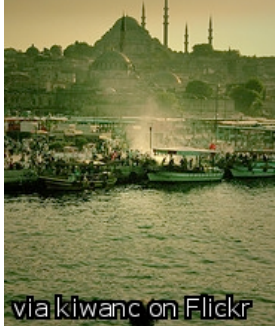


Istanbul park protests spread across Turkey

3rd June, 2013

Creative Commons



People in Istanbul are continuing their protests against their government's decision to turn the city's Gezi Park into a shopping mall. The unrest has spread to the Turkish capital Ankara and 90 other places across the country, in what is seen as dissatisfaction with the rule of Prime Minister Recep Erdogan. More than 1,000

people have been arrested and dozens injured. The government has come under criticism for its heavy-handed response to the protestors. It has now ordered security forces to leave Istanbul's Taksim Square. Mr Erdogan admitted that police had made "mistakes" in the amount of force they used, but emphasized that the square, "cannot be an area where extremists are running wild".

Protesters have been staging their "Occupy Gezi Park" protest since May 26. They want to prevent the demolition of one of the few green areas left in central Istanbul. Journalist Murat Yetkin said the increasing and "disproportionate" police response "has managed to turn a pacifist and modest protest into a public protest movement". Oral Goktas, a 31-year old architect, said: "This has become a protest against the government, against Erdogan taking decisions like a king." Opposition party leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu accused Erdogan of behaving like a dictator, saying: "Tens of thousands are saying no. They are opposing the dictator." Erdogan vowed that the redevelopment of the park would go ahead as planned.

Sources: BBC / Reuters / Hurriyet

Writing

Public parks should never be replaced with shopping malls. It means consumerism has defeated the environment. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

protests / shopping mall / dissatisfaction / arrested / injured / heavy-handed / wild / demolition / green areas / police response / pacifist / opposition party / dictator

True / False

- People are angry a park in Turkey's capital may soon disappear. T / F
- The article does not report any deaths amid the unrest. T / F
- People said the government's hands were full during the protests. T / F
- Turkey's prime minister said he did not want extremists in the park. T / F
- The park is on the outskirts of the city of Istanbul. T / F
- A journalist said police actions turned the protests into something big. T / F
- An architect said Turkey's prime minister is acting like a king. T / F
- Turkey's prime minister has promised to review plans for the park. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. continuing | a. stressed |
| 2. dissatisfaction | b. simple |
| 3. heavy-handed | c. fanatics |
| 4. emphasized | d. stop |
| 5. extremists | e. tyrant |
| 6. prevent | f. severe |
| 7. pacifist | g. promised |
| 8. modest | h. peace-lover |
| 9. dictator | i. carrying on |
| 10. vowed | j. unhappiness |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about the protests in Turkey?
- Are protestors right to defend the park?
- Should the government consult the people before destroying their park?
- Should the shopping mall be moved to another place?
- What's more important, a park or a shopping mall?
- Should tear gas be used against peaceful protestors?
- Why are police always so heavy-handed with protestors?
- Do you think police agree or disagree with the protestors?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. The unrest has spread | a. modest protest |
| 2. heavy- | b. of force |
| 3. security | c. are running wild |
| 4. the amount | d. like a dictator |
| 5. an area where extremists | e. party leader |
| 6. one of the few green areas | f. forces |
| 7. a pacifist and | g. go ahead as planned |
| 8. opposition | h. to the Turkish capital |
| 9. behaving | i. left in central Istanbul |
| 10. redevelopment of the park would | j. handed response |

Discussion – Student B

- Should all world cities protect their parks?
- What would you take to the streets in protest at?
- What do you think of people who protest?
- Do you think Turkey's leader is acting like a dictator?
- Is it better for the police to simply let protests take place and end?
- What advice would you give to someone protesting in Istanbul?
- Could the protests lead to something more dangerous in Turkey?
- What questions would you like to ask Turkey's prime minister?

Spelling

- their government's ondecisi
- seen as atisfioctnsdas
- dozens rdjneiu
- come under imrccitis
- Mr Erdogan edtmadi that
- rissexmtet are running wild
- gigntsa their "Occupy Gezi Park" protest
- prevent the dnmioloiet
- disproportionate police spreneos
- 31-year old ticcahter
- behaving like a tdocirat
- Erdogan wvode that...

Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. j	3. f	4. a	5. c
6. d	7. h	8. b	9. e	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Park boss

You think a park is the best thing to build in a city. Tell the others 3 reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a shopping mall, a museum or a gym.

Role B – Shopping mall boss

You think a shopping mall is the best thing to build in a city. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a park, a museum or a gym.

Role C – Museum boss

You think a museum is the best thing to build in a city. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a shopping mall, a park or a gym.

Role D – Gym boss

You think a gym is the best thing to build in a city. Tell the others 3 reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a shopping mall, a museum or a park.

Speaking – Protest

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the things that would make you protest most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| • losing a local park | • pollution of a local river |
| • nuclear power | • to oust a leader |
| • deforestation | • education cuts |
| • rising prices | • human rights |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.