

Strong condemnation of police violence against LGBTI activists in Istanbul

June 27th 2016

On the invitation of the Turkish LGBTI activists, an international delegation composed of different politicians from different political families and different NGOs from all over Europe, gathered in Istanbul last weekend.

Yesterday, during the demonstration on the occasion of the ban of the Istanbul Pride, we witnessed violent police actions towards LGBTI activists. Greens/EFA MEP Terry Reintke, member of the LGBTI Intergroup of the European Parliament was as well arrested by the police and then released. 29 activists in total had been detained and all of them have been released later in the night.

We firmly condemn what happened last weekend and we need to highlight the difficult situation facing LGBTI people everyday in Turkey. The activists were prevented from delivering a statement but you can find it online at: <https://lgbtnewsturkey.com/2016/06/26/14th-istanbul-lgbti-pride-week-committee-press-statement-on-26-june-2016/>

This is why, all over Europe, at a time where our relations with Turkey are discussed at large, we need to echo the message of Turkish LGBTI activists and keep an international close look to monitor the situation.

Signatories of this statement (by alphabetical order)

- **Tania Barkhuis, Nevin Özütok, Dirk van Bergen, Rocco Piers**, GroenLinks Amsterdam and RozeLinks, The Netherlands
- **Petter Forkstam**, LGBT-spokesperson of the Swedish Green Party, Sweden
- **Gwenaëlle Grovonius**, Member of Parliament, Parti Socialiste, Belgium
- **Robert Hannah**, Member of Parliament, Liberalerna, Sweden
- **Aurélien Mazuy**, President of Rainbow Rose – PES LGBT network, France
- **Terry Reintke**, MEP and member of the LGBTI intergroup of the European Parliament, Greens EFA / Bündnis 90-Die Grünen, Germany
- **Jose Ángel Santoro**, Secretary General of Rainbow Rose, Spain
- **Brian Sheehan**, Co-chair of ILGA-Europe, Ireland
- **Daniele Viotti**, MEP and Co-president of the LGBTI intergroup of the European Parliament, Socialists and Democrats / Partito Democratico, Italy
- **Andreas Wolter**, Bürgermeister der Stadt Köln, Germany
- **Keklik Yücel**, Member of Parliament, Partij van de Arbeid, The Netherlands