatives to evictions in genuine consultation with all residents, including tenants and people living in houses without title deeds;
- If evictions are the only feasible option, undertake genuine consultation with affected people on the process of evictions, options for compensation and alternative housing;
- Provide information on legal and administrative avenues to challenge decisions and legal aid available;
- Explain the outcome of the consultation process to the affected people and ways in which their concerns have been addressed;
- Once consultations are completed, provide all affected people with adequate notice in writing as well as verbally, including rationale, time and date of eviction, resettlement and avenues for legal remedies;
- No one should be made homeless or vulnerable to other human rights violations as a result of an eviction;

- All grievances must be resolved and alternative housing must be provided before the date of eviction;
- Alternative housing must meet international standards of adequacy including security of tenure, affordability, adequacy of space, availability of services and location;
- Monitor conditions of evicted people to ensure that they are able to access their human rights after the eviction.

End/