



In 1942, non-Muslims exiled to Aşkale gathered in front of the Kadıköy Public Education Center with the organization of Young Civilians.

Minorities exiled by the Wealth Tax expect an 'apology'

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Non-Muslims who were wronged by the Wealth Tax Law reunited Aşkale'ye siirgüne
in the place they were sent to in 1942. Organized by the Young Civilians, the group gathered in front of the Kadıköy Public Education Center, stating that the law targeted minorities in Türkiye and that they demanded an apology 68 years after its implementation. Attendees included Apoyevmatini Newspaper Editor-in-Chief Mihail Vasiliadis, Star Newspaper Columnist Bekir Berat Özipek, attorney Cem Murat Sofuoğlu, Marmara University Faculty of Law faculty member Prof. Dr. Osman Doğru, and members of the Young Civilians.

Mihail Vasiliadis, one of the victims of that period, recounted how the office of his father, a dentist who had been bedridden after suffering a stroke in 1939, was sealed. Vasiliadis said, "I was 3.5 years old. When the law was passed, we had no income. They sealed the office because we had no means of paying." Vasiliadis stated that the troubles experienced were in the past, but emphasized that an apology should be issued to the victims so that the issue can be cleared in the public conscience. Lawyer Cem Murat Sofuoğlu also stated that during the implementation of the law, minorities were assessed taxes that they could not pay. He stated that he was humiliated. He stated that, according to official data, 1,869 non-Muslims who could not pay their taxes were gathered at the Kadıköy Public Education Center and Sirkeci Demirkapı and sent to labor camps in Aşkale. Sofuoğlu said, "Hilmi Ural admitted in his memoirs, 'As the CHP, we are entirely responsible for the Wealth Tax.' The CHP administration at the time failed to internalize the minorities." Prof. Dr. Osman Doğru said, "What the state needs to do now is to pass a law and compensate for the damage."