



IRS JOURNAL



The USA



Bulgaria



Greece



Serbia



Türkiye



Georgia

and many more...

*The Nature of Protests -
Nadide Hayat Öztürk*

*March 2025, A Distant
Memory of Freedom -
Aybüke Yılmaz*

*Youth Responses to
Authoritarianism and
Populism: The Balkan
Spring - Günay Yücel*

*Serbian Uprisings - Çağan
Irmak Acar*

*Tension in the Caucasus: Georgian
Protests - Cenk Altıparmak*

*A Glimpse of Greek Protests In
2025 - Derya Güneş*

*A Familiar Scene from Our
Neighbour: Arrest of Mayor
of Varna - Arın Özalp*

*Protests in Authoritarian
Regimes: Can They Work? -
Ömer Sevinç*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

*Fire Is Catching -
Nurmina Gültekin*

*"Peace Processes
Around the World and
in Türkiye": IRS Event
with Esra Çuhadar -
Selin Akpınar*

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

I hope the fall semester has started off wonderfully for everyone. It is an honour to return as the editor of the IRS Journal. I spent the last semester in Maastricht, the Netherlands, as an exchange student, and needless to say, I missed this journal very much and everything it represents not only for our student society, but also for me personally.

Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to observe various uprisings not only in our country but also across the globe. This experience inspired me to dedicate the first issue of the fall semester to covering these movements in a comprehensive way.

We are welcoming many new writers this semester, which brings me great joy. It's always great to work with peers who are politically aware, educated, and eager to share their thoughts. I am confident that this issue will provide readers with a detailed overview of the recent wave of protests, particularly in the Balkans, but also all over the world.

Covering protests is never easy, especially when they take place outside your own borders, it requires both empathy and objectivity. Therefore, I would like to show my gratitude to all our writers for their attention and dedication to their work.

I would also like to thank my fellow members of the administrative board for their endless support for the journal, for our writers, and for me personally. They are truly the best team I could ever hope to work with.

This issue of IRS Journal explores protests in the Balkans and Nepal, as well as global movements in support of Palestine. It also features analyses of the nature of uprisings in authoritarian regimes. My beloved writers and I sincerely hope you enjoy reading it.

Thank you so much.

UPCOMING IRS EVENTS



IRS Danish Embassy Residence Visit
on October 10, Friday.

THE NATURE OF PROTESTS



Injustices are everywhere yet do protests lead somewhere? Or more precisely “What is the nature of the protest?”. Today most of us witness protests through social media rather than actively participating in the protests. Additionally, media which is a double-edged sword, raises the question: Does it really represents the protest coherent and comprehensive?

In everyday life we are surrounded by inequalities since the beginning of the history. Protest as the means of the citizens to use their collective power, have never been entirely about the politics, rather about every aspect of life. Main resource of change, protests, brought prominent changes to history of countries and its’ citizens. The Boston Tea Party, for instance, was a collective and economic reaction of citizens against British rule that ultimately led to the American Revolutionary War, much like how the Arab Spring spread across several countries and destabilized multiple governmentsç

Protests are never shaped due to political reasons to start with. They arise from moral outrage, racial injustice, economic burden, and environmental crises that shape our everyday lives. Within this context, citizens as potential protesters should clearly define their demands and the outcomes they seek to achieve. The faith has to take roots within people’s minds in order to be persuasive and that would be established through well-defined demands of the protesters. Demands are composed of the questions “Why are on the streets?” and “What do they demand from the government?” Demands can be justice, change, recognition and so on.

Another crucial element accompanying these demands is the shared identity among protesters and the strength of their sense of belonging . Since only a handful of people would not be able to bring change in political realm, individuals should gather as crowded groups. Relatively big groups would cause the emergence of a shared identity considering their similar values and demands. The emergence of a shared identity would facilitate to distinguish “us” and “them” for the non-participants and the media.

The shared identity might assist mobilization as well. Mobilization hinges on robust spread through social networks and information amplified by social media within the public sphere. Anonymity on the social media may help protesters to amplify their demands freely rather being spied. While it supports the dissemination of protests to a greater extent, it also helps their mobilization.



However probable outcomes may occur as the stigmatization of the protests since it might deter protesters through distorting the framing of the protests. Because due to nature of the protests, ways of resistance may differ from peaceful to violent. Once the magnitude escalates between the protesters and the police force, protesters may turn to violence to obtain concrete results. Despite those moments appear less, the media would highlight these specific tensions in order to advertise. Such picking of one moment would misrepresent the protests and manipulate the audience into avoiding protesting.

Aftermath of defining demands for the protests another key is to organization and the mobilization of the crowd. Since the non governmental organizations have been relatively successful at obtaining their demands, such crowds might utilize the power of NGO’s influence in decision making as well. Because NGOs’ interests vary widely, they can support different types of protests through their networks, helping to achieve rapid change.

All in all, protests are not only political acts but collective expressions of justice and identity. Their strength depends on clear demands, unity, and organization. While media can spread their voice powerfully it can also distort the real meaning. I believe the real change would be accomplished through people acting collectively and protesting together with purpose and faith.

Nadide Hayat Öztürk

MARCH 2025, A DISTANT MEMORY OF FREEDOM



A few days ago, as we were walking with my friend she said to me that she needs to buy a new scarf since her old one got covered in pepper gas. Only five months ago this dialogue was our daily routine. We used to passionately discuss the movements around the country and how the pepper gas in the air smells like the freedom of our future. But now, it felt like a distant memory, that smell of pepper gas was no longer in the air and definitely did not symbolize freedom. Now it was just a stubborn scent on a scarf. So I asked: *what changed and what remained the same since March 2025 in Türkiye?*

Well, Ekrem İmamoğlu is still imprisoned alongside many mayors and university students, the government has not changed and still exploits people's suffering, laws still only apply to a certain privileged group and ignore the rest of us. So, what has changed since March 2025? First and foremost, scarf prices have increased! Economy is getting worse and we started to experience the sociological effects more than ever, the corruption of the youth no longer smells through the lines of X news but makes the headlines with serious crimes, expressing opinion and journalism got even harder as we witnessed Fatih Altaylı's unjust imprisonment alongside many other people.

Following the diploma cancellation and the sudden arrest of İstanbul mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, and by far the strongest rival of president Erdoğan, in March 2025 people started to protest the government. Indeed, these protests should not be undermined by just crediting it to İmamoğlu. Government's worsening policies such as "The Family Year" which they announced a few months after the horrifying femicides of İkbâl Uzuner and Ayşenur Halil infuriated the public. People all around the country gathered to protest as they found a common voice: People of all ideas, sides, and genders protested the never ending cycle of female suffering in the country. This sparked the fire in Türkiye's youth to demand better life conditions. So, when İmamoğlu got arrested and lost his diploma, the loudest voice rose from the youth, especially the university youth.

Looking back at this process in Türkiye, as we witnessed Nepal's youth and their leaderless revolution, we can compare these two protests in terms of success. Nepali revolution has always had "leaders" for decades who eventually led those revolutions to fade or fail completely. The difference in the latest one was the fact that the youth did not follow a single figure or figures to lead them. They took the law into their own hands and created a ground-breaking revolution. On the contrary, Türkiye's youth was constantly led by "leaders" during the protests just like the failed revolutions Nepal had over the years. The leaders of the opposition kept calling for rallies rather than protests and they left the areas when they were complete with their speeches, leaving hundreds of people to the hands of police brutality.

As if the police were mild, caring for the safety of youth and the youth were the violent, brutal ones creating chaos. They were forcing the resistance to have a certain color, a certain political aim. At some point the opposition even did not allow any flag or different slogans other than the ones that aligned with their political stance. These actions caused polarization among the resisting groups and eventually led the common voice we found back in late 2024 to fade. On the contrary, Nepal's youth did not get polarized by leader figures trying to shape the resistance. Because for a protest to turn into a revolution and actually change something it takes more than privileged politicians to hold rallies. It takes the public to raise their voice against corruption together, without a leader.

Today, we can say that the opposition has the power they hoped to reach when İmamoğlu got imprisoned: the public demand change, and although their candidate is still imprisoned they have secured their position as the monopoly of opposition. On the other hand, there are still university students in prison, people who got hurt by the police brutality, and will be carrying the burden of their experiences. So, in the end the "leaders" of our resistance gained advantages when we, the public, have to change our old scarf with the more expensive one. But can we call this a win?

Aybüke Yılmaz

YOUTH RESPONSES TO AUTHORITARIANISM AND POPULISM: THE BALKAN SPRING



In 2025, a series of protests across the Balkans and Central Europe came to be described in the international media as the “Balkan Spring.” Demonstrations in Serbia, protests in Bulgaria, marches in Hungary, and mobilization in Slovakia against laws targeting civil society all shaped this narrative. In Türkiye, the use of the judiciary to limit opposition and the decline of electoral competition added to the regional picture. Together, these events created the sense of a new “spring.”

Although the phrase “Balkan Spring” may seem like a media invention, it captures common patterns of discontent. By linking different protests under a single frame, it presents them as part of a broader democratic wave. To understand them properly, however, it is necessary to look beyond single events and consider the deeper dynamics that made them possible: the rise of authoritarianism, the crisis of populist politics, and the frustration of young people facing economic insecurity.

Shared Patterns of Authoritarianism

The central feature of the Balkan Spring is authoritarianism. Over the past decade, many countries in the region have experienced democratic decline. According to Freedom House’s 2025 report, Türkiye is rated “not free,” Hungary and Serbia “partly free,” and Bulgaria and Slovakia “free.”

In Serbia, President Vučić tightened control over elections and media, while corruption scandals weakened trust. Protests spread from Belgrade to small towns, challenging not only the government but also broader institutional decay. In Hungary, Orbán’s “illiberal democracy” model concentrated power in parliament and the courts, while limiting media freedom. Still, thousands took to the streets demanding justice and free expression. In Bulgaria, the arrest of a pro-European mayor revealed how the judiciary could be used as a political tool, while in Slovakia, legislation resembling Russian laws against civil society sparked mobilization. In Türkiye, growing judicial pressure on the opposition and declining electoral competition marked a serious erosion of democracy.

Across these cases, the common thread is the weakening of independent institutions and declining public trust. Authoritarianism not only restricts freedoms but also erodes the sense of belonging to the political system. The protests, in essence, are reactions to this loss of legitimacy.

Youth and Students at the Forefront

The most visible actors of the Balkan Spring are young people, especially university students. They are the group most affected by economic insecurity, but also the most open to democratic ideas. Students, however, bring more than economic frustration. Their use of digital media, involvement in international programs, and exposure to European norms make them especially aware of democratic values. Their activism encourages wider participation, turning scattered protests into mass movements. For this reason, the Balkan Spring can be seen as a youth-led democratic challenge.

Comparing with the Arab Spring

The phrase “Balkan Spring” inevitably recalls the Arab Spring. Both involved corruption, unemployment, political repression, and youth anger. Yet there are important differences. The Arab Spring often turned violent and led to civil wars or state collapse. By contrast, protests in the Balkans remain largely peaceful and work within institutional frameworks. Another key difference is the European Union, which provides a point of reference and pressure for democratic reforms. In this sense, the Balkan Spring is not a repeat of the Arab Spring, but its own form of democratic wave.

SERBIAN UPRISINGS



Could an "accident" bring 300,000 people together? Apparently, it can and it did. On November 1, 2024, an "accident" in Serbia changed the public's perspective on protests, and most importantly, it revealed the strength of people's determination. It started from the canopy of the main railway in Novi Sad collapsing. Fifteen people died instantly, and many were injured (a month later, the death toll rose to 16). For the citizens of Serbia, this tragic event was not an accident but a very strong demonstration of decades of corruption, shady contracts, and a government that prefers interest above life.

The canopy became a symbol for the people, symbolizing the shoddy constructions, hidden deals with foreign contractors, and most importantly, a government that is full of corrupt officials who prefer interest and despise accountability. Therefore, people were saying: "We are all under the canopy," and the phrase spread quickly across social media, campuses, and streets.

The students were the first ones to take action. Their demonstrations began as peaceful protests. They were standing for 15 minutes for the fifteen people who died in the "accident". Then the government started provocations, and police forces started to attack. Even the members of the Serbian Progressive Party (the ruling party) started to target protesters. What started as a silent grief turned into occupations, roadblocks, and mass assemblies.

The organization of the students was horizontal. They had no leader and no party flags. Student assemblies debated, voted, and took collective action. As Slavoj Žižek noted, their protests rejected party politics yet remained deeply political. They demand -and still do- accountability.

On December 22, 2024, over 100,000 people were in the streets of Belgrade. The crowd included workers, lawyers, artists, veterans, professors along with students. The movement escalated on March 15, 2025 as over 300,000 citizens marched in Belgrade. This was allegedly claimed to be the largest protest in Serbia's history.

The government responded with half-measures that included investigations and just a few resignations. They aimed more at pacifying public outrage than delivering a real change. Despite these pressures, the protests reached partial success. On March 19, 2025, Prime Minister Milos Vučević resigned, followed by the departure of ministers and the mayor of Novi Sad. However, students wanted a bigger and more concrete change. They wanted Vučić, the president of Serbia, to quit and they demanded snap elections. Unlike students' demands, Vučić made it clear that there will be no elections until the next period.

So, what is happening in Serbia today? People are still demanding elections and are still protesting on the streets. On October 1, thousands lit candles for the Novi Sad victims. Moreover, analysts argue that protests may lose their momentum under repression. However, they've sparked lasting civic commitment. Many believe the movement will eventually evolve into a political force, shaping Serbia's future with the upcoming elections. Even though the struggle is not over yet, a silenced generation has grown out of their chains and continues to rise everywhere in the world.

TENSION IN THE CAUCASUS: GEORGIAN PROTESTS



Georgian government has been dealing with protests for almost a year. Most people took to the streets due to concerns about the country becoming authoritarian like Russia. In recent days, the protests have become a symbol of Georgians' tendency toward democracy and freedom.

But how did the protests start, what were their methods, and are they still ongoing?

The protests started mainly due to questionable elections, democratic backsliding, and the controversial foreign agents law, which quickly spread throughout the country. While opposition parties argued that these decisions would restrict democracy, media, and freedom, the Prime Minister described the protests as a “coup d'état attempt supported by the EU.”

The methods used by protesters were diverse. Although there were demonstrations, protest marches, and rallies, there were also sit-ins. However, the government did not remain passive—it dispersed protesters using tear gas. There were clashes between the police and protesters in the streets. While most of the protests took place in Tbilisi, they eventually spread across the entire country.

The international community did not remain silent either. The EU and the USA condemned the government and imposed sanctions on several politicians due to police violence against protesters. On the other hand, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov compared the protests to the Euromaidan movement in Ukraine and described them as “anti-peaceful”.

The protests in Georgia are still ongoing, even as the government becomes more authoritarian and continues to arrest more protesters each day. Whatever happens, it seems that the demonstrators will not stop until they achieve their goals: fair and repeated elections, more pro-EU decisions, and the release of protesters arrested during the demonstrations.

Time will show how events unfold.

Cenk Demir Altıparmak



A GLIMPSE OF GREEK PROTESTS IN 2025



2025 has been a year marked by political turbulence and civic response for Greece. Masses of people were mobilized with the government's shortage of meeting the public demands, while frustrations over economic inequality, accountability, and labor rights evolved into a broader wave of social unrest.

To have a grasp of Greece's contemporary political landscape, however, understanding the legacy of the Metapolitefsi period—the democratic re-establishment following the fall of the military junta in 1974—is arguably valuable: With the development of the parliamentary republic, the 1975 Constitution and later amendments shaped Greece's post-authoritarian identity. For much of the twentieth century, the country's politics revolved in a two-party system between New Democracy (ND), a center-right liberal-conservative party, and PASOK, the center-left Panhellenic Socialist Movement. Nonetheless, political agenda inevitably churned up with both global and domestic issues over time: The 2008–2010 debt crisis distressed the status-quo, exposing structural weaknesses in the Greek economy and reshaping its political spectrum. Austerity measures imposed by the EU and IMF led to a collapse of public trust and a rise in populist and anti-establishment movements. Syriza, the Coalition of the Radical Left, emerged from this discontent to form government in 2015, while New Democracy later regained dominance under Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis in 2019 and consolidated its majority after the 2023 general elections.

Even though Greece has achieved macroeconomic stabilization up until this point, social inequalities, remarkably low wages, and lingering austerity fatigue continue to shape public opinion.

In this aspect, demonstrations have a critical place in Greek democratic mobilization: 2025 began by the two-day long lawyer strike announced by the Greek Bar Association to criticize the government's gender-based violence, including harassment and cyberstalking. Arguing that the provisions of the new bill violate certain constitutional principles, such as presumption of innocence, lawyers further condemned their exclusion from the drafting process. A week later, on 25 January, thousands of protestors rallied on streets to commemorate the Tempa rail disaster, demanding accountability for the victims. Organized by victims' families, student groups, and unions, masses of demonstrators gathered to accuse the government of cover-ups and to call for resignation.

At the onset of the catastrophic consequences, government deductions from the budget granted by the EU for the infrastructure improvements was an important contributor to the accident. Smaller rallies and vigils continued through March henceforth, while the conservative government nevertheless survived the censure motioned by Syriza and supported by PASOK. Thereupon, outside-Parliament clashes between the police forces and protestors bursted out, involving petrol bombs and tear gas, illustrating the widening gap between the government's narrative of stability and the public's demand for justice and truth.

Furthermore, economic concerns were a key component of this year's protest portfolio as well: In February, consumer organizations such as INKA called for a general boycott against rising prices and inflation, asking citizens to refrain from all purchases for a day — a symbolic expression of fatigue with persistent cost-of-living pressures.

Apart from humanitarian strikes, on 1 October, thousands of protestors affiliated with major trade unions took to the Athenian streets to oppose the government's recent designs of labor laws amendments, which include up to 13 hour-long shifts and expand flexible working arrangements. Strikes were organized in other cities aside from the capital, and mass demonstrations voiced the alarming concerns over worker exploitation and financial hardships, as transport networks and public services came to a standstill with protestors accumulating on urban routes. Disputing the public reaction, government representatives defended that these measures were to bring greater flexibility in working arrangements than mandatory impositions.

Overall, as shown by this year's protests, Greek citizens remain vigilant and politically expressive, reaffirming that democracy in Greece still breathes through dissent. As 2026 approaches, balancing economic recovery and labor flexibility against social justice-democratic integrity will seemingly take an important place in the Greek political agenda. The political challenge for the Mitsotakis government lies not only in sustaining fiscal credibility but in rebuilding public trust.

Derya Güneş

A FAMILIAR SCENE FROM OUR NEIGHBOUR: ARREST OF MAYOR OF VARNA



On July 8, Bulgaria’s anti-corruption police arrested the opposition party’s (PP) Mayor of Varna, Blagomir Kotsev, on corruption charges. Bulgarian authorities announced that he would remain in detention until the trial, claiming it was to prevent potential future wrongdoing.

Kotsev’s arrest followed allegations made by the owner of a catering company known for working with the municipality under the previous GERB-affiliated mayor. The owner claimed that Kotsev had demanded a bribe in exchange for approving his future contract with the municipality.

Following the mayor’s arrest, protests erupted across Bulgaria. On July 16, one of the witnesses in the case, former Deputy Mayor Dian Ivanov, stated that he had given his testimony under pressure from the anti-corruption bureau. Thousands of people gathered in front of the Sofia Court House, protesting what they described as the government’s campaign of oppression against the opposition party. Protesters argued that the law should not be used as a tool of repression.

Kotsev denied all allegations, claiming he had never met the catering company owner and that, contrary to demanding a bribe, he had been offered one through a third party—which he rejected. During a court hearing on September 23, Kotsev stated that he “already felt sentenced.” He will remain in custody until further notice.

Valérie Hayer, President of the Renew Europe group, condemned the actions of Bulgarian authorities, describing them as being against European values. She called on Bulgarian authorities to immediately release Mayor Kotsev and end what she described as political oppression. Hayer also urged European institutions to condemn the arrest and consider measures such as freezing Bulgaria’s Recovery and Resilience Plan funds provided by the European Union.

Arın Özalp



PROTESTS IN AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES: CAN THEY WORK?



Throughout history, there have always been protests against authority whenever society faced injustice or hardship. The reasons behind these uprisings have remained strikingly similar across centuries: economic inequality among the working class, corruption in the justice system, and bribery among government officials, to name a few.

In 2025, numerous protests against authoritarian regimes took place across the world. Countries such as Serbia, Türkiye, Nepal, Bangladesh, Georgia, Morocco, Bulgaria, and Greece witnessed some of the most significant demonstrations in terms of both participation and impact. In certain cases, protesters succeeded in achieving their goals; in others, their efforts failed. This raises a complicated question: *What makes protests successful?*

For a protest to be effective and impactful on the government, it must be well-organized. Several key elements contribute to a successful movement. First, there must be a shared public opinion regarding the cause. Broad participation is essential as well. When a majority of society agrees on the necessity of action, real change becomes possible.

Second, effective communication. To coordinate such large groups, communication among smaller networks must be strong. A leader who symbolizes the resistance against authority can coordinate communication between protesters. Student groups, activists etc. should be working in a good harmony.

Once coordination is established, leaders face another important task: setting a clear and realistic goal while keeping protesters away from violence. Protests can easily become emotionally charged; having a defined goal helps participants stay focused and prevents violent actions. These factors contribute to sustainable and effective protests, but they do not always guarantee success, external conditions also play a crucial role.

External conditions raise some questions: How willing is the government to maintain its' power and authority? Or can there be positive external factors such as support of protests from other countries or international organizations?

In conclusion, protests are a fundamental constitutional right of every citizen. However, for them to succeed, they require coordination, unity, clear goals, and discipline. Even when these conditions are met, external forces can still determine the outcome. This is the complex nature of protest movements. What society must never forget, though, is that protests must continue to happen — voices must be raised against injustice, even in the face of possible failure. If no one takes action or fights for their rights, then no one will save society but the people themselves.

Ömer Sevinç

FIRE IS CATCHING



As 7th of October marked the two years of ongoing genocide, protests in solidarity with Palestine have begun to expand all over the world. In recent days, one of the most significant acts of resistance has taken place. The Global Sumud Flotilla set sail for Gaza, carrying nothing but baby formula and hope. Most of the boats were intercepted by the Israeli navy, but one vessel, the *Marinette*, was able to close approximately 42.5 miles of Gaza's shores.

Other than this major ongoing global action, people continue to strive to make their voices heard and to raise greater public awareness. Especially on university campuses, students are leading protests that are not merely about the humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people, but also about freedom of speech, global justice, and criticism of authority. They share common goals: divestment from Israeli-linked corporations, an end to military support, and the suspension of academic collaborations with Israel.

In recent months, students and academics at Vrije University in Amsterdam organized a protest under the slogan "*Business as usual cannot continue while a genocide is happening.*" As part of this aim, some academics gave lectures on human rights and scholasticide—the deliberate attack on education—in Gaza. Pro-Palestinian students are also reexamining academic autonomy in response to actions by university administrations and government policies. Moreover, student organizations such as **Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)** have become leading voices within campuses and academia. Including major universities in the U.S.—such as Harvard, NYU, and Columbia—SJP maintains a powerful influence and network among students. The group's campaigns primarily focus on boycott, divestment, sanctions, and the defense of academic freedom.

Protesting remains risky for some students around the world, as university and state authorities may impose serious challenges, particularly when political expression and activism intersect with institutional control. For instance, Mahmoud Khalil, a prominent activist during the 2024 Gaza war protests at Columbia University, was arrested by authorities and faced severe consequences. He spent 100 days in immigration detention for participating in pro-Palestinian demonstrations on campus. A related case is that of Rumeysa Öztürk, a Tufts University student who co-authored an opinion piece criticizing Israel's military actions. She was detained by the U.S. government, illustrating the potential consequences that students engaged in pro-Palestinian advocacy may face. For international students in particular, such activism can pose serious risks to their education.

We may doubt the efficiency of protesting at this point. Risking one's education and liberty on behalf of strangers—known only as victims of an alleged genocide—may sound foolish to some people. However, the outcomes of movements led by students and activists demonstrate that such doubts are misplaced. These movements have achieved both practical and symbolic results. For example, Columbia University has promised to increase transparency regarding its endowment investments. In another case, student protests at the Australian National University prompted a critical review of the university's ethical policies and research collaborations with defense companies linked to Israel.

Beyond these concrete results, the protests have also succeeded in raising global awareness about the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Despite the efforts of the United States to shape the global narrative, a growing pro-Gaza movement has emerged worldwide. People across different nations have begun to raise their voices collectively, transforming public consciousness into a shared call for justice. Moreover, these movements have inspired a new generation of youth activism, boosting awareness and solidarity across borders. Young people are becoming more and more conscious of their collective power to influence administrations and social change.

In conclusion, youth activism is growing day by day, fostering global awareness and solidarity. Across the world, people are becoming conscious of global issues independent of state or administrative control. As a result, fire is catching. If the world continues to remain passive in the face of the killing of innocents and injustice, the fire may reach even higher.

“PEACE PROCESSES AROUND THE WORLD AND IN TÜRKİYE” : IRS EVENT WITH ESRA ÇUHADAR

International Relations Society welcomed the new semester with the event "Peace Processes Around the World and in Türkiye" with our host, Associate Professor Esra Çuhadar. Çuhadar started the event by explaining her background in mediation and peacekeeping.

She emphasized how working on such a nuanced subject requires knowledge of international relations, political science, and political psychology at the same time, while continuing not only academic research but also field studies. Esra Hoca had worked on many conflict areas, including South Sudan, Myanmar, Kosovo, and Somalia, actively working on policy and practice in addition to academics.

She explained how the field of conflict resolution requires being accustomed to the practice and doing research in the field. The peace processes cannot be limited to only disarmament and should be multiple-layered enough to avoid more conflict in the future, since the processes include socioeconomics, psychosocial aspects, as there is a deterioration of the social texture and major traumas. The dynamics between justice and peace had to be balanced as a conclusion had to be reached on amnesty and who receives it after disarmament, while keeping the victims at the center.

Çuhadar continued her speech by giving instances from different peace processes around the world and concluded it while restating her role in the process that Türkiye is going through currently. The discussion continued with questions from students that raised their curiosity and concerns on topics such as marginalization of groups, how to build peace, and how permanent it can be.

Selin Akpınar

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