



**This is just the beginning
The fight is continuing**

Akgün İlhan





Who protested?



Political profile of protesters

- **Supporters of the main opposition party (CHP)**

Many of which support CHP only because they believe it challenge Justice and Development Party (AKP).

- **Supporters of parties below the %10 threshold**

The People's Voice Party (HAS), Peace and Democracy Party (BDP), National Movement Party (MHP), Labour Party (IP) etc.

- **Protesters with anti-systemic view**

No belief in existing political structures and parties.

What was common in such diverse people?

Outcasted by PM Erdogan's discriminative, polarizing and authoritarian language targetting different lifestyles, identities and belongings.

Erdogan's interference to daily lives style life with no alcohol consumption, no abortion etc.

Overall strategies of the protesters

- Searching ways to building a fair, holistic and democratic synergy in contrast to Erdoğan's discriminative, polarizing and authoritarian language.
- Promoting plurality in identity, lifestyle and belonging in contrast to Erdoğan's one way of living and being.
- Non-violent civil disobedience to underline that the state is the source of violence.

Concrete demands from the government

- (1) Gezi Park remaining a park;
- (2) An end to police brutality and the resignation of governors, police commissioners etc. and in Istanbul and other cities;
- (3) A ban on the use of tear gas;
- (4) The release of the detained activists;
- (5) The lifting of all restrictions on meetings and protests in public squares across Turkey.



Strengths

Gezi Park is saved. Similar mega projects are increasingly questioned in public circles. Different segments of society have experienced a unique form of togetherness and derived some lessons about the role of the State, the police, democracy, mega projects, identities and many unquestioned concepts.

This is a beginning rather than an end...

The greatest lesson derived from Gezi is about DEMOCRACY

