Safe Havens - Freedom Talk #15
Freedom Talk@SpeakUp

After three talks specifically on the discussions about different topics related to Afghanistan with various participants, Safe Havens Freedom Talks (SH|FT) presents the next event focusing on the situation of artistic freedom and public art in Turkey. In conversation with three creatives in the field, this event will take place as a part of the Freedom Talks series. The talk will be streamed on Tuesday, 14 June 2022 at 2.30 pm CEST on

https://www.facebook.com/events/844413306521980
https://howlround.com/happenings/livestreaming-conversation-freedom-talkspeakup
https://sh-ft.org

The event is in Turkish with English subtitles.

Moderated by Sumru Tamer (editor at Speak Up Platform), two artists, İzinsiz (guerilla artist) and Kubilay Mutlu (founding member of the Association of Street Artists in Izmir and a PhD candidate in Ethnomusicology at Dokuz Eylül University) share personal experiences while Dr Sonay Ban (academic and an editor at Speak Up Platform) talks about the overall situation and obstacles artists face in Turkey in exercising their right to freedom of artistic expression. This event is produced in collaboration with Speak Up Platform.

In the panel, the guests talk about the practice of doing art in the public sphere, the freedoms and restrictions that await artists in public spaces, how the recent constraints in Turkey’s public sphere reflect on the arts and cultural industries, and how artists are being restrained and how they are resisting these constraints. Kubilay Mutlu talks about the problems and obstacles experienced by artists, especially in Izmir, and how he struggled against these difficulties, while "İzinsiz" speaks about his "guerrilla art" practice and the legal processes and troubles he faced due to his works. Sonay Ban, on the other hand, draws a theoretical framework regarding the freedom of artistic expression, cites cases of censorship and self-censorship, and presents an assessment of the situation in different fields of art.

Contact: SH|FT | www.sh-ft.org | post@sh-ft.org
**About Speak Up Platform**

SPEAK UP is a platform set up to stand against restrictions to freedom of expression such as censorship, self-censorship, bans, blocking, isolation, defamation, or social lynching that associations and individuals active in cultural life, the arts, or the media are subjected to. It aims to empower everyone in Turkey whose freedom of expression is threatened and who values the right to obtain news and information, the arts, literature, in short, any form of expression, to fight against censorship. For more information, the [website](#) can be checked.

**About Freedom Talks**

Safe Havens – Freedom Talks series is closely connected to the annual global Safe Havens conference. The Freedom Talks series is focused on issues regarding threats towards artistic freedom, free press and intangible heritage. Guests in the Freedom Talks series are highly knowledgeable and prolific actors in the global Arts Rights Justice sector – fighting for artistic freedom. The Freedom Talks aim to share space and broaden the narrative of who can take centre stage, by lending the brand to different organisations within the sector. The talks are presented in – or translated to – English. The talks can be watched through our [website](#), our [Facebook page](#) and through our partner [Howlround](#), where also previous events are archived.

**The Participants @SpeakUp**

İzinsiz is a guerilla artist.

Kubilay Mutlu was born in 1977. He is a founding member of the Association of Street Artists (Sokak Sanatçıları Derneği) and plays music with the Street Orchestra in İzmir. He is a Ph.D. student in Ethnomusicology at Dokuz Eylül University. His research interests include the music industry and hegemony. He is Nisbet's lover and Ekin's father.

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**Sonay Ban**, editor at Susma/Speak Up Platform in Turkey. She holds a Ph.D. degree in cultural and visual anthropology from Temple University, USA. Her research investigates the history of film censorship in Turkey, in particular, multiple forms and mechanisms of censorship from the 2000s onwards. *Photo: Lütfiye Ban*

**Sumru Tamer** editor at Susma/Speak Up Platform in Turkey. She mainly works in the field of artistic freedom and the free press. She is also interested in music and human rights, as well as the field of sociology.

*The event is organised by the independent international NGO Safe Havens Freedom Talks (SH|FT), through collaborations within the global Arts Rights Justice sector, and with Safemuse graciously supporting as its mentoring organisation in the start-up period. SH|FT is supported by The Swedish Arts Council under the Programme for Artistic Freedom funded by Sida, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, and The Freedom Talks are sponsored by the Swedish Institute. The exhibition and platform project is sponsored by the Swedish Postcode Foundation.*