

## #OCCUPYGEZI, GEZI PARK, ISTANBUL H312

The initial aim of the protests was to prevent the demolition of Gezi Park, one of the few remaining green spaces in the center of the European side of Istanbul. The brutal response of the police to peaceful activists spurred a wider outrage against the government's abuse of power and media censorship. While people were reclaiming their right to the city, the park transformed into a public forum where people belonging to different social classes, holding different sociocultural and political stands came together to end government's rising authoritarianism. Groups representing a variety of causes, including environmentalists, feminists, LGBT activists, Kurdish rights activists, socialists, communists, secularists, anti-capitalist Islamists as well as football fans, shared the space of the park and cooperated to reach a common goal.

