The history of crime and policing in the Islamic world has received very little attention due in part to the absence of police records before the nineteenth century. Mantran’s classical work on Istanbul remains the only study of municipal administration that sheds some light on policing Istanbul.¹ My paper is based on unexplored archival sources that include police records and imperial orders as well as European and Ottoman narrative sources. The office of Zabtiye was established in the eighteenth century as a central clearing house to gather information on serious crime and supervise the police forces much like the Bow Street Office in London and the Lieutenant General in Paris.² The records at our disposal come largely from the Zabtiye collection. Using some of these records, today I am going to focus on policing the imperial capital during the eighteenth century. This was an important period that witnessed an increase in urban violence and crime and a subsequent tightening of police control in the city.