

12.23.24

Dear President Kadir Özkaya,

Dear Vice-Presidents and Justices of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Türkiye,

I am writing to inform you that international nonprofit organization Lady Freethinker has published a petition **urging you to revoke the latest version of the Animal “Protection” Law No. 5199.**

In the first 30 days after its passage, there were at least 44 reported cruelty cases involving the **torture and murder** of hundreds of dogs and cats – by both authorities and civilians.¹ Many professional bodies, including The Psychiatric Association of Türkiye, raised concerns that normalizing brutality against dogs could encourage additional violence.

Considering the current situation, with limited shelter capacity for only 105,000 dogs and an increase in violent behavior towards community animals, **only a small percentage of the estimated 4 million street dogs will make it out alive.**² In fact, we keep seeing news about dogs being collected from the streets and killed in large numbers in shelters almost on a daily basis.^{3 4}

Dogs are emotionally sentient beings and loving companions **who should not be forced to a life of imprisonment and in constant fear of death** as they are targeted in a state-mandated massacre. It is critical that humane methods of population control, such as spay and neuter, are implemented, not the horrific slaughtering of these innocent animals. We believe it is still vital to find methods for humans and animals to peacefully coexist in communities, **as Türkiye has already done for centuries**, thus setting a precedent for other countries.

The petition has now been **signed by over 41,300 people** from all over the world. You can view it at this link: <https://ladyfreethinker.org/sign-stop-the-massacre-of-dogs-in-turkey/>

¹<https://yunuslaraozgurluk.com/animal-massacre-law-turkey-fourth-month-report/>

² <https://theweek.com/environment/turkey-massacre-law-stray-dogs>

³<https://t24.com.tr/haber/mamak-belediyesi-barinagindaki-kopeklere-kotu-muamele-savci-gelmiyor-hasta-olani-bekletip-digeri-ne-parcalatiyorlar,1203024>

⁴<https://www.odatv.com/gundem/aydin-karacasuda-barinak-yanindaki-copten-olu-kopekler-ve-tuftuf-cikti-120076937>

With regard to ethical, scientific, and legal foundations, we implore you to revoke the latest edition of the law at the soonest time possible to prevent further loss of lives and spare dogs from being brutally killed.

Sincerely,

Nina Jackel

President, Lady Freethinker