

**Press release on the crime that occurred
in the church of Santa Maria Büyükdere**

We, the Catholic Bishops of Turkey, are shocked by the crime that occurred in St. Mary's Church in Büyükdere (Istanbul), where two people killed an innocent person in the sacred space of faith in God.

We firmly condemn this act of violence against humanity.

We trust that the Turkish state security forces will find those responsible and that justice will be done.

We firmly demand that the truth be revealed and that greater security be guaranteed to our communities and churches.

We ask everyone not to spread the culture of hatred and religious discrimination.

We ask all our faithful to pray for the victim and her family.



+ Most Rev.

† Martin KMETEC

Metropolitan Archbishop of Izmir

President of the Episcopal Conference of Türkiye

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