

After the late-night announcement on 1 January 2021 of the decision to appoint a rector, on 6 February we learned, again with a presidential decision issued in the middle of the night, that two new faculties would be opened in our university. This decision, the first such imposition on Boğaziçi University since the military regime of 1980, shows blatant disregard to the will of the university. This was an anti-democratic decision taken without any request or preparation to this effect by the university's academic boards, and without the approval of the university senate. Opening a faculty of law and a faculty of communication was not a part of our institution's long-term strategic plans announced to the public. Furthermore, the necessary negotiations and planning between the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) and our university were not carried out. This move has once again openly violated the principle of academic autonomy guaranteed by our constitution. **We do not accept!**

In universities, even opening a new department or a new program requires transparent negotiations and decision-making processes based on the principle of accountability. It is only when processes are carried out in such a way that we can create a suitable atmosphere for education and scientific research, form a body of academic staff based not on loyalty but on merit, and ensure that public resources are used effectively. The institutionalization of the principle of autonomy is the most important guarantee that these processes will operate correctly. For this very reason, for five weeks we have been defending academic autonomy and demanding a democratic university. **We will not give up!**

We stand here today to demand the repeal of the decision to open new faculties, and the resignation of the appointed rector. We demand the lifting of the police siege of our university and the release of all students who are detained or under house arrest. We publicly repeat our call for a process of democratic reform that encapsulates all universities.

WE DO NOT ACCEPT! WE WILL NOT GIVE UP!