WOMEN'S RIGHTS UNDER ATTACK

IN TURKEY

17,000 Women and 560 Children in Jail

JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS FOUNDATION
1994

2017

JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS FOUNDATION

Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF) is an international civil society organization dedicated to culture of peace, human rights, and sustainable development. The JWF promotes diversity and inclusion by creating forums for intellectual and social engagement; generates and shares knowledge with stakeholders, builds partnerships worldwide and develops policy recommendations for positive social change.

CONTACT US

Address : 56 W45 Street 4th Floor New York, NY 10036
Phone : +1 (646) 838-4882
E-mail : info@jwf.org
Web : www.jwf.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS 03

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS 04

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 05

PART I – INTRODUCTION 06

Background 06

Scope of the report 06

Methodology and structure of the report 07

PART II – FOLLOW-UP TO CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE 08

Paragraph 7 Current context 08

Paragraph 9 Parliament and political participation 10

Paragraph 11 Civil society organizations 12

Paragraph 19 Discriminatory legislation 14

Paragraph 21 National Human Rights Institutions 16

Paragraph 23 Access to justice and legal aid 17

Paragraph 31 Victims of rape and harassment 20

Paragraph 34 Suicide among discriminated women 23

Paragraph 37 Violence and murder of Kurdish women 26

Paragraph 44 Discrimination in education 29

Paragraph 46 Discrimination in employment 31

Paragraph 48 Denial of health services 34

PART III – ANNEX. ILLUSTRATIVE LIST OF ABUSE INCIDENTS 48

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AKP	ADALET VE KALKINMA PARTISI [JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT PARTY]
BTK	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES AND COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY
CAT	CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT
CEDAW	CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
CHP	REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY
COE	COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CPT	COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE
DBP	DEMOKRATIK BÖLGELER PARTISI [DEMOCRATIC REGIONS PARTY]
ECHR	EUROPEAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
ECTHR	EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
ECOSOC	UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
ECRI	COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S COMMISSION AGAINST RACISM AND INTOLERANCE
ENCJ	EUROPEAN NETWORK OF COUNCILS FOR THE JUDICIARY
EU	EUROPEAN UNION
FIDH	INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
HDP	HALKLARIN DEMOKRATIK PARTISI [PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC PARTY]
HSYK	TURKISH SUPREME BOARD OF JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS
HRA	HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION
HRFT	HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION (OF TURKEY)
HRW	HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH
OHAL	OLAĞANÜSTÜ HAL – STATE OF EMERGENCY
OHCHR	OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
OMCT	WORLD ORGANIZATION AGAINST TORTURE
JWF	THE JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS FOUNDATION
ICCPR	INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS
ICESCR	INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
IDPS	INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS
İHD	IHD İNSAN HAKLARI DERNEĞI [HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION] (ALSO HRA, SEE ABOVE)
ILO	INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION
KHK	KANUN HÜKMÜNDE KARARNAME [DECREES WITH FORCE OF LAW]
KYD	WOMEN WRITERS ASSOCIATION
KYM	KIMSE YOK MU
MP(S)	MEMBER(S) OF PARLIAMENT
NGO	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
NHRI	NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION
NPM	NATIONAL PREVENTATIVE MECHANISM
RSF	REPORTERS SANS FRONTIÈRES [REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS]
SCF	STOCKHOLM CENTER FOR FREEDOM
SPT	SUBCOMMITTEE ON PREVENTION OF TORTURE
PKK	PARTIYA KARKERÊN KURDISTANÊ [KURDISTAN WORKERS' PARTY]
TCK	TURKISH PENAL CODE
TRY	TURKISH LIRA
TSK	TÜRK SILAHLI KUVVETLERI [TURKISH ARMED FORCES]
TUSKON	CONFEDERATION OF BUSINESSMEN AND INDUSTRIALISTS OF TURKEY
UNESCO	UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
UNOSAT	UN OPERATIONAL SATELLITE APPLICATIONS PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The principle of non-discrimination is fundamental to the realization of human rights of women, evidenced by the existence of non-discrimination provisions in every international human rights instrument.

While historically, human rights experts and monitoring bodies have initially analyzed the bases of discrimination separately, there is increasing recognition of the ways in which various bases of discrimination intersect, leading to distinct forms of discrimination that impact particular groups and individuals. As several human rights treaties and other bodies have noted, some individuals or groups of individuals face discrimination on more than one of the prohibited grounds, including women belonging to an ethnic or other minority, or discriminated against on political or other grounds.

Security operations in Turkey's Southeast and the state of emergency are routinely used as an excuse to curtail human rights and liberties, target human rights defenders and suppress dissent, including any form of dissent from women. Since the breakdown of the Kurdish peace process in July 2015 and the July 2016 attempted coup, Kurdish and other minority women, as well as women allegedly linked to the Hizmet movement[1] suffer disproportionate multi-faceted discrimination, in particular as regards equal access to political participation, health, education, employment and justice, both in law and practice.

In addition, women belonging to the above marginalized groups face economic hardship, exclusion and violence, humiliating and degrading treatment in places where persons are deprived of their liberty, including in healthcare facilities, especially during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period[2].

Tens of thousands of women, including housewives, journalists, teachers, academics, physicians, health care professionals and businesswomen, have been detained in the aftermath of the attempted coup, for allegedly having links to the Hizmet movement. Credible evidence indicates that many of the detained women in the aftermath of the coup attempt have been routinely subjected to torture and ill-treatment. Many of them appear to have also been sexually assaulted.
Most alarming, hundreds of women, children and elderly are among approximately 1,200 local residents summarily killed between July 2015 and December 2016, in the context of security operations in Southeast Turkey. Women, children and elderly also constitute the majority of those reported internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Southeast Turkey, estimated between 355,000 to half a million people, mainly citizens of Kurdish origin.

Women speaking out on abuses face threats, intimidation, persecution and imprisonment. Women human rights defenders, journalists and other women activists continue to face unique challenges, driven by government-promoted discrimination against women and stereotypes about their so-called “appropriate role”, including frequent demeaning statements about women who do not adhere to traditional roles.

Kurdish women human rights defenders and women human rights defenders allegedly perceived (or claimed) to be close to the Hizmet movement are amongst those bearing the brunt of the state crackdown, which is increasingly expanding. Hundreds of Turkey's leading women's and children's human rights NGOs and foundations are among 1,125 (one thousand one hundred twenty-five) registered associations/NGOs, 560 (five hundred sixty) foundations and 19 (nineteen) trade unions permanently closed through a series of government decrees since the July 15, 2016 attempted coup.

1 Gülen movement is also referred to as Hizmet (the Service) Movement.
2 A postpartum period or postnatal period is the period beginning immediately after the birth of a child and extending for about six weeks.
3 OHCHR, Report on the human rights situation in Southeast Turkey, July 2015 to December 2016, para 14.

PART I. INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (hereafter the Committee) considered the seventh periodic report of Turkey (CEDAW/C/TUR/7) on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) at its 1415th and 1416th meetings, on July 13, 2016.

Immediately following the dialogue between the state party and the Committee, on July 15, 2016[4] a small faction of the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) that called themselves the "Peace at Home Council" attempted to overthrow the government of Turkey by seizing control of several key places in Ankara, Istanbul and other locations. The so-called "Peace at Home Council" cited an alleged erosion of secularism, the elimination of democratic rule, the disregard for human rights, and Turkey's loss of credibility in the international arena as reasons for staging the coup.[5] On the night of July 15, 2016 as the attempted coup was still unfolding, speaking through a smartphone to the TV channel CNN-Turk, president Erdoğan declared Fethullah Gülen[6] as the "mastermind of the coup" highlighting further that - "This uprising is a gift from God to us, because this will be a reason to cleanse our army." As crowds of people took to the streets dozens of pro-coup soldiers abandoned their tanks and other military vehicles. Forces loyal to the government were able to defeat the coup plotters and the attempted coup was thwarted within approximately 12 hours. According to official sources at least 246 people were killed and more than 2,000 were injured during the attempt[7]. Questions on the coup attempt however still persist. While the events leading to the coup attempt and the truth on what really happened during those 12 hours is shrouded in "mystery" - much more is known about its aftermath.

In its Concluding Observations[8] adopted by the Committee at its sixty-fourth session,[9] as the crackdown on dissent in Turkey had just intensified, the Committee "[…] expressed its concern that those measures [by the government] could negatively affect the overall framework for the enjoyment of women's human rights.[10] The Committee further "urged the State party [Turkey] to uphold its commitment to human rights, the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary and the preservation of the freedom of expression." The Committee also called upon the State party to respect, protect and fulfill women's human rights and to preserve the constitutional order, including the guarantees of human rights.

Measures adopted under the state of emergency must respect the obligations of the Republic of Turkey under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). In particular, sexual violence, torture and ill-treatment are absolutely prohibited in all circumstances and can never be justified, even during situations of state of emergency.

SCOPE OF THE REPORT

The present report, which covers the period from July 2015 to May 2017, is intended to contribute to the upcoming 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women in early 2018 and to the follow-up procedure to the Concluding Observations (CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/7), following the consideration of the seventh periodic report of Turkey (CEDAW/C/TUR/7).

---

4 The events related to the attempted coup began at 7:29 p.m. in the evening of July 15, 2016.

5 http://www.haber3.com/asker-trt-binasinda-iste-darbe-bildirisi-3977124h.htm

6 Fethullah Gülen is 78-years-old reclusive preacher living in Pennsylvania, United States. **He is the founder of the Gülen- movement (known as Hizmet, meaning service in Turkish).**

7 Committee against Torture, Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Turkey, Addendum Information received from Turkey on follow-up to the concluding observations (CAT/C/TUR/CO/4/Add.1), November 8, 2016, para 61.

8 Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Turkey (CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/7), July 2016.

9 The Committee held its 64th session from July 4-22, 2016.

10 Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Turkey (CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/7), July 2016, paragraph 7.

A march in Turkey protesting the new draft of constitution

The report aims to shed light on what is believed to be only a fraction of widespread and systematic violations of the human rights of women following the attempted coup of July 15, 2016, including the intensification of the already established pattern of grave and systematic abuses against women, which constitute a clear violation of the principle of equal protection of the law and other relevant principles set forth in the Convention (CEDAW).

The Journalists and Writers Foundation is most grateful to all those contributing to the report, in particular all individuals who at great personal risk facilitated the drafting of the report.

METHODOLOGY AND STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

This report, which covers the period from July 2016 until May 2017, has been drafted by the Journalists and Writers Foundation mainly based on information obtained by women victims of abuse, their lawyers, activists on the ground and through monitoring open sources.

In many cases the Journalists and Writers Foundation decided not to reveal the identity of victims and the sources, in order to protect individuals against eventual reprisals.

The present report is structured according to major areas of concern of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, based on the following paragraphs of the Concluding Observations on the seventh periodic report of Turkey (CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/7). The Annex in Part III attached to the report contains an illustrative list of abuse incidents against women based on ethnicity or perceived political and other opinion.

Paragraph 7	Current context
Paragraph 9	Parliament and political participation
Paragraph 11	Civil society organizations
Paragraph 19	Discriminatory legislation
Paragraph 21	National Human Rights Institutions
Paragraph 23	Access to justice and legal aid
Paragraph 29	Stereotypes and harmful practices
Paragraph 31	Victims of rape and harassment
Paragraph 34	Suicide among discriminated women
Paragraph 37	Violence and murder of Kurdish women.
Paragraph 44	Discrimination in education
Paragraph 46	Discrimination in employment
Paragraph 48	Denial of health services
Paragraph 52	Women in detention

ANNEX: Illustrative list of abuse incidents against women based on ethnicity or perceived political and other opinion.

PART II - FOLLOW-UP TO THE CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

PARAGRAPH 7 - CURRENT CONTEXT

Immediately following the dialogue between the CEDAW Committee with the State party,[11] on July 15, 2016 Turkey experienced an attempted coup by a small faction of the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) that called themselves the "Peace at Home Council".

The night of July 15th, the night of the attempted coup, represents a distinct moment in the Turkish democratic history. Unlike the military coups in the past, millions of citizens were invited by the president to take to the streets and defy the coup attempt.

In its aftermath, the Turkish government had the right and further, the responsibility to investigate the violent events surrounding the coup attempt and bring all those responsible for the violence, the dead and wounded - and for all the material and other damage to justice. The Turkish people are entitled to know the truth - all the facts and circumstances surrounding the dramatic events of July 15, 2016.

Given the critical mass created and the solidarity against the coup, it was further an opportunity for the entire country, the people and all the political parties to unite and resolve the outstanding issues in the benefit of all people - in particular in returning to the democratic principles after a sharp declining trend during recent years in almost all indicators – rights of women, freedom of expression, pluralism, rule of law, freedom of association - and the pressing need to achieving a negotiated and peaceful solution in the context of the Kurdish peace process.

Regrettably, the attempted coup challenged the Government to resort to much more extreme forms of repression against its real or perceived political enemies or simply anyone with dissenting views. Government's assault and offensive moves on both state and civil society institutions, particularly against the media and academia, go far beyond reasonable limits. Unfortunately, many of the institutions that the government still associates with the threat are those which in normal circumstances provide structural defense against authoritarian descent.

15 June 2016 Failed Coup Attempt, Turkey

11 The dialogue between the Committee and the state delegation took place on July 13, 2016.

Article 4 (1) of Decree Law no. 667 of July 23, 2016, the first in a series of subsequent Decree Laws orders the dismissal of public servants "who are considered to be a member of, or have relation, connection or contact with terrorist organizations or structure/entities, organizations or groups, established by the National Security Council as engaging in activities against the national security of the State". They are dismissed by decision of the relevant administrative entities and officials. Judges are dismissed on the same grounds by virtue of Article 3 (1) by decisions of the relevant judicial bodies (top courts and the High Council for Judges and Prosecutors-HCJP).

The scale of Turkey's purge that has taken place in the aftermath of the July 15, 2016, has been nearly unprecedented. TurkeyPurge,[12] a watch group that monitors and exposes threats and human rights abuses in Turkey has been reporting daily an increasing number of dismissals and human rights abuses since July 2016.

Extensive news censorship, closure of hundreds of media outlets and hundreds of arrested journalists have made it extremely difficult to report on the events surrounding the attempted coup, the dismissals, suspensions and human rights abuses. TurkeyPurge however has managed to bring to the public up-to-date news and information often blocked in Turkey, giving a voice to the victims.

As of April 1, 2017 the Stockholm Center for Freedom (SCF), a Stockholm based monitoring and rights advocacy group, documented 228 cases[13] of journalists and media workers behind bars, including prominent journalists such as Nazlı Ilıcak, Aslı Erdoğan, Nuriye Akman and Lale Kemal. Of the 228 cases, 194 journalists are arrested pending trial, most without even an indictment and none with a conviction. Twenty-nine (29) arrested journalists are women, including thirteen (13) Kurdish journalists, and four (4) previously working for now closed Hizmet-related media. Detention warrants have been also issued for 92 journalists who live in exile or remain at large.[14]

Turkish housewives in many countries, including Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Morocco, Angola and Kazakhstan are left stranded with their children in foreign countries after their husbands were either imprisoned or deported to Turkey following pressure from the Turkish government.

Based on government decrees and other reports from official sources, TurkeyPurge reported 138,147 individuals dismissed from their jobs and their profession altogether, 102,247 detained and 50,987 individuals arrested by the end of May 2017.

Nazli Ilicak, 73 years old journalist and human rights defender, is prisoned

12 https://turkeypurge.com/.
13 http://stockholmcf.org/updated-list/.
14 http://stockholmcf.org/turkey-locks-up-228-journalists-a-new-world-record/.

The Grand National Assembly of Turkey

PARAGRAPH 9 – PARLIAMENT AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

On September 1, 2016, using emergency powers adopted after the attempted coup, the Government adopted a Decree-Law (KHK/674)[15] enabling it to appoint "trustees" in lieu of elected mayors, deputy mayors or members of municipal councils suspended or arrested on terrorism charges. The decree thus allows the Minister of Interior to appoint such "trustees" in metropolitan municipalities, whereas provincial governors appoint "trustees" for second tier municipalities, known as district municipalities.

Between July 22, 2015, and March, 27, 2017, 8,930 members of Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) were detained and 2,782 party members have been imprisoned, including three (3) women governors. 494 HDP offices have been attacked; burned or vandalized, including the party headquarters. HDP rallies were attacked and law enforcement's support for these attacks have been widely documented, especially on social media.[16]

In the early hours of November 4, 2016, the Turkish police arrested 12 lawmakers (8 women) from the Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), including its co-chairs, Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ, on a range of "terrorism"-related charges. Investigations were also initiated against 54 out of 59 MPs from the HDP, the third largest party in Turkey's Parliament. Parliamentary immunity of 55 out of 59 HDP MPs was lifted, in a step clearly seen as enabling the prosecution of the party's MPs.

15 http://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-REF(2016)061-e.

16 Mehmet Yuksel, Testimony before the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Hearing: "Turkey's Democracy Under Challenge," Washington D.C., April 5, 2017.

Pictures of jailed parliamentarians are placed in their seats in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

By the end of November 2016, the Democratic Regions Party (DBP)[17] co-chair reported that from September to November 2016, 700 party officials were arrested, along with 42 DBP municipal co-chairs. By the end of 2016, 69 municipal co-chairs of the pro-Kurdish Democratic Regions Party (DBP) had been arrested, 58 had been dismissed and most had been replaced with "trustees" in 50 municipalities, or around 50 per cent of all municipalities[18] held by DBP.

In April 2017, the situation further deteriorated: "At the 84 municipalities run by the pro-Kurdish Democratic Regions Party (DBP), 88 co-mayors and 6 deputy co-mayors were dismissed and replaced by state appointed trustees. The mayors and co-mayors are currently under arrest. These mayors and co-mayors were all democratically elected by the people with overwhelming majority. Around 10,000 municipality and humanitarian employees of Kurdish origin have been suspended from their positions. The government has also been confiscating the monetary assets of people they remove from their positions."[19]

Following his November 2016 visit to Turkey, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression highlighted in his preliminary conclusions that - "Several HDP leaders have been imprisoned on the bases of emergency decrees, while they also face Ministry of Interior charges of making false propaganda. 117 investigations have been initiated recently in addition to 683 existing cases. 500 cases belong to HDP and members of parliament of HDP. The co-chairs of the HDP alone face 103 cases. Since the attempted coup, approximately two thousand members of the HDP have been detained." [20]

17 DBP is a Social Democratic Kurdish political party.
18 http://www.hdp.org.tr/en/english/statements/ongoing-detentions-and-arrests-against-hdp/9717.
19 Mehmet Yuksel, Testimony before the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Hearing: "Turkey's Democracy Under Challenge," Washington D.C., April 5, 2017.
20 OHCHR news, Preliminary conclusions and observations by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression to his visit to Turkey, 14-18 November 2016, 18 November 2016.

PARAGRAPH 11 – CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Since the breakdown of the ceasefire between the Turkish State and the PKK and especially after the July 15, 2016 attempted coup, those speaking out on abuses have been increasingly facing serious threats, intimidation, persecution and imprisonment.

Both, Kurdish women human rights defenders and women human rights defenders allegedly perceived (or simply claimed by the government) to be close to the Hizmet movement are amongst those bearing the brunt of the state crackdown, which is increasingly expanding to include all those expressing any form of dissent.

Turkish women human rights defenders have long been subject to constant harassment, threats, surveillance, violations of the rights to freedom of expression, association, and assembly, judicial harassment including criminal prosecution, violent attacks, prolonged arbitrary detention, ill-treatment and torture. The attempted coup of 15 July 2016 paved the way to an unprecedented crackdown on human rights and freedoms, through a violent, indiscriminate and disproportionate reaction by the government.

Hundreds of Turkey's leading women's and children's human rights NGOs and foundations are among 1,125 (one thousand one hundred twenty-five) registered associations/NGOs and 560 (five hundred sixty) foundations permanently closed through a series of government decrees since the July 15, 2016 attempted coup. In the post-coup crackdown 19 trade unions have also been closed, while human rights defenders have been detained or jailed. In few cases, they have managed to flee the oppression and re-establish civil society organizations in other countries, mainly in Western Europe or the Americas.

Exploiting procedural flaws in the rules and misusing its membership at the relevant UN bodies, the Turkish government extended its massive crackdown on civil society organizations accredited to the United Nations, namely the Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF), the Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists of Turkey (TUSKON) and Kimse Yok Mu (KYM), all of them pursuing important programmes and platforms for the empowerment of women, including at the United Nations.

A woman representative of Kimse Yok Mu is delivering humanitarian aid to the families

Family picture of Istanbul Summit organized by the Journalists and Writers Foundation in Istanbul

The withdrawal of JWF's status clearly violates Article 56 of ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31, which affirms that the NGO concerned "shall be given written reasons for that decision and shall have an opportunity to present its response for appropriate consideration by the Committee." JWF was neither informed in writing about this arbitrary action, nor was it given a platform to defend its twenty-three years of dedication to peace and the protection of human rights. JWF believes that any political approach to granting or withdrawing consultative status will harm the fairness and credibility of the Committee on NGOs as well as ECOSOC in general.

Gender mainstreaming of the UN Development Agenda 2030, and projects that are contributing to the socio-economic development of women are among the priority areas of the JWF. Women`s Platform of the JWF has been actively attending the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) sessions in New York since 2012 by organizing side-events in partnership with the Member States, UN bodies and other civil society organizations from tens of different countries all over the world. The JWF has also been organizing the Istanbul Summit; an international, non-governmental, multi-sector forum, that aims to gather primarily women leaders and stakeholders from every quarter of the international community with a new topic each year. It aims to provide a setting for networking and experience sharing among stakeholders around the world to exchange ideas and seek ways of cooperation to address contemporary global challenges in a gender sensitive manner.

However, as a result of the government oppression, undertaking human rights activities in Turkey has become extremely difficult. Fundamental rights and freedoms have been severely curtailed under the emergency rule that has been in effect for almost an entire year (May 2017), with the possibility of further extension. On April 19, 2017, the state of emergency was extended for an additional 3-months period. Investigating, gathering information, reporting or speaking out against human rights violations - in particular criticizing the government's actions or violations, carry with it the risk of being labelled "terrorist", "traitor" or a "pro-coup" individual or organization.

Finally, an important factor hindering the ability of the civil society in carrying out its human rights responsibilities is the fully dependent Human Rights and Equality Institution established in April 2016. The Institution, whose members are appointed by the government, is not in accordance with the Paris Principles[21]

21 See below under paragraph 21, National Human Rights Institutions.

PARAGRAPH 19 – DISCRIMINATORY LEGISLATION

The Turkish Constitution (Article 10) guarantees equality before the law, clearly stating that Turkish laws do not discriminate on the basis of gender. The Amendment of Article 90 of the Constitution in 2004 ensures that the Convention (CEDAW) has precedence in case of a conflict with national law, thus making CEDAW superior to national law in gender policy. The Constitutional Amendments to Articles 10 (Equality before the law) and 90 (Ratification of international treaties) passed in 2004, and finally those to Article 10 of the Constitution in 2010 were all aiming at ensuring gender equality in legislation.

Provisions of the Decree Laws adopted in the aftermath of the attempted coup are at the very least discriminatory, arbitrary, and unjustified as a response to the violent coup attempt or other public order concerns. In its Opinion on Emergency Decree Laws Nos. 667-676,[22] adopted following the failed coup of July 15, 2016, the Venice Commission outlined the main concerns related to the current constitutional situation in Turkey and pointed out the following discriminatory features that disproportionally affect women:

- **The Government implements its emergency powers through ad hominem legislation. In particular, tens of thousands of public servants were dismissed on the basis of the lists appended to the emergency decree laws. Such collective dismissals were not individualized, i.e. they did not refer to verifiable evidence related to each individual and described in the decisions.**
- **Basic rights of administrative due process of the public servants dismissed by the decree laws or on their basis have not been respected.**
- **Collective dismissals have been ordered because of the alleged connections of public servants to the Gülenist network or other organizations considered "terrorist", but this concept was loosely defined and did not require a meaningful connection with such organizations (i.e. such connection which may objectively cast serious doubt in the loyalty of the public servant).**
- **Some of the measures associated with the dismissals unduly penalized family members of the dismissed public servants.**
- **Collective dismissals "by lists" attached to the decree laws (and similar measures) appear to have arbitrarily deprived thousands of people of judicial review of their dismissals.**

Kurdish women and women perceived to be close to the Hizmet movement are amongst those bearing the brunt of the state crackdown. Women perceived to be liberal, nationalists, leftists, or belong to the Alevi community have been viciously and mercilessly targeted as well.

22 Venice Commission, Opinion on emergency decree laws Nos 667-676 adopted following the failed coup of 15 July 2016, 109th Plenary Session (December 9-10, 2016), para 227.

Measures implemented under the state of emergency law decrees further exacerbate the already critical situation of women's human rights in the country, in particular of Kurdish women and women labelled as members or sympathizers of the Hizmet movement.

Enactment and efforts to introduce discriminatory legislation against women during 2016 were unfortunately not limited to the decree laws and other related discriminatory acts in law and practice. In July 2016 Turkey's Constitutional Court annulled part of the criminal code which classified all sexual acts with children under 15 as sexual abuse – a move clearly designed to clear the way for the government to put forward its highly contested "child rape draft Bill".

The move by the court sparked intense controversy over underage sexual relations, regarding age of consent to effectively legalize sex with children as young as twelve. The international community was outraged over the ruling, which also led to a diplomatic row between Turkey and EU member states Sweden and Austria.

The child rape bill, a highly controversial draft was put forward for adoption in the parliament by lawmakers of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) and provided for those who rape underage children to be pardoned for the crime, as long as they marry the victim after the act. According to the AKP, the bill intended to benefit men who have had sex with a minor they are in a relationship with, and deal with the complications of child marriage within the country.

The draft Bill sparked protests across Turkey, including by opposition parties before and after it was approved in an initial parliamentary reading. Critics said it would legitimize statutory rape and encourage the practice of taking child brides. The United Nations emphasized in a statement[23] that the draft Bill would weaken Turkey's ability to combat sexual abuse and child marriage. It would create a perception of impunity in favor of perpetrators of such child rights violations. In addition it would increase the risk for further victimization of the child if she marries the perpetrator of the sexual abuse.
Following fierce criticism from opposition parties and the public, the Turkish president Erdoğan joined the debate advising "caution" in moving forward with the draft Bill.

Due to the pressure and in line with the call from the President for a wider consensus, just hours before a final vote in parliament in November 2016, the Prime Minister informed the draft would be withdrawn from the parliament's general assembly and sent back to a commission for review and seek the opinion of the opposition and civil society.

23 https://www.unicef.org/media/media_93338.html.

PARAGRAPH 21 – NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION

While the Human Rights Council, other intergovernmental bodies, UN special rapporteurs and various human rights groups had repeatedly criticized the former Human Rights Institution for lack of adherence to the Paris Principles, the Law on Turkish Human Rights and Equality Institution of April 20, 2016 provided for a body which is fully dependent on the executive, with 8 (eight) members of the board chosen by the government, and 3 (three) by the president.

In their Concluding Observations adopted in 2016 following the consideration of relevant reports by Turkey, both the Committee against Torture and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern that the Human Rights and Equality Institution lacks the independence required under the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), given the fact that the members of the board of the Institution are appointed by the president or the government.

The above human rights treaty bodies further recommended[24] that within a clear time frame, the State party [Turkey] should bring this important body into full compliance with the Paris Principles, by ensuring an independent appointment process for its members, and provide it with sufficient resources to carry out its mandate adequately.

The establishment of the Human Rights and Equality Board of Turkey is also contrary to the recommendations made during the visit by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) for a "fully independent, well-resourced, multi-disciplinary, professional and highly visible" National Preventive Mechanism, with a strong mandate.

In addition, the fifth report[25] (published on October 6, 2016) on Turkey by the Council of Europe's Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) contains two recommendations, which should be implemented as a matter of priority, including encompassing the need to "entrust a body that is fully independent of the police, other security forces and the prosecution services with the investigation of alleged cases of police misconduct, including ill-treatment."

Similar concerns were voiced in its Preliminary Observations and Recommendations by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, Mr. Nils Melzer following his official visit to Turkey, from November 27 to December 2, 2016. [26]

It is therefore evident that under the existing circumstances the Human Rights and Equality Board of Turkey, legally established in April 2016, cannot work effectively and cannot carry out its mandate regarding gender equality and non-discrimination of women.

24 See Concluding Observations of the CEDAW Committee (CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/7), para 21 and Concluding Observations (CAT/C/TUR/CO/4) to the fourth periodic report of Turkey on the implementation of the Convention against Torture, para 28.

25 The fifth report was prepared following ECRI's visit to Turkey in November 2015 and takes account of developments up to March 17, 2016.

26 See more at: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspxNewsID=20976&LangID=E#sthash.eWFVrksA.dpuf

PARAGRAPH 23 – ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND LEGAL AID

The European Court of Human Rights and other human rights bodies have repeatedly held that denial of access to a lawyer during interrogation is incompatible with the right to a fair trial and that access to a lawyer in detention is a safeguard against ill-treatment. Following the attempted coup of July 15, 2016, the government swiftly moved to severely limit this right, both in law, through decree laws and in practice through detentions, arrests, threats and intimidation.

According to emergency decree 668 the public prosecutor can deny a detainee, including women, the right to see a lawyer for up to five days. In addition, the Decree-Law 667, the first decree published in the Official Gazette on July 23, 2016, increases the maximum period of police detention from 4 days to 30 days for terrorism and organized crime, which violates the European Convention on Human Rights, not least as it increases the risk of torture and ill-treatment on top of the numerous reports on human rights abuses in detention, documented by the United Nations and other mechanisms since the attempted coup.

Reporting on the practical impact of emergency decree 668, a September 2016 Reporters Sans Frontières report noted that "many journalists have been denied access to a lawyer during their first few days in police custody. Under the 22 July decree, visits to journalists in Silivri prison are limited to an hour a week and are monitored by surveillance cameras and two guards. 'Conversation is mostly limited to chitchat rather than effective lawyer-client discussion,' lawyer Veysel Ok told RSF. 'You cannot exchange notes or documents, which are subject to prior inspection by prison officials.'" [27]

Amnesty International reported in July 2016 that it had "interviewed more than 10 lawyers in both Ankara and Istanbul who gave information about the conditions of their clients' confinement. The lawyers represented up to 18 detainees each. Only one of the detainees represented by lawyers who spoke to Amnesty International was able to choose her own lawyer. According to the other interviewees, private lawyers were not allowed to represent detainees, who were all assigned bar association legal aid lawyers. The detainees' access to their lawyers was also limited. Lawyers told Amnesty International that after the hearings they were not allowed to speak to their clients who were remanded in pre-trial detention."[28]

The Business Insider reported in August 2016 that "suspects are having trouble finding adequate counsel because expert lawyers are either afraid to be associated with the coup or are personally repulsed by the putsch, said Türkdoğan of Turkey's Human Rights Association (HRA). In some cases, legal aid is provided, but those lawyers are often inexperienced and intimidated by the authorities, he said".[29]

27 Reporters Sans Frontières, State of Emergency State of Arbitrary, September 25, 2016, p. 6-7.
28 Amnesty International, Turkey: Independent monitors must be allowed to access detainees amid torture allegations, July 24, 2016.
29 Business Insider, Overcrowded Turkish prisons are reaching their breaking point amid influx of thousands of detainees, August 4, 2016.

Nesibe Ozer

Human Rights Watch also stated in its report[30] published in August 2016 that "some lawyers have been reluctant to represent the judges for fear that they would be tainted by association." According to Human Rights Watch some lawyers asked to represent judges and prosecutors accused of links to the coup or Gülen movement said they felt pressure not to represent those clients or feared being associated with Gülenists if they did. Given that dozens of lawyers have been detained for alleged association with the Gülen movement across Turkey, concerns about the risk of being associated with the movement are understandable.

The Adana Bar Association on July 26, 2016 made a public statement referring to the "fear" and "concern" about possible reprisals felt by lawyers in Adana, the decision by some not to provide legal aid to people detained in relation to the failed coup attempt, and the negative treatment they faced from the police and prosecutors if they did represent the detainees.

According to RSF, "the crackdown since the coup attempt has also targeted many judges, prosecutors and even lawyers. Lawyers have been arrested or placed under investigation or their offices have been raided. This climate of intimidation discourages both pro-Gülen movement lawyers and human rights lawyers from defending journalists who have been taken into custody." [31]

In October 2016, the outgoing president of the Istanbul Bar Association, Ümit Kocasakal, "proudly admitted that the association refused to serve people who face legal action as part of a relentless government crackdown against [sympathizers of] the [Hizmet] movement".

In addition to extensive limitations, many lawyer's associations across the country have been shut down and at least 287 lawyers are under arrest, while detention warrants have been issued for 708 attorneys since the attempted coup. [32]

30 Human Rights Watch, Judges, Prosecutors Unfairly Jailed, August 5, 2016.
31 Reporters Sans Frontières, State of Emergency State of Arbitrary, 25 September 2016, p. 6.
32 IAPL, Monitoring Committee on Attacks on Lawyers, https://defendlawyers.wordpress.com/2017/01/23/turkey-turkey-keeps-287-lawyers-under-arrest-as-part-of-post-coup-purge/.

Dilek Karakose, a judge, and Nesibe Ozer, the former member of the Supreme Court of Judges and Prosecuters, in jail

Dilek Karakose

By February [2017] 4,272 judges and prosecutors (close to two-fifth of Turkey's judiciary) were removed over alleged ties to the Hizmet movement. In addition, 4,235 employees of the Ministry of Justice and 276 employees of the Council of State have also been permanently dismissed from their positions and their assets were frozen.[33] At least 2,200 judges and prosecutors are jailed pending investigation, reportedly because their names appeared on a list of alleged Gülen supporters.[34] On April 2, 2017, the Minister of Interior stated that 2,575 suspects were either judges or prosecutors. There are no accurate statistics on the number of detained judges; however, relying on the fact that 36.9 percent of the total number of judges in 2013 were female,[35] the Journalist and Writers Foundation believes approximately 35 percent of all detained judges are women.

Dismissals of judges in particular have had an adverse and devastating effect on the Turkish judiciary, its independence and the effectiveness of the principle of separation of powers. Under the current circumstances, when thousands of judges are detained and imprisoned and even the 2016 ceremony for the judicial year was held in the presidential palace, it is inconceivable that the remaining judges could reverse any measure declared under the emergency decree laws out of fear of becoming subject to such measures themselves.

In the face of such setbacks, both, the trust of Turkish citizens to the rule of law and the standing of the Turkish judiciary internationally have collapsed. The World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2016,[36] released on October 20, 2016 shows that Turkey slipped to number 99 out of 113 nations in the global ranking (dropping eight places in only one year).

In December 2016, the Board of the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary (ENCJ) concluded that the Turkish High Council for Judges and Prosecutors (HSYK) no longer meets the requirements of the ENCJ, so as to ensure the independence of the Turkish Judiciary. The ENCJ General Assembly accordingly resolved to suspend, with no Council voting against, the observer status of the Turkish High Council for Judges and Prosecutors (HSYK). [37]

33 Id.
34 Human Rights Watch, Turkey, Events in 2016. https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/turkey.
35 http://www.turkstat.gov.tr/PreHaberBultenleri.do?id=18619.
36 http://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-law-around-world.
37 https://www.encj.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=227%3Ahsyk-suspended&catid=22%3Anews&lang=en.

PARAGRAPH 31 – VICTIMS OF RAPE AND HARASSMENT

There are only six prisons (one being an open prison) in Turkey specifically build for women, while many women are currently held incarcerated in prisons built just for men, where generally male guards are in charge. Although women are kept in separate sections of these prisons, they in principle cannot enjoy their rights to the full extent, because of the lack of a set of facilities that can meet the requirements for women. These conditions imply an additional and unjustifiable penalty applied to women, along with increased likelihood that in a male dominated environment women become easier subject to sexual attacks and other harassment.

Female prisoners are held in Silivri closed type prison number 9, which is designed for male prisoners. Prison warden have allegedly repeatedly "reminded" lawyers representing women that - "Tell them not to resist. This is a male prison; our guards are men. We will not be responsible for what may happen."

Corroborating allegations related to human rights abuses taking place in the aftermath of the attempted coup is increasingly difficult, in particular when sexual attack or rape have allegedly been perpetrated. Sexual attacks and rape of men and women in prisons have however been among the highly prevalent forms of torture documented in several reports by human rights organizations.

Nils Melzer, the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, issued his preliminary observations and recommendations following his November 2016 visit to Turkey, which stated in relation to the situation in the Southeast: "My team and I received numerous troubling testimonies of torture and other forms of ill-treatment of both male and female inmates suspected to be members or sympathizers of the PKK. Most instances of ill-treatment were reported to have been inflicted by the police or gendarmerie in connection with the arrest itself, as well as during interrogation, in most cases allegedly in order to obtain forced confessions or denunciation of others. Many inmates reported that they had been arrested based on false accusations made against them under torture. While my team and I generally received no allegations and collected no evidence with regard to currently ongoing torture or ill-treatment, we did receive a small number of allegations by inmates of occasional brutality and degrading treatment in their current place of detention, in particular of male guards or soldiers manhandling or sexually harassing female detainees during transfers and denying them privacy during medical examinations, or both visitors and inmates being subjected to disrespectfully conducted naked searches on the occasion of open visits. Again, the majority of those reporting to have been subjected to torture or ill-treatment said that they did not file complaints to the authorities for fear of retaliation against them and their families and because of their distrust in the independence of the prosecution and the judiciary and, consequently, their willingness or ability to adequately investigate and adjudicate their claims. Those who reported to have filed formal complaints alleged that no follow-up had been made by the prosecutor's office." [38]

38 OHCHR news, Preliminary observations and recommendations of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, Mr. Nils Melzer on the Official visit to Turkey – 27 November to 2 December 2016, December 2, 2016.

Case of Ayşenur Parıldak

Journalist Ayşenur Parıldak, a former reporter for Zaman daily was detained on August 11, 2016 for being followed on Twitter by the Turkish whistleblower "Fuat Avni", who has previously revealed through social media details of a number of police and judicial operations. In a letter from prison sent to a daily newspaper in early October 2016, Parıldak revealed she was subjected to violence and sexual harassment. Her letter also contained information on the conditions in prison, including the case of a former female judge who cut her wrists due to the harsh treatment. After her letter was published in the daily, the government's response was to place her in isolation for 19 days. As a journalist, she was not only informing the public about her condition while in custody, she was also trying to be a voice for other women detainees. Parıldak reported the following: "We were taken to a doctor with a detained female judge. She had slit her wrists and attempted suicide. My roommate A.B. (who is 60 years old) has been strip searched twice." Parıldak admitted in her letter that she fears being forgotten in jail.

On February 7, 2017, the TR724 news site published an exclusive report on Parıldak's indictment, which accuses her of criticizing judges and prosecutors although no such crime exists in the Turkish Penal Code (TCK). She is also facing charges of writing "subjective stories" as well as accusations for her Twitter messages. The prosecutor fails to mention which "subjective and one-sided" story Parıldak is accused of writing, which is another "crime" that is not included in the Turkish Penal Code. TR724 also reported that Parıldak's solitary confinement partially ended after 80 days in prison, although she must still spend time alone from 5 p.m. until morning. The prosecutor has in addition leveled accusations against Parıldak of tweeting in support of an attempted coup in July. Her retweet of a message on independent news portal P24 is also included among the "evidence" in the indictment. Banking transactions made by the young journalist's father are also used against her in the indictment. The transfer by Parıldak's father of TRY 1,933 to a school in the United States is also cited as evidence despite the lack of any activity supporting "terrorism."

On May 2, 2017, the Court ruled to release Parıldak pending trial, considering that all evidence against her has already been collected, that she would have no opportunity to tamper with said evidence, that a travel ban had been imposed on her and that she would go to a police station every week to check in. While Parıldak and her family were awaiting her release, a prosecutor from the Ankara Public Prosecutor's Office petitioned the court for her re-arrest, claiming that the Information Technologies and Communications Authority (BTK) was sending new evidence from her mobile phone. The Court then ruled for Parıldak's rearrest before she was even released from the prison. Family members and friends were shocked at re-arrest decision of Parıldak who has already served nine months without being convicted. They remain concerned that this may worsen her psychological well-being which was already dealt with a blow by false charges prosecutor brought against her.

Incident documented by Human Rights Watch - "A Blank Check: Turkey's Post-Coup Suspension of Safeguards Against Torture," published in October 2016

"One Istanbul-based lawyer told Human Rights Watch that police had detained her client, an officer, from his home several days after the coup attempt and he told her that he had not put up any resistance during the detention. "The lawyer said that when she saw her client for the first time in the Istanbul Security Directorate in Vatan Street, six days after his detention, she saw a bruise on his left shoulder, scars and marks on his face, and marks on his wrists from the handcuffs. She said her client told her the police had blindfolded him and taken him to one of the upper floors of the police station on three occasions together with other detainees. There, police officers accused them of being members of the Gülen movement. If they denied the accusations, the client told his lawyer, the police started insulting, beating, and kicking them. They also threatened to rape them and their wives, the client told his lawyer. 'You can't trust that they won't do this,' the lawyer said. "Once I saw a child and a mother whom the police had detained as hostages to force the husband to turn himself in."

Calls for rape of women belonging to marginalized groups

Sexual attacks and rape of members of marginalized groups are not limited only within places where individuals are deprived of their liberty. Goverment supporters claimed openly that it is religiously permissible for them to rape women frommarginalized groups, as a way of punishing their alleged membership to the Hizmet movement or simply for belonging to the Kurdish minority.

On January 14, 2017, the representative of the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEİK – operating under the Turkey's Economy Ministry) in the Austrian province of Vorarlberg stated that the Justice and Development Party's (AK Party) male supporters could enter into polygamous marriages with the wives of jailed followers of the Hizmet movement. [39]

Three suspects accused of attempting to rape six female teachers in the western city of İzmir told a court on February 18, 2017 that they "wanted to force" the teachers to leave the town because they thought that the victims had links to the Hizmet movement. [40]

Ahead of the April 16, 2017 critical referendum on Constitutional amendments, an employee of Istanbul municipality declared that wives and daughters of those voting 'No' in the referendum would be permitted to be taken as sexual slaves for 'Yes' voters. The municipality announced subsequently that the employee was suspended and that an investigation was launched against him.

39 Source: TurkeyPurge, http://turkeypurge.com/turkish-govt-official-advices-ruling-party-supporters-to-have-polygamous-marriages-with-wives-of-jailed-gulenists.

40 Source: TurkeyPurge, http://turkeypurge.com/men-accused-of-attempting-to-rape-6-teachers-we-thought-they-were-gulenists.

PARAGRAPH 34 – SUICIDE AMONG DISCRIMINATED WOMEN

The Journalists and Writers Foundation is deeply concerned on an increasing number of deaths in custody in the wake of the coup attempt of July 15, 2016, taking place in suspicious circumstances and in a pattern of systematic recurrence. Serious allegations of ill-treatment and torture have emerged following the failed coup, including severe beatings, rape, verbal and psychological abuse, as well as denial of food, water and medical treatment. Many victims have appeared after detention bearing visible signs of ill-treatment and torture.

The immediate rise in the number of people who have lost their lives in detention in the aftermath of the coup attempt contradicts official statements which describe incidents as suicide. Relatives of most of the detainees claim that their loved ones were indeed not the kind of people to commit suicide, shedding doubt on the official narrative.

The Journalists and Writers Foundation is further concerned about the constant encouragement of citizens to spy on each other, an environment which is inevitably inciting social division, fueling paranoia and fear that permeate public life and create an environment reminiscent of a "police state". Such methods were also promoted through the bylaw promulgated by the Interior Ministry of Turkey on August 31st, 2016, which grants people who "help" the security forces to find perpetrators of "terror acts" money awards up to TRY 4 million ($1,340,639.84).

Turkish government itself has admitted that people across Turkey have been lodging false complaints about others over alleged ties to the Hizmet movement to promote their own personal interests, sometimes purely for financial benefits.

According to a recent report[41] by Amnesty International, due to the stigma of being branded "terrorists" under the decrees, many of the dismissed individuals have not been able to find any work at all. Others, along with their families, have lost housing and health care benefits connected to their jobs. Unable to earn a living in Turkey, dismissed public sector employees have been prevented from seeking employment abroad, as the decrees also require the cancelation of their passports. The highly uncertain future for dismissed public sector employees is heightened by the absence of any effective means for them to challenge their dismissal. Currently, no courts in Turkey have accepted jurisdiction to review the dismissals. In the report, human rights group described the challenges dismissed civil servants face amid post-coup period.

Purged individuals certainly feel frustrated and helpless when their assets were also seized and many have been detained under false accusations, with little or no evidence.

41 Published on May 22, 2017.

Academician Nuriye Gulmen and Semih Ozakca on hunger strike and recently taken into prison

The ongoing purge, taking place in an atmosphere of fear and paranoia under the conditions described above and further-combined with a situation of total absence of the rule of law in the country – have contributed to a mounting psychological pressure on Turkish citizens, not only in Turkey, but also in many other countries. Reports received by the Journalists and Writers Foundation from Turkish citizens around the world show that many families, adversely affected by the Turkish Government's assault on participants of the Hizmet movement, and have in many cases found themselves stranded in foreign countries. The number of those who have increasingly resorted to psychological assistance and medication are on the rise.

As of May 2017, the Journalists and Writers Foundation has been also able to document 695 cases (in 23 countries) where Turkish consulates have declined to provide consular services to Turkish citizens – including an alarming number of 76 (seventy-six) children who were denied access to birth registration and thus were born stateless. In addition, passports of 19 (nineteen) individuals were confiscated by Turkish representations without explanation, while in 10 (ten) cases Turkish citizens abroad in possession of valid passports/visas were not allowed to travel.

Reports by the Journalists and Writers Foundation and more recently the Stockholm Center for Freedom (SCF) have documented 54 suspicious deaths during the six months following the attempted coup (July 2016 February 2017). Most suicides in detention and outside places of deprivation of liberty have been committed by police officers, military personnel, teachers and academics, including at least 2 women. Fortunately, an equal number of attempts to commit suicide as shown below were not successful.

DEATH IN PRISONS

In a parliamentary session called by the Republican Peoples' Party (CHP) in response to complains from prisons, the Justice Minister Bekir Bozdağ revealed in February 2017 that at least five (5) women have died under suspicious circumstances at the women's prison in Kocaeli's Gebze district, during the second half of 2016. In absence of official reports on the incidents, any investigation launched on the suspicious deaths or any credible evidence on the cause of deaths, the Journalist and Writers Foundation has not been able to confirm their causes.

42 The number of cases not reported to the Journalists and Writers Foundation is believed to be higher.
43 http://afsv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/State-of-Emergency-Torture-and-Impunity-in-Turkey.pdf.
44 http://stockholmcf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Suspicious-Deaths-And-Suicides-In-Turkey_22.03.2017.pdf.

SUICIDE AND ATTEMPT TO COMMIT SUICIDE

Sevim G.[45] *- August 16, 2016*

Sevim G., wife of M.G., who was detained as part of an investigation into the Hizmet movement in Denizli (southwestern Turkey), attempted to commit suicide by cutting her throat with a knife on August 16, 2016. It was claimed that she intended to commit suicide because she could not accept the detention of her husband.

Medine Ünal[46] *– August 26, 2016*

Medine Ünal attempted to take her life by overdosing on medication on August 26, 2016 after the arrest of her husband, Ümit Ünal, a public prosecutor, on charges of alleged links to the Hizmet movement.

B.N.M. - October 24, 2016

B.N.M., a high school student committed suicide on October 24, 2016 by jumping to her death from the walls of the Boyabat fortress (Northern Turkey). According to media reports, B.N.M. committed suicide after being reportedly bullied by classmates and lecturers over her father's alleged links to the Hizmet movement. Her father (S.M.) was dismissed from his position at Boyabat Şehit Ersoy Gürsu High School on September 1, 2016.

Zehra Epli[47] *– November 7, 2016*

Zehra Epli, detained at Gebze Prison for Women, ended her life by setting herself on fire in protest of the arrest of Kurdish politicians. Lawyers from the Libertarian Lawyers Association and Arif Yılmaz, co-chair of Istanbul Solidarity with Prisoners Association, went to the facility to obtain information from the authorities. Epli's cellmates told lawyers that "Epli set herself ablaze to protest operations targeting Kurdish lawmakers and the government's security policies." According to the Milliyet newspaper and IHA news agency, Epli ended her life by hanging herself with a headscarf. Epli, who was convicted of membership in the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), reportedly hanged herself early in the morning, and guards called 112 after finding her body. A 112 Emergency Service team performed 45 minutes of heart massage on Epli, but she could not be saved. The prosecutor's office has launched an investigation into the incident.

45 This case was first reported by the Stockholm Center for Freedom. http://stockholmcf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Suspicious-Deaths-And-Suicides-In-Turkey_22.03.2017.pdf.

46 This case was first reported by the Stockholm Center for Freedom. http://stockholmcf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Suspicious-Deaths-And-Suicides-In-Turkey_22.03.2017.pdf.

47 This case was first reported by the Stockholm Center for Freedom. http://stockholmcf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Suspicious-Deaths-And-Suicides-In-Turkey_22.03.2017.pdf.

PARAGRAPH 37 – VIOLENCE AND MURDER OF KURDISH WOMEN

The Kurdish minority is considered to be the largest ethnic and linguistic minority in Turkey. The estimated numbers claimed by various sources range from 10 to 23 percent of the population. Although official figures do not exist, more than 15 million citizens were estimated to be of Kurdish origin and to speak Kurdish dialects.[48] Since 1984, the Turkish military has waged an on-and-off struggle to put down a separatist insurgency and urban terrorism campaign by the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or Partiya Karkeren Kurdistan (PKK). The initially secessionist demands of the PKK have since ostensibly evolved toward the less ambitious goal of greater cultural and political autonomy." [49]

The conflict between the Turkish military and the PKK since 1984 has had devastating effects. Over 40,000 people are estimated to have lost their lives, including civilians, military personnel, PKK members and "youth with unknown affiliation."[50] Millions of people, predominantly of Kurdish origin have been internally displaced or forced to leave the country.

Since 1984 there have been some successful and many unsuccessful attempts to bring an end to the conflict. In the early years of its rule beginning in 2002, the Justice and Development Party (AKP) was overall successful in its approach to adopt a more welcoming stance towards the Kurdish issue. AKP adopted a more tolerant view towards the rights of the Kurdish population mainly due to the EU's required reforms; a stance then supported by most of the Turkish political spectrum and the Hizmet movement. Most recently the Turkey's peace process with the PKK materialized in 2013, [51] after a rough start of negotiations between the PKK and the government marred by violence. The overall objective of the 2013 peace process was the disarmament of the PKK in return for better political and cultural rights for the Kurds, as well as involvement of the third party to oversee the peace process.

Throughout the peace negotiations, however there was lack of trust between both the PKK and the government officials, which made the process highly fragile. The process collapsed entirely by mid-2015 due a set of internal and external factors.
In its 2015 annual report Human Rights Watch concluded that "Starting in July [2015], authorities launched a new wave of investigations into hundreds of Kurdish political party officials and activists, including mayors, detaining many on terrorism charges, including in cases where the evidence consisted of non-violent political association and involvement in peaceful protests or press conferences". [52]

48 U.S. Department of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015: Turkey, 13 April 2016 (last updated: 14 June 2016), Section 6., National/Racial/Ethnic Minorities.
49 U.S. Congressional Research Service, Turkey: Background and U.S. Relations, August 26, 2016, The Kurdish Issue, p. 14.
50 The difficulty of distinguishing between civilians and militants led Crisis Group to create the category of "Youth of unknown affiliation", which includes male and female casualties aged 16-35 who were not claimed by the PKK's military wing (People's Defense Forces, or HPG) or its urban youth wing (Civil Protection Units, or YPS).
51 The Kurdish-Turkish peace process was known as the "Solution process", (Turkish: Çözüm süreci).
52 Human Rights Watch, World Report 2016: Turkey, Events of 2015, 27 January 2016, Renewed Violence in the Southeast.

After the cease-fire between the government and the PKK collapsed in July [2015], officials accused the HDP of being a proxy for the PKK. Erdoğan called for any HDP lawmakers with PKK ties to be prosecuted, but he stopped short of urging the closure of the party itself. Critics alleged that the AKP government was using its battle with the PKK to weaken its political opponents and reverse its June defeat. Between the June and November elections, roughly 500 HDP members and officials, including over 20 elected mayors, were taken into custody on terrorism charges." [53]
According to the Human Rights Association [54] "In the first 9 months of the year [2016], 40.573 violations of human rights in total took place in the Kurdish region." [55]

In May 2016, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, stated he had "received a succession of alarming reports about violations allegedly committed by Turkish military and security forces in Southeast Turkey over the past few months", and "had received reports of unarmed civilians - including women and children - being deliberately shot by snipers, or by gunfire from tanks and other military vehicles" and that "there also appears to have been massive, and seemingly highly disproportionate, destruction of property and key communal infrastructure - including buildings hit by mortar or shellfire, and damage inflicted on the contents of individual apartments and houses taken over by security forces". Furthermore, "'Most disturbing of all,' the High Commissioner stated, 'are the reports quoting witnesses and relatives in Cizre which suggest that more than 100 people were burned to death as they sheltered in three different basements that had been surrounded by security forces'."[56]

Between July 2015 and December 2016, some 2,000 people were reportedly killed in the context of security operations in Southeast Turkey. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) documented numerous cases of excessive use of force; killings; enforced disappearances; torture; destruction of housing and cultural heritage; incitement to hatred; prevention of access to emergency medical care, food, water and livelihoods; violence against women; and severe curtailment of the right to freedom of opinion and expression as well as political participation. The most serious human rights violations reportedly occurred during periods of curfew, when entire residential areas were cut off and movement restricted around-the-clock for several days at a time.[57]

More than 200 people were killed and over 10,000 houses were destroyed in Cizre (Southeastern Turkey) alone during curfews in the beginning of 2016. During months-long curfews in Cizre's Sur, Cudi and Nur neighborhoods, thousands of people, including children, women and elderly people, were trapped in their homes. In late January and early February 2016, in the town of Cizre, men, women and children trapped in basements of buildings were reportedly subjected to shelling by security forces. According to families of victims killed at Cizre, and as reported by several NGOs, the bodies of an undetermined number of people were completely or partially destroyed in fire induced by shelling and the subsequent rushed demolition of the location of the incident. Forensic medicine scientists recently determined that many bodies found in a basement in Cudi neighborhood were killed before being burned.[58]

---

53 Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2016: Turkey, 27 January 2016, B. Political Pluralism and Participation: 9/16(1).
54 In Turkish "İnsan Hakları Derneği - İHD".
55 Human Rights Association, Report on Recent Situation in the Kurdish Region of Turkey, November 1, 2016.
56 Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Need for transparency, investigations, in light of "alarming" reports of major violations in Southeast Turkey – High Commissioner Zeid, May 10, 2016.
57 OHCHR, Report on the human rights situation in Southeast Turkey, July 2015 to December 2016, para 2.
58 https://komnews.com/a-year-on-cizre-basement-deaths-remain-an-open-wound-for-kurds/.

Selahattin Demirtas and Figen Yuksekdag, co-chairs of Turkey's Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP)

OHCHR received accounts of other incidents from across Southeast Turkey that caused the death of local residents, although on a lesser scale, from places like Sur, Silvan and Lice (province of Diyarbakır), Nusaybin, Dargeçit (province of Mardin), Şırnak Centre, Silopi, İdil (province of Şırnak), and Yüksekova (province of Hakkâri). The killings were reportedly invariably followed by mass displacement of the survivors and the destruction of their homes and of local cultural monuments. [59]

For the Kurds, there is no longer any space for journalists or human rights activists to document persecution of the Kurdish population and demand equality and justice. The justice system, which has largely failed the Kurds over the past 30 years, has now been stripped of any vestiges of independence, causing serious concerns about access to justice or redress for the violations described in this report. For the people of Turkey generally, the message is clear: no criticism of the government will be tolerated.[60]

In the early hours of November 4, 2016 the Turkish police arrested 12 lawmakers from the Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), including its co-chairs, Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ, on a range of "terrorism"-related charges. Investigations were also initiated against 54 out of 59 MPs from the HDP, the third largest party in Turkey's Parliament. Parliamentary immunity of 55 out of 59 HDP lawmakers was lifted, in a step clearly seen as enabling the prosecution of the party's MPs. According to the information that OHCHR received from several sources, around 2,000 people were killed in Southeast Turkey between July 2015 and December 2016 in the context of security operations.

The number of reported internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Southeast Turkey is estimated between 355,000 to half a million people, mainly citizens of Kurdish origin. The displaced population is reported to have moved to neighboring suburbs, towns and villages, or to other regions within Turkey.[61]

Humanitarian assistance to over 355,000 internally displaced people has reportedly been very limited. According to available information, no international organization has been granted access to assess humanitarian needs and provide assistance to the population in Southeast Turkey, including internally displaced persons. Local NGOs reported that Government assistance has been conditioned upon having a clean criminal record, in violation of basic humanitarian principles governing emergency humanitarian responses.[62]

Since July 2015, the ongoing security operations have caused substantive damage to housing, business and public buildings and spaces in Southeast Turkey, ranging from minimal damage to extensive destruction, particularly in Nusaybin of Mardin province and Sur district of Diyarbakır province, where shelling reportedly caused a permanent change in the population, patterns of ownership and architectural character of entire cities.[63]

While comprehensive statistics on destroyed housing are not available, the analysis of satellite imagery provided by UNOSAT shows extensive damage across South-East Turkey. Some of the most extensively damaged sites are Nusaybin, Derik and Dargeçit (Mardin); Sur, Bismil and Dicle (Diyarbakır); and Cizre and Silopi (Şırnak).[64]

59 Id, para 29.
60 Id.
61 OHCHR, Report on the human rights situation in Southeast Turkey, July 2015 to December 2016, para 14.
62 OHCHR, Report on the human rights situation in Southeast Turkey, July 2015 to December 2016, para 15.
63 Id, para 32.
64 Id, para 34.

PARAGRAPH 44 – DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION

According to the 1982 Constitution[65] no individual can be deprived of the right of education. Therefore, primary school education is compulsory and free in public schools and primary school institutions are accessible without discrimination on the basis of language, race, gender, philosophical belief and religion.[66]

In accordance with the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers[67] , "all aspects of the preparation and employment of teachers should be free from any form of discrimination on grounds of race, color, sex, religion, political opinion, national or social origin, or economic condition."[68] In addition, "teachers should be adequately protected against arbitrary action affecting their professional standing or career."[69]

The existing problems in the education system reached new unprecedented dimensions with tens of thousands of teachers either dismissed, had their teaching licenses revoked or even detained; and thousands of education institutions shut down under the state of emergency. In the aftermath of the attempted coup thousands of schools, universities and dormitories were closed across Turkey.

The July 15 coup attempt exacerbated the already dire situation of trade unionists and other employees in the education system, taking a heavy toll on teachers around Turkey. During the past coup era, including the aftermath of the September 12 coup d'état,[70] never has the Turkish education system experienced such a massive and extensive crackdown.

In a series of State of Emergency Decrees[71] from July 23 until April 2017 the government dismissed and/or revoked teaching licenses to approximately 44,283 teachers, mainly over alleged links to the Hizmet movement or the Kurdish PKK.

Within two days of the coup attempt, the Education Ministry dismissed 15,000 educators and revoked teaching licenses of another 21,000 educators in private schools. On September 19, the first day of school year, a deputy prime minister announced that in the last two months the government had fired 27,715 teachers and another 9,465 remain suspended. The dismissals of September 8, 2016 were largely from the Southeast part of Turkey, where a part of the population are ethnic Kurds.

---

65 Article 42 of the Constitution.
66 Primary Education Law-İlk.ğretim ve Eğitim Kanunu, Article 6.
67 Adopted on October 5, 1966.
68 Guiding principles, Chapter III (7).
69 Employment and career, Chapter VII (46).
70 The September 12, 1980 Turkish coup d'état – (in Turkish:12 Eylül Darbesi), headed by the Chief of the General Staff, General Kenan Evren was the third coup d'état in the history of the Republic.
71 No. 667 (July 23); No. 668 (July 25); No. 669 (July 31); No. 672 (September 1), No.675 (October 29); No. 677 and 678 (November 22, 2016).

Teachers and other administrative personnel were unlawfully dismissed from their positions, based solely on political and administrative decisions. Dismissal of thousands of teachers have not only ruined their careers and their right to work but have also severely damaged the economic circumstances for hundreds of thousands of families. This purge is affecting the future of approximately 1.5 million students and more importantly, the overall education in Turkey has been impacted irreversibly and in the most negative manner. Teaching licenses and passports of thousands of teachers were revoked with the stroke of a pen and no justification.

In particular over the past three years, Turkish authorities have moved to retaliate against academics for expressing their political views - some merely for signing the "Academics for Peace"[72] petition criticizing human rights violations. Attacks against petition signatories included suspensions and terminations of academics from positions at universities, detentions and interrogation of faculty members by prosecutors, threats and attacks against signatories. By spring 2016 many of those not yet detained fled abroad, with an estimated one hundred (100) to one hundred and fifty (150) signatories finding refuge in Germany alone.[73]

Reports indicate that children of those detained or purged also face constant discrimination, stigmatization and bullying from their peers and sometimes from teachers. In October 2016, a student from Boyabat (Black Sea region) committed suicide after being reportedly bullied by classmates and lecturers over her father's alleged links to the Hizmet movement.[74]

72 The petition was made public at an Istanbul news conference on January 11, 2016 and was initially signed by 1,128 academics (followed by more than 1,000 other academics). The petition, which declared that - "We will not be party to this crime," condemned the government's security operations against PKK youth movement in cities of southeast Turkey because of the disastrous impact on the Kurdish civilian population. The petition also called for a resumption of peace talks with the PKK.

73 German broadcaster Deutsche Welle estimates.

74 See Paragraph 34 (Suicide among discriminated women).

PARAGRAPH 46 – DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

The Turkish Constitution guarantees the right to enter public service. The Constitution proclaims, in Article 70, that “every Turk has the right to enter the public service” (§ 1), and that “no criteria other than the qualifications for the office concerned shall be taken into consideration for recruitment into the public service” (§ 2). This right, arguably, implicitly includes the right to remain in this service. However, this provision also has many implied limitations, and in times of emergency this right becomes a particularly weak one, but it does not disappear completely.

By constitution, every Turkish citizen is entitled to enter and remain in public service. Public servants who have been dismissed from their jobs are being accused of being members of the so-called “parallel state” (PDY) inside Turkey's state institutions and media. Parallel State has been constructed as a term by the current Turkish regime to refer to an alleged network of individuals within the state.If there is a perceived threat to the goverment's rule, it is no more than a direct result of the Turkish president's paranoia in his descending path in consolidating power and subjugating dissent.

The right to work is a fundamental right, recognized in several international legal instruments. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (hereafter ICESCR), as laid down in article 6, deals more comprehensively than any other instrument with this right. The right to work is essential for realizing other human rights and forms an inseparable and inherent part of human dignity. Every individual has the right to be able to work, allowing him/her to live in dignity. The right to work contributes at the same time to the survival of the individual and to that of his/her family, and insofar as work is freely chosen or accepted, to his/her development and recognition within the community.

The right to work, as guaranteed in the ICESCR, affirms the obligation of States parties to assure individuals their right to freely chosen or accepted work, including the right not to be deprived of work unfairly.

One of the essential elements required for the exercise of the right to work in all its forms and at all levels is accessibility of work in the labor market, open to everyone and without any discrimination in access to and maintenance of employment, inter alia, on the grounds of political or other opinion, national or social origin, or civil, political, social or other status, which has the intention or effect of impairing or nullifying exercise of the right to work on a basis of equality.

Women`s strike in Turkey protesting high rates of unemployment

Any discrimination in access to the labor market or to means and entitlements for obtaining employment on the grounds of political or other opinion and national or social origin, with the aim of impairing the equal enjoyment or exercise of economic, social and cultural rights constitutes a violation of the relevant provisions of ICESCR.

As with all other rights in the ICESCR, retrogressive measures should in principle not be taken in relation to the right to work. If any deliberately retrogressive steps are taken, States parties have the burden of proving that they have been introduced after consideration of all alternatives and that they are duly justified by reference to the totality of the rights provided for in the Covenant in the context of the full use of the States parties' maximum available resources.

Article 4 (1) of Decree Law no. 667[75] orders the dismissal of public servants "who are considered to be a member of, or have relation, connection or contact with terrorist organizations or structure/entities, organizations or groups, established by the National Security Council as engaging in activities against the national security of the State". They are dismissed by decision of the relevant administrative entities and officials. Judges are dismissed on the same grounds by virtue of Article 3 (1) by decisions of the relevant judicial bodies (top courts and the High Council for Judges and Prosecutors).

The scale of Turkey's purge that has taken place in the aftermath of the July 15, 2016, has been nearly unprecedented. By the end of April 2017 TurkeyPurge has reported 138,147 dismissals, mainly through monitoring government decrees and other reports from official sources.

The dismissals of public servants may raise issues under Article 1 § 2 of the Revised European Social Charter.[76] In addition, Convention no. 111 of the ILO on Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) of 1958[77] may be also of relevance for the assessment of dismissals in the public sector.

At the European level, the European Convention for Human Rights (ECHR) does not guarantee the right to a particular profession, be it in the public or in the private sector. Therefore, as a rule, lack of access to the public service and dismissal from it as such cannot form the basis of a complaint before the European Court of Human Rights.[78] However, this does not mean that dismissals of public servants do not raise any other issue under the ECHR. Some provisions of the ECHR may be applicable depending on the reasons and effects of the dismissals.

Thus, where a person is dismissed for professing a particular religion, expressing an opinion, belonging to a lawfully existing association or trade-union, or for sending children to a school affiliated with a particular religion or movement, such action may be seen as an interference with the rights under Articles 9, 10, or 11 of the ECHR, or under Article 2 of Protocol no. 1 thereof, accordingly (and Article 14 in conjunction with these guarantees).

Hundreds of thousands of recent dismissals in Turkey were reportedly made on the basis of ethnicity (Kurdish) and membership in a particular group, being that the Hizmet movement, an NGO, foundation or a trade union etc. According to Opinion of the Venice Commission,[79] dismissals of public servants for membership in a criminal organization are not regulated by Article 11 of the ECHR; however, whether or not a lawfully operating organization or a trade-union is a criminal organization is a matter for discussion. Hence, the applicability of Article 11 to such dismissals cannot be ruled out. In the same vein, Article 10 of the ECHR may be applicable to cases where the dismissal has been based on the opinions expressed by a public servant.[80]

In sum, a combination of reasons for which public servants are dismissed (including tens of thousands of women), and practical effects which the dismissal may have on various aspects of their lives, brings into play several guarantees of the ECHR and the ICCPR.[81]

75 Adopted under the state of emergency on July 23, 2016.
76 Ratified by Turkey on 27 June 2007; source – http://www.coe.int/en/web/turin-european-social-charter/signatures-ratifications.
77 http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C111.
78 See ECtHR 28 August 1986, Glasenapp and Kosiek v. Germany, § 49 and § 35.; ECtHR 26 September 1995, Vogt v. Germany, §§ 43-44; Thlimmenos v. Greece, § 41.
79 Venice Commission, Opinion on emergency decree laws Nos 667-676 adopted following the failed coup of 15 July 2016, 109th Plenary Session (December 9-10, 2016), para 113.
80 See Kudeshkina v. Russia, no. 29492/05, § 79, 26 February 2009.
81 Venice Commission, Opinion on emergency decree laws Nos 667-676 adopted following the failed coup of 15 July 2016, 109th Plenary Session (December 9-10, 2016), para 116.

In a report[82] published on May 22, 2017, Amnesty International echoes the question. Are dismissed public officials left to civil death? "Dismissals based on political affiliation, union membership or actions such as participation in demonstrations violate the rights to freedom of expression, association or assembly, in addition to the right to non-discrimination," Amnesty International elaborated the jeopardized rights and freedoms, highlighting that: "Expelling people from all work in the public sector or their profession as a whole infringes on the right to work, and in the long term may threaten the right to an adequate standard of living. The routine cancellation of passports violates the right to freedom of movement, while the lack of an effective appeal procedure threatens the right to a fair trial and an effective remedy." "Due to the stigma of being branded "terrorists" under the decrees, many have not been able to find any work at all. Others, along with their families, have lost housing and health care benefits connected to their jobs. Unable to earn a living in Turkey, dismissed public sector employees have been prevented from seeking employment abroad, as the decrees also require the cancelation of their passports. The highly uncertain future for dismissed public sector employees is heightened by the absence of any effective means for them to challenge their dismissal. Currently, no courts in Turkey have accepted jurisdiction to review the dismissals," Amnesty International described the challenges dismissed civil servants face amid post-coup period.

The government has not hesitated to resort to less obvious methods of destruction of people's lives, such as the deliberate deprivation of resources needed for the physical survival of those dismissed and which are available to the rest of the population, such as food and medical services. Twelve businessmen[83] were detained in the beginning of March 2017 in Kayseri province for raising humanitarian relief for families adversely affected by an ongoing crackdown on the Hizmet movement.

Finally, in addition to discrimination, dismissals of hundreds of thousands of civil servants and other professionals have been decided arbitrarily and contrary to the established rule of law principles. In its 2011 Report, the Venice Commission referred to the prohibition of arbitrariness as one of the important elements of the notion of the rule of law. It noted that "although discretionary power is necessary to perform a range of governmental tasks in modern, complex societies, such power should not be exercised in a way that is arbitrary. Such exercise of power permits substantively unfair, unreasonable, irrational or oppressive decisions which are inconsistent with the notion of rule of law." The prohibition of arbitrariness is also a fundamental principle of fair process and the protection of privacy under international human rights law.[84]

The Turkish authorities have insisted that every dismissal is based on solid evidence, and every file is considered individually; in their words, "the dismissal decisions are taken as a result of comprehensive research and assessments conducted separately for each public servant". However, this claim is hard to prove, in the absence of any individualized decision.

82 Released with the title "No end in sight: Purged public sector workers denied a future in Turkey".
83 Hanifi Y., Muaz B., Mehmet A., Altan A., Hacı Ali D., Mahmut A., Mustafa A., Selçuk A., Fuat G., İbrahim Ş., İhsan Y. and Ali K.
84 ICCPR, Articles 14 and 17.

PARAGRAPH 48 – DENIAL OF HEALTH SERVICES

Equality requires health policy to be based solely on women's health needs and not to be influenced by instrumentalization, indoctrination and politicization. In the context of women's and girls' health and safety, equality means the provision of differential services, treatment and medicines in accordance with their specific biological needs, in particular during childbirth.

Discrimination of women belonging to minorities and those allegedly members of the Hizmet movement are particularly evident regarding women's right to reproductive health. Discrimination against women and girls, exacerbated in the case of women members of the above marginalized groups are leading to the violation of their right to health and safety and denying their right to human dignity.

Women's health during pregnancy, childbirth and the post-partum period requires both stability in their environment and emotional support. Numerous reports of ill-treatment during childbirth in health facilities across Turkey provide a deeply distressing picture of the extent of the exposure of discriminated women to degrading treatment, verbal and physical violence.

In accordance with human rights standards and relevant recommendations by human rights treaty bodies, there is an urgent need that the government:

- Applies human rights standards and principles of equality, nondiscrimination and empowerment of women as the framework for all interventions regarding women's health and safety.
- Be guided by an understanding of women's right to equality.
- Ensure that health services for women purged in the aftermath of the attempted coup are available and accessible on an equal basis with others, in accordance with the relevant principles under international human rights law.
- Provide health-care coverage and ensure social and health-care benefits, entitlements and protection for women victims of the post-coup purges, whose preventive health care and protection against discrimination-based violence are otherwise prejudiced.
- Provide access to preventive and remedial health services for women in prison, including in relation to cancer and other treatment, and take all necessary measures to protect women from violence.
- Finally, the government should allow non-custodial sentences for pregnant women and women with dependent children in accordance with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).

Lawyers, family members and human rights activists have disclosed to the Journalists and Writers Foundation serious allegations of discrimination and ill-treatment of women during pregnancy, childbirth and in particular the postpartum period. Cases of discrimination and alleged ill-treatment range from arrest of pregnant women, women in labor taken into custody, denial of medical services and detention/arrest of women during the postpartum period. The incidents listed below are only illustrative to a much broader pattern of serious violations of women's rights, also corroborated by media reports, including pro-government media.

Case of Fadime Günay

On January 28, 2017, Fadime Günay, a housewife whose husband was already under custody, was hospitalized at Başkent University Alanya Teaching and Research Hospital in the southern province of Antalya ahead of giving birth. The police carried out a raid in the maternity and requested that the hospital discharged her, so that she could be detained and send to the police station for interrogation. Following the delivery of her baby Günay was detained the next morning under anti-terror laws and charged with links to the Hizmet movement. Günay returned to the hospital the next day following a judge's instruction, who also placed her under judicial control.

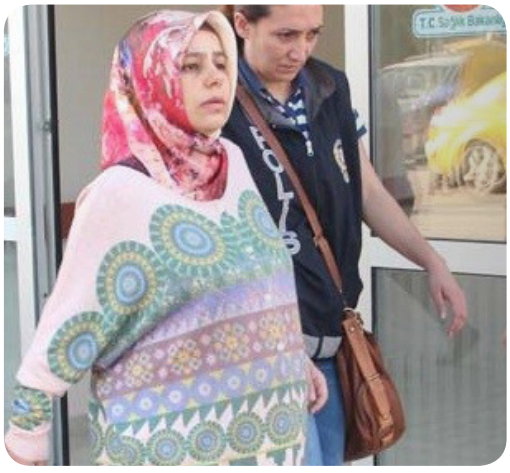
Case of Fatma Kaya

Fatma Kaya gave birth in the southern city of Mersin on December 30, 2016. On January 3, 2017, Mrs. Kaya was taken to the hospital due to postpartum hemorrhage. After she was admitted to the hospital, police raided the emergency ward, interrupting her treatment. She was detained and taken to the police station for questioning by the order of public prosecutor Tansel Ünal, who also ordered the separation of the baby from the mother, allowing only limited access to the baby for breastfeeding. Even though doctors claimed the baby's breastfeeding was critical because the newborn was suffering from jaundice, Mrs. Kaya was denied medicine while in detention and continued to experience health problems even after she was released, due to the interruption of her treatment.

Case of Şükran Akbaş

Şükran Akbaş, who previously was employed in an educational institution in Aksaray, was hospitalized in Şanlıurfa (Southeast Turkey) before giving birth. On January 3, 2017 Akbaş was taken into custody following the order of Ayhan Demir - Aksaray Public Prosecutor. She was then taken to Aksaray (a city 600 km away from Şanlıurfa). Although Şükran Akbaş proved that she had a premature birth with a hospital report and that she was unable to travel and her baby has a life-threatening condition, the public prosecutor Demir did not change his decision and Akbaş was dragged all the way to Aksaray to be placed under custody. Prosecutor Ramazan Akın in Aksaray also claimed that any suffering the suspect was experiencing was because of her remaining at large for almost four months. Akın also threatened those who raised this issue in public with criminal charges. It was only after the issue was brought up by the opposition CHP lawmaker Mahmut Tanal in the parliament that the public awareness was turned to this case. After a public outcry, Akbaş was finally released and placed under judicial supervision.

Case of Nurhayat Yıldız



Nurhayat Yıldız, a pregnant woman from the northern province of Sinop, was detained on a bus bound for neighboring Samsun on August 29, 2016, while she was on her way to the doctor for a pregnancy examination. She was 14 weeks pregnant with twins at the time after the couple had tried to have a baby for three years. Her husband stated everything was going well until her detention and imprisonment. She was charged with membership in the Hizmet movement. The authorities cited a messaging application called ByLock as evidence of a crime, although she said she had not even downloaded this publicly available application to her smartphone. Yıldız pleaded for her release from pre-trial detention, citing health issues backed by medical reports. Her petition however was turned down and she was kept in a crowded cell that housed 24 other inmates. Due to maltreatment Yıldız suffered a miscarriage on October 6, 2016, during the 19th week of her pregnancy. She was returned back in prison after two days of treatment at the hospital in the presence of a prison guard following the miscarriage. Her husband stated Yıldız later began having psychological problems in the jail after the miscarriage and concerns for her wellbeing persisted.

Case of Ayşe Büyükgezirci

Ayşe Büyükgezirci, a pregnant woman from Balıkesir, in the northwestern province of Kocaeli, was detained following orders of a public prosecutor, as part of an investigation in February 2017. The court released her pending trial under judicial supervision that required her to check in with the police three days a week. Under duress and pressure, Büyükgezirci delivered her baby boy prematurely and medical personnel needed to monitor the newborn (Yavuz Selim) on a constant basis, and treated him for anemia with regular injections every week. While both mother and the baby were being treated, another prosecutor, this time from the province of Tekirdağ, launched an investigation into her on similar charges and secured a detention warrant for her on February 15, 2017. Her lawyer challenged the decision, claiming that a similar case on the same charges was already under way and presented the doctor's report on why her and baby's health required Büyükgezirici to stay in Balıkesir, her hometown.

Yet prosecutor Sedat Taş insisted on her detention anyway and she was placed under police custody along with the baby for two days. Later she and the baby were transported in an armored vehicle from Balıkesir to Tekirdağ, a four-hour drive. Büyükgezirici was also separated from her two other children, aged 9 and 13. No further information was disclosed on her health or baby Selim's current health situation.

Case of Filiz Yavuz

On February 7, 2017 Filiz Yavuz, who was at the time in the maternity ward of a hospital in the southeastern province of Mersin, was taken into police custody only eight hours after the delivery. She was taken from the hospital in a wheelchair to the police station for interrogation. Yavuz was among some 150,000 public employees who were dismissed by the government over alleged links to the Hizmet movement. JWF has no information on the current situation of Mrs. Yavuz.

Case of Fatma Çördükçü

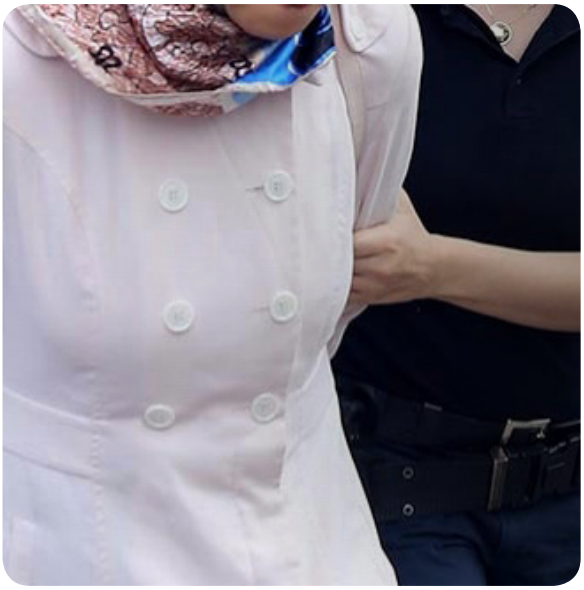
In August 2016 Fatma Çördükçü, a woman in her 9 month of pregnancy was detained by Istanbul Police. After going through a miscarriage risk, her family appealed, however the appeal was rejected. No further information is available about the current situation of Fatma Çördükçü.

Case of Özlem Meci

Özlem Meci who previously taught at a private educational institution in Ardahan (north-east Turkey), was arrested in İzmir on November 3, 2016. At the time of her arrest she was pregnant for 6 months and she gave birth on February 15, 2017 in Aliağa State Hospital. After the delivery, Özlem Meci was held in Aliağa State Hospital, while her newborn baby was transferred to the Menemen State Hospital alone, based on the decision to separate the mother and her baby.

Case of Serap Şahan

Serap Şahan, a math teacher and mother of two in Malatya Nadire Association Secondary School was dismissed through Decree-Law 674 of September 1, 2016. Şahan was taken into custody on December 31, 2016 and 10 days later was arrested by the Magistrate's court. On January 20, 2017, after being placed under arrest Şahan learned that she was pregnant for a month. She wrote two petitions to the public prosecutor's office to be released along with her doctor reports on her pregnancy. Since Serap Şahan did not receive any response to her petition, she wrote again petition on February 14, 2017. The same day she was hospitalized after intense pain and doctor could not detect baby's heartbeat. The mother was offered abortion, but she refused.On February 17, 2017, she miscarried her baby in prison. After miscarriage, she was sent to hospital and underwent a surgery. Serap Şahan was released on the night of February 17, 2017.



Case of Aysun Aydemir

Aysun Aydemir, an English teacher who gave birth to her baby on May 12, 2017 in an elective caesarean procedure, was placed to pretrial detention with a 3-day-old baby in Zonguldak province. Police officers were reportedly waiting at the door of the delivery room when Aydemir was admitted to the private Ekomar Hospital in the Ereğli district of Zonguldak. After giving birth by caesarean section, she was taken in custody, despite the fact that she was barely able to walk due to the surgery. Main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) lawmaker Sezgin Tanrıkulu reacted to the arrest of Aydemir in a tweet addressed to Justice Minister Bekir Bozdağ reading as follows: "Aysun Aydemir delivered 3 days ago. She has just been detained in Ereğli. She was sent to prison with a 3-day-old baby. Is this your justice?"

Case of Aslı Erdoğan

Journalist Aslı Erdoğan, a prize-winning novelist was arrested on August 19, 2016 on charges of "membership in a terrorist organization" and "undermining national unity." Answering questions to the press through her lawyer, Ms. Erdoğan, who is suffering from diabetes, informed on inadequate medical treatment, which could in turn cause her permanent damage. Ms. Erdoğan complained over her inhumane treatment, including lack of adequate bedding, access to light and fresh air in Istanbul's Bakırköy prison. She also informed on her plans to have a tattoo on her left wrist after she is released, recalling a forced practice of Nazis to women members of Auschwitz concentration camp. The tattoo would display the date 16.08.16., the day the police raided her home. Speaking during a protest in front of Bakırköy Women's Prison on October 7, 2016, a lawmaker from the main opposition Republican People's Party pointed out that the prison administrations are "not even meeting the basic needs of jailed journalists, as shown in the case of Aslı Erdoğan, who has been trying to obtain permission for bringing a sweater in prison for the last 15 days." He further underlined that "the most basic needs of prisoners such as a coat, pillow or blanket were not being allowed into the prison despite letters to the prison administration."

Case of Mevhibe Altıntaş

Mevhibe Altıntaş, a teacher suffering from leukemia, was receiving treatment at Memorial Hospital in Ankara. However, in February 2017, without any reason or explanation police officers suddenly appeared in front of her door stating that Altıntaş was supposed to be taken to the province of Aksaray as part of an investigation. Her husband, a teacher-turned-construction worker, said the government blocked their banking accounts and dismissed both from their positions at state-run schools. According to later media accounts, arrest warrants were issued both for Mevhibe Altıntaş and her husband.

Case of Hacer Çakmak

Hacer Çakmak is only one of the hundreds of thousands of people who found themselves facing tremendous difficulties after the government began a widespread crackdown on the Hizmet movement in the aftermath of the July 15 coup attempt. She is a mother of three children, two of them disabled, and the wife of Seyfullah Çakmak, a Turkish judge, who has been under arrest in Kandıra prison for 270 days (as of April 2017). Her two disabled children have been suffering from a genetic disease and they are in persistent vegetative state, however they are not able to benefit from public health insurance as the father's bank account and assets were seized and his health coverage was canceled.

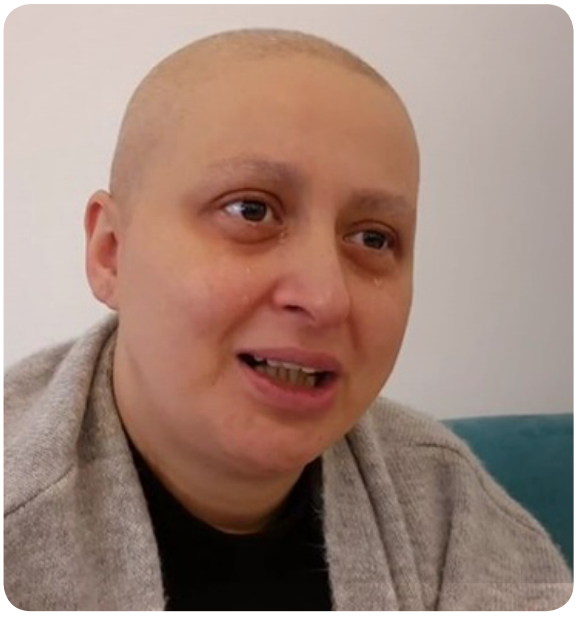
Case of Lale Kemal

Journalist Lale Kemal was arrested on July 30, 2016, together with former Zaman columnists Ali Bulaç, Ahmet Turan Alkan, Nuriye Akman, Mustafa Ünal and Şahin Alpay over alleged links to the Hizmet movement. In early September 2016, the lawyer representing Lale Kemal reported to a news website that her health was deteriorating and his client was facing the risk of perishing in prison. Pending trial on "terror charges" journalists Lale Kemal and Nuriye Akman were released from detention on October 11, 2016.

Case of Nurdan Şahin

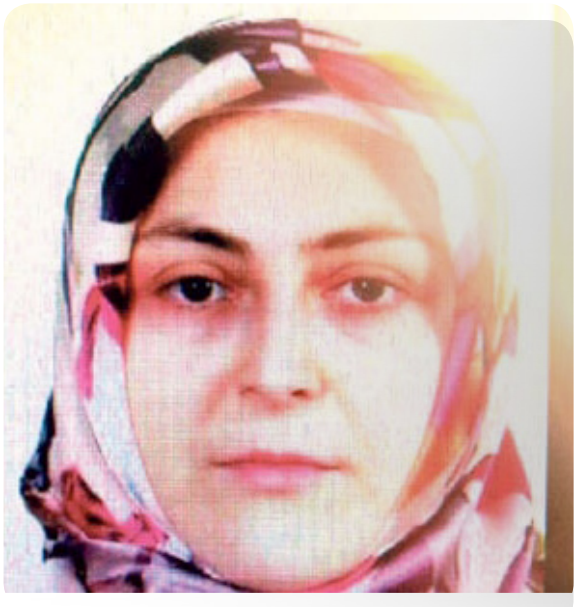
Nurdan Şahin, a 38-year-old mother of two, who was accused of links to Hizmet movement, was dismissed from her position at Ayancik Municipality in Sinop by the Decree of November 22nd, 2016. Her husband was also arrested after July 15 attempted coup. She is still struggling with cancer and trying to survive with her two children.

Anonymous housewife from Uşak (Western Turkey)



A housewife with two disabled children from Uşak's Ulubey district whose husband was arrested as part of an investigation into the Hizmet movement hurt her lower back and leg while she was dealing with children's physical needs. After this , she was no longer able to look after them and applied for assistance from Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation. She was denied support by the foundation who told her that they would not help families who are tried on terrorism charges.

Case of Tuğba Yıldız [85]



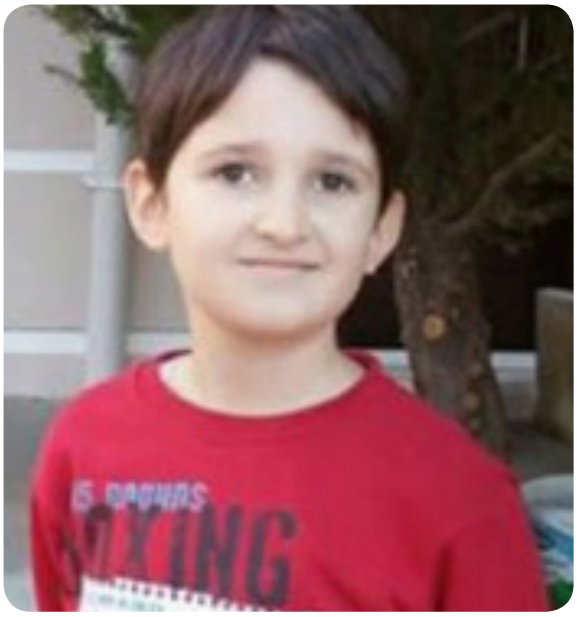
Tuğba Yıldız, arrested on January 15, 2017 in Tekirdağ province (Eastern Thrace region) along with her husband was tortured and was threatened by authorities with her children being taken away. She eventually developed symptoms of psychological disorder and lost her sanity during an unusually long 24 days in police custody. Although the doctors' reports revealed that the victim was subjected to torture for days and therefore her mental health was in critical condition, a Tekirdağ court ruled for the arrest of Yıldız and sent her to prison, where she is incarcerated ever since. The victim has a 14-year-old son and two daughters aged 10 and 11. One of the daughters is a leukemia patient and in need of constant care. They are being looked after by their grandparents. Yıldız was reported to have been talking in her sleep about the daughter with leukemia. She started calling other children accompanying jailed mothers in the same cell by the names of her own children. She lost a lot of weight and fell ill due to malnutrition. She has developed an eating disorder over fear of being poisoned. It has been confirmed by psychiatrists at Bakırköy Hospital that Yıldız was diagnosed with schizophrenia after suffering a high level of trauma during the process, and she remains in prison as of May 2017.

85 Documented by the Stockholm Center for Freedom.

Case of Tuğba Tekerek

Briefly detained for taking photos of the street next to İstanbul's Gayrettepe Police Station, journalist Tuğba Tekerek shared with the public on August 27th, 2016, her time in detention, shedding light on the sufferings of people jailed as part of the government's ever-increasing crackdown on the Hizmet movement behind bars. According to journalist Tekerek twenty-seven people were staying in three cells, which are supposed to accommodate only three to five people each." According to her account the detainees were mainly between 25 and 30 years of age, most of them already having babies and some were pregnant. [86]

Anonymous woman delivering the baby while handcuffed to bed



A woman who preferred to remain anonymous, was taken from her home by police and subjected to harsh treatment in custody when she was pergnant for eight months. Ever since arrested she was handcuffed to the bed, which prevented her from taking care of the newborn. A male police officer was stationed in her room, which disturbed her even more. In those conditions, she requested to be sent back to prison where she appealed the court decision ordering her arrest. She was released pending trial days after her petition, in September 2016.

Case of Furkan Dizdar

Furkan Dizdar, a 9-year-old boy from the city of İzmir (western Turkey) and a cancer survivor was not allowed to visit Cuba for cancer treatment, due to the travel ban imposed on his family through a decree law. Because of lack of proper treatment, Furkan Dizdar died of cancer on February 7th, 2017.

Case of Rukiye Bunlu

Rukiye Bunlu, wife of Timur Bunlu, a former police chief arrested in the aftermath of the attempted coup, was detained on October 23rd, 2016 for 20 days and then arrested even though Bunlu family has a 2-year-old daughter with Down syndrome. Their daughter Ayşe Sena was diagnosed on April 11th, 2016 with Down Syndrome with pulmonary heart disease and reportedly in need of her mother in special care regarding her health conditions. Although her medical reports provided by İstanbul Cerrahpasa Medical Center have been duly presented to the court, Rukiye Bunlu was nevertheless arrested. On January 23rd, 2017 Ayşe Sena was accepted for immediate medical care by Medlife Hospital and diagnosed with kidney disease, bacterial pneumonia and irregular heartbeats and she spent more than 20 days in the emergency room. The little victim Ayşe Sena's mother is still under pre-trial arrest.

86 Source: TurkeyPurge. http://turkeypurge.com/newly-released-journo-offers-insider-view-at-victims-of-turkey-purge.

Teachers, Housewives, Academics and Lawyers are taken into custody without any allegation

PARAGRAPH 52 – WOMEN IN DETENTION

The Journalists and Writers Foundation is particularly concerned at numerous, ongoing, consistent and widespread allegations concerning the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment committed by law enforcement personnel following the coup attempt, including serious allegations that women in detention are routinely subjected to sexual violence and that many such cases are not adequately investigated or prosecuted.

Persecution of women through the abuse of the criminal justice system targets all age groups, from as young as 18 to 86 years of age, aiming mainly at creating an atmosphere of fear and intimidation which could facilitate the government's widespread and systematic crackdown on political and other dissent. Most of the persecution targets a highly-educated segment among women that includes professionals ranging from academics, teachers, doctors, judges and prosecutors. Increasingly women are also taken into custody only for the purpose of "convincing" their husbands fleeing persecution to either turn themselves in to police or once under custody to sign false testimonies.

The Turkish Justice Ministry has so far failed to provide accurate statistics on the number of women deprived of their liberty, despite repeated requests put forward by several advocacy groups, based on relevant legal provisions. The government often claims there are no specific data on the number of women in prison and how they are placed in male prisons and claims it needs to work on several databases to compile such figures.[87] The practice however appears to deliberately conceal information on the matter.

There are several figures reported in the Turkish media which put the number of women in prison at 6,616 as of March 2016[88] and 7,894 as of November 2016. The number of women under custody pending trial tripled from 1,157 in March 2016 to 3,235 in November 2016[89]. It is estimated that around 17,000 women are currently under custody across Turkey.

87 Turkish Parliament Human Rights Commission Subcommittee meeting. (2016, January 28). https://www. tbmm.gov.tr/develop/owa/komisyon_tutanaklari.goruntule?pTutanakId=1546.

88 Cezaevlerinde sınır aşıldı! (2016, March 1). http://www.haberturk.com/gundem/haber/1202922-cezaevlerinde-sinir-asildi.

89 Tutuklu kadın sayısı üçe katlandı: Çıplak arama artık rutin. (2017, February 23). https://journo.com.tr/ tutuklu-kadin-sayisi-ciplak-arama.

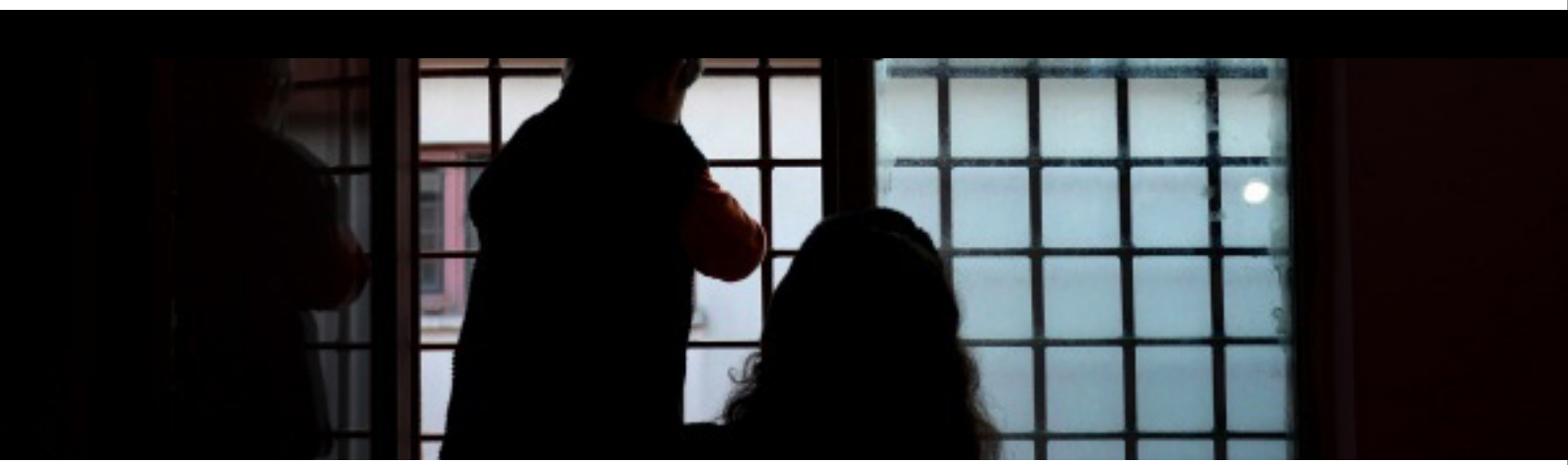
CHILDREN IN PRISONS WITH THEIR MOTHERS

The Journalists and Writers Foundation is particularly concerned on the situation of 560 children, between 0 to 6 years old, who according to the Justice Ministry are being held (as of May 2017) in Turkish prisons along with their mothers. According to the same source, 114 children in prison are between 0 and 12 months old; 128 children are 1-year-old; 114 children 2 years old; 81 children 3 years old; 70 children 4 years old; 31 children 5 years old; 5 children 6 years old; while the age of the remaining 17 is unknown (see below). According to the Ministry of Justice, 291 of the children imprisoned along with their mothers are male and 269 are female. [90]

AGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
0-12 MONTHS	53	61	114
1 YEAR	73	55	128
2 YEARS	59	55	114
3 YEARS	48	33	81
4 YEARS	36	34	70
5 YEARS	11	20	31
6 YEARS	3	2	5
UNKNOWN	8	9	17
TOTAL	291	269	560

Following a 207 percent increase in the number of detainees without a conviction, the Turkish government stopped publishing data on the number of detainees and prisoners, which previously were daily updated on the website of the Ministry of Justice.

Last updated on March 18, 2017, the information contained in the website showed that 80,482 individuals were in pre-trial detention and 108,734 were convicted. That information, even though now outdated, shows a considerable increase compared to figures posted on the website exactly a year ago, on March 18, 2016, when 26,257 people were in pre-trial detention and 141,739 were convicted.



90 Source: https://www.evrensel.net/haber/320621/560-cocuk-annesiyle-birlikte-cezaevinde-kaliyor.

CONDITIONS OF DETENTION - OVERCROWDING

Even before the July 15 coup attempt, Turkey's criminal system was overstretched, with crowded prisons and backlogged courts. Prisons quickly filled to capacity in the days and weeks after the coup attempt, and many detainees found themselves sleeping in shifts, even in the communal spaces, often without any bedding. Authorities also used sports arenas, temporary tents and other unofficial detention facilities to house the tens of thousands rounded up in connection with the coup attempt.

In August 2016, acting under powers granted by the state of emergency authorities announced plans to release up to 38,000 prisoners (roughly one in five in Turkish prisons) of convicted criminals to make room for the wave of journalists, teachers, lawyers, civil servants and judges detained after the coup attempt. It appears that the government's amnesty for convicted felons reduced the number of convicts in jail from 141,739 a year ago to 108,734 on the day the Justice Ministry stopped reporting. [91]

On October 14, 2016 Turkey's Director-General of Prisons and Detention Facilities stated during a meeting at the Human Rights Commission of the Turkish parliament that Turkey's prisons were over capacity, after nearly 40,000 new arrests (34,000 over links with Hizmet movement) following the coup attempt. According to the information shared by the Director-General there are nearly 195,000 prisoners in 372 prisons across Turkey, which is four percent over the maximum capacity.

The Journalists and Writers Foundation however noted with concern that there was significant disparity between the above data provided by the Director-General of Prisons and Detention Facilities and the data reported by non-governmental organizations. On October 20, 2016, the Human Rights Association reported that based on its observations and analysis there were 220,000 individuals in prisons across Turkey, exceeding by approximately 37,000 (over 20 percent) persons the overall capacity of 180,176.

Considering that Turkish prisons have a capacity of 180,176,[92] the overcrowded jails present significant problems. There are only six prisons (one is an open prison) in Turkey specifically dedicated to women, while many women were incarcerated in prisons built just for men. Although women are kept in a separate section of these prisons, they are not allowed to enjoy their rights because of the lack of facilities specifically built to address women needs. That means an additional and unjustifiable penalty applied to women in such prisons.

Overall, the decrease of imprisoned individuals across Turkey until March 2017 seems to have been quickly compensated for by the new imprisonment campaign launched by the Turkish government against the Hizmet movement as part of a witch-hunt persecution carried out by President Erdoğan. The crackdown on the Kurdish political movement also contributed in the increased number of imprisoned individuals.

Turkey's Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu informed on April 2, 2017 that 113,260 people had been detained for alleged links to the Hizmet movement. Of these, 47,155 were formally arrested and put behind bars pending trial in the last eight months alone.[93] Based on these figures, several estimates were reported by Turkish media outlets that the number of detained women is around 17,000; 560 babies are also into custody along with their mothers. There is no available information on how many of those in custody have been formally arrested.

91 Turkey Stops Publishing Data On Prison Figures Amid Mass Crackdown, (2017, March 31), http://stockholmcf.org/turkey-stopped-publishing-data-on-prison-figures-amid-mass-crackdown/.

92 Turkish Parliament Human Rights Commission Subcommittee meeting, (2016, January 14) https://www. tbmm.gov.tr/develop/owa/komisyon_tutanaklari.goruntule?pTutanakId=1549.

93 Minister Soylu Says 47,155 People Jailed, 113,260 People Detained Over Alleged Gülen Links,(2017, April 2), http://stockholmcf.org/minister-soylu-says-47155-people-jailed-113260-people-detained-over-alleged-gulen-links/.

ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT OF WOMEN

The state of emergency entered into force for almost an entire year provided the government extensive powers to rule by decree and grant state officials' immunity from prosecution for carrying out duties under the decrees. High level officials have also repeatedly given strong assurances that "the government would ignore allegations of torture and mistreatment if victims were sympathizers of the Hizmet movement." Those assurances unfortunately seem to have been fully honored.

The climate of impunity in the country was legally "reinforced" with the promulgation of the Decree Law No. 667[94] which states that "Legal, administrative, financial and criminal liabilities shall not arise in respect of the persons who have adopted decisions and fulfill their duties within the scope of this Decree Law."[95] With a September 1 decree the Government also dissolved the prison monitoring boards, evidently with the intention of avoiding any allegation on torture and ill-treatment making it beyond prison walls.

Documenting and reporting on the number of cases involving torture and ill-treatment in the post-coup period is further a challenging task, due to the strong denial of any instance of torture by the government, lack of investigations into the allegations, denial of access to medical reports, lack of access to effective counsel, incommunicado detentions, impeded outgoing correspondence and limited contacts with lawyers and family members.

Media coverage of detainees with signs of beatings indicate that torture and ill-treatment are officially being condoned to silence and prevent dissent. This contributes to an environment in which torture is officially endorsed tacitly or overtly as a tactic to control political opponents.

In addition, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) undertook an ad hoc visit to Turkey from August 29 to September 6, 2016 to examine the treatment and conditions of those detained in connection with the attempted coup. The CPT had carried out a number of visits to Turkey in the past and the reports of those missions have been authorized for publication by the government. As of May 2017 the government has not allowed the publication of the 2016 report.

Government measures have not been able to completely conceal all evidence of torture, including chilling images of bloodied faces/bodies of victims widely broadcast across the country. Disturbing images and videos substantiating allegations of torture against hundreds of post-coup detainees have been sometimes proudly shared on social media by the perpetrators themselves. Social media platforms have also provided new ways of reporting on torture and maltreatment, simultaneously avoiding the risk of reprisals.

The incidents of ill-treatment of torture of women the Journalists and Writers Foundation has been able to document below are only illustrative of a much broader pattern of the Turkish government's human rights violations and discrimination against women, mainly based on ethnicity and perceived political or other opinion, extensively documented by many organizations, including United Nations human rights and other mechanisms. An illustrative list of abuse incidents against women based on ethnicity or perceived political and other opinion can be found in the attached Annex forming part of the present report.

Numerous other horrific instances of torture and ill-treatment against inmates and detainees have been leaked by individuals deprived of liberty in the same facilities. Even though the Journalists and Writers Foundation believes those incidents have indeed occurred, it has not been able to fully corroborate many of those accounts with information from other sources.

94 Published in the Official Gazette on July 23, 2016.
95 Decree Law No. KHK/667, Article 9.

Case of Beatriz Yubero

Spanish journalist Beatriz Yubero was taken in custody on August 5, 2016 reportedly over several tweets she shared about President Erdoğan. Suspected of "collaborating with the so-called FETÖ[96] organization," which she categorically rejected, after almost 36 hours of interrogation in a gymnasium, she was deported on 6 August, only after being forced to sign a document saying she was leaving Turkey "of her own free will." According to media accounts, while in custody Ms. Yubero was subjected to strip search, deprived of food and water, denied medical care and the right to contact the Spanish Embassy, her family or a lawyer.

Case of Lindsey Snell

American journalist Lindsey Snell was arrested on August 6, 2016 for allegedly "violating a military zone", after she crossed into Turkey from Syria, where she had been filming civilians affected by airstrikes in the countryside, near rebel-held Aleppo and Idlib. Snell revealed that during her detention she shared a cell with terrorism suspects, including an alleged ISIS member and that "for more than two months she couldn't talk to her husband or anyone else." Her spouse, who travelled to Istanbul after Snell's arrest to assist with her case, was himself detained on August 22, 2016, allegedly under suspicion of being involved in the attempted coup.

Case of Nesibe Özer

Nesibe Özer, Head of the 2nd Chamber of the Supreme Board of Judges and Prosecutors (HSYK) was detained during the first days after the attempted coup for alleged links to the Hizmet movement. According to her lawyer on September 9 she was placed in solitary confinement in the Bakırköy Prison in Istanbul. Özer began a hunger strike on September 27 to protest the solitary confinement and the lack of a response to her petition.

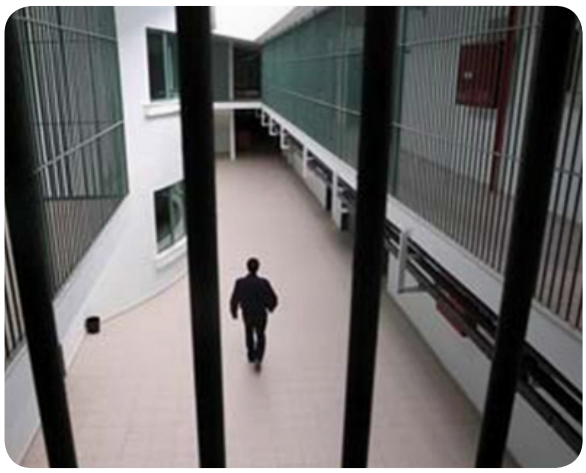
Case of N.E.

N.E., a judge from Istanbul was detained on July 18 and sent to Istanbul Anatolian Court's custodial prison, located in the -5th floor of the court. The detention room did not have enough bedding (with most of the detainees sleeping on the floor), no sunlight, not enough food and the room was constantly cold. On July 21, 2016 N.E. was transferred to Bakırköy Women's Prison and placed into a solitary confinement on September 9, 2016. Although she has been going through panic attack crisis and taking anti-depression medication, the judge did not remove her from solitary confinement. In addition, there is a ban on books from outside and receiving or mailing any letters is not possible. All communications with her lawyer until now (one hour in a week) have been recorded.

96 FETÖ is a derogatory term used by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his political associates to refer to the Hizmet movement.

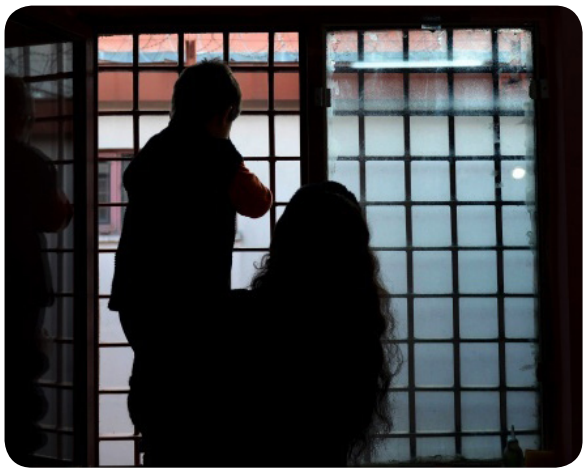
Case of A.B.

On October 14, 2016, the prisoner A.B., a kidney patient, was severely beaten and dragged into her cell by prison guards while she was having a phone conversation with her mother. She was subsequently sent to the infirmary where she was referred to a general hospital. According to the daily newspaper that first revealed the case, A.B. was still being held in Silivri prison by the end of October 2016, despite her continuous bleeding.



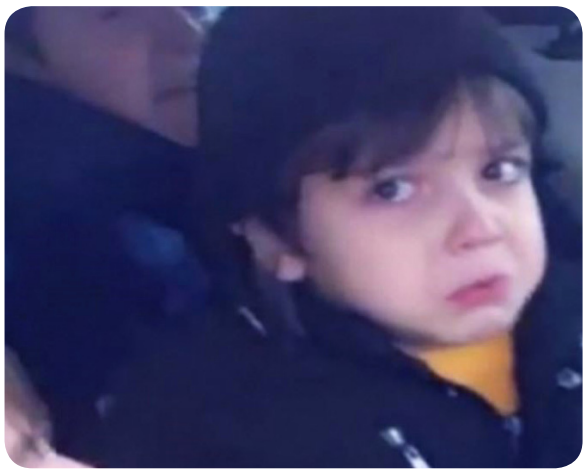
Case of Yasemin Dağıstan

Yasemin Dağıstan and her husband Taner Dağıstan were both dismissed from their positions over links to the Hizmet movement. Yasemin was a nurse at Kırşehir Public Hospital until she was sacked. In February 2017, the judge in charge jailed both Taner and Yasemin, leaving their three kids including a newborn baby to fend for themselves. During the trial Yasemin's relatives objected to the decision asking for the mother's release due to potential harm to her children. According to media accounts the judge was quoted responding to her relatives that - "Now that I listened to you all, leave me alone. If needed, I may get the baby arrested as well. If you go further, you could also be jailed. ...Now, leave me alone. I have things to do."



Case of Nagihan Gökçek and her five children

Nagihan Gökçek, a mother of five was detained and subsequently jailed on January 23, 2017, when she came to visit to her husband Abdullah in jail. The children were left alone at the prison's parking lot until their relatives came to pick them up. One of her children was with Down syndrome.



Case of Ayfer Yavuz

Ayfer's husband, Emre Yavuz was detained right after July 15, 2016, on links to the attempted coup. Ayfer Yavuz gave birth to their child in September 2016. Ayfer Yavuz, who had been unable to visit her husband due to her pregnancy and delivery, visited her husband for the first time in January 2017, with her 5-month old baby and 4-year-old daughter, in Kars prison. As she entered the jail for visiting her husband, she was captured detained by the Gendarmerie. An arrest was issued by the penal judge of the peace court in Iğdır province. Mrs. Yavuz took her baby into the prison and her daughter was sent to her grandparents.

Case of İlknur Ayşe Oğanberdi

İlknur Ayşe Oğanberdi was detained while she was visiting her husband, journalist Habib Oğanberdi on February 14, 2017. Their 6-year old son, Yasin was left alone in prison, and then sent to his relatives in Trabzon (northeast Turkey).

Case of Meryem Yazırlı

Meryem Yazırlı who had been previously detained and released with judicial control, was arrested while visiting her husband İbrahim Yazırlı in Ereğli/Konya, on February 14, 2017.

Case of Nazan Aslan

Nazan Aslan was detained while visiting her husband İbrahim Aslan in jail with her two children, on February 16, 2017 in Ereğli/Konya.

Case of S. Yıldırım

S. Yıldırım was detained while visiting her husband Kadir Yıldırım with her four children. Before the attempted coup, Kadir Yıldırım held the position of the deputy chief physician at Erzurum Atatürk University's Hospital, and was detained on August 16, 2016.

PART III. ANNEX

Illustrative list of abuse incidents against women based on ethnicity or perceived political and other opinion (in chronological order)

March-April 2015 - In Turkey, prisoners in Şakran Women's Prison have been subjected to a new measure following the suicide of a prisoner, whereby guards check prisoners every half-hour, which the prisoners describe as a form of torture. According to reports, the Şakran prison administration introduced the practice to prevent further suicides, especially among those sentenced to life imprisonment. The prisoners are monitored by guards who go from cell to cell asking each prisoner every thirty minutes if she is OK, a practice that has become torture for the prisoners at night. Damla Ülgen, a prison lawyer, said that the measure taken by the prison administration negatively affects the psychological well-being of the prisoners instead of preventing further suicides.[97]

January 2016 - The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), reported in January 2016 that the authorities have launched a wide-range anti-terrorism operation, started in late July 2015 under the pretext of countering terrorism. In this context, at least 58 curfews have been imposed in several cities in Southeast Turkey leading to restrictions in access to basic services for approximately 1,377,000 people living in these districts and to the death between August 16, 2015 and January 9, 2016, of at least 162 civilians (including 29 women, 32 children, 24 people aged over 60). The operation turned into a massive crackdown against peaceful civil society actors depicted as "terrorist networks". This campaign has been targeting dozens of peaceful activists who have been involved in the monitoring of human rights violations resulting from anti-terrorism operations and advocating for a peaceful resolution of the Kurdish issue. These peaceful activists include human rights defenders, particularly HRFT (Human Rights Foundation of Turkey) and İHD (Human Rights Association') members, lawyers, political party representatives and journalists. [98]

March 2016 – In its submission to the UN Committee Against Torture, the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (HRFT) considered that "There has been a significant increase in cases of torture and other forms of ill-treatment in places described as unofficial places of detention experienced in Turkey as police vehicles, home, workplace, confined areas, streets, areas of demonstrations and so forth since the Committee's last Concluding Observations. In 2015, there have been serious violations of human rights, including acts of sexual torture against women." [99]

June 2016 – In its report 'Security operations in Southeast Turkey', Amnesty International noted that: "On 26 May (2016), 42 people, comprising 26 men, 11 women and 10 children (five girls and five boys) were detained by security forces. All the individuals reported being ill-treated and having been hooded during detention. Lawyers representing some of those detained told Amnesty International that the individuals showed injuries consistent with those sustained during beatings and that one 16 year-old boy reported his finger had been broken after he refused to sign a statement he was not allowed to read and that his eye had been damaged during a beating by police officers while in police custody. Those who have been remanded in pretrial detention on anti-terrorism charges have not received the medical care they need in prison." [100]

July 2016 - Al Jazeera reported on July 21, 2016 that: Clashes between Erdoğan's supporters and Alevi communities across the country have flared since July 16. According to Ertuğrul Kürkçü, a national parliamentarian and leading member of the HDP the socialist, Pro-Kurdish party, minority communities across the country have started establishing volunteer neighborhood protection groups. "People are now setting up self-defense units to protect against AKP mobs," he says, referring to supporters of the ruling party. "The most vulnerable groups are women, Alevis and Kurds," he adds.[101]

---

97 Institute for Criminal Policy Research, International Prison News Digest, 26th Edition – March-April 2015, p.6.

98 Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Turkey: Arbitrary detention of 20 university academics and researchers, January 19, 2016.

99 Human Rights Foundation of Turkey, Alternative Report To the United Nations Committee against Torture for its consideration of the 4th Periodic Report of Turkey, March 2016, paragraphs 5 and 29.

100 Amnesty International, Turkey: Security operations in Southeast Turkey risk return to widespread human rights violations seen in the 1990s, June 30, 2016.

101 Al Jazeera, Turkey: United against a coup, divided on the future, July 21, 2016.

July 2016 - One of the institutions shut down on July 23rd on charges of 'posing a threat to national security' - through a decree under the state of emergency (OHAL) - is İstanbul Women's Health and IVF (fertility) Center. The Center was closed by a team of officials from health department, governor's office, and finance department, with the reasoning that the Center had supported the Gülen organization. The Center which was established 11 years ago emphasized that they simply had no connections with the Gülen organization and there are no legal issues with the center. [102]

July 2016 - Hacer Korucu, spouse of Bülent Korucu, longtime top editor of the Turkish magazine Aksiyon and editor-in-chief of Yarına Bakış daily, was detained in the eastern Turkish province of Erzurum on July 30. Police officers stormed the house of Korucu, threatening family members and harassing them about the location of the journalist, taking away the journalist's spouse. The police told the family they would keep the journalist's spouse hostage until the journalist surrendered. Mrs. Korucu was arrested on August 9, after 10 days in detention. [103]

August 2016 - A pregnant woman working as a secretary at Turkish daily Evrensel was attacked by a group of people who accused her of 'wearing revealing clothes and supporting the July 15 failed coup attempt'. [104]

August 2016 - When police failed to find Lawyer Muhammet Çakır at home during a raid on August 5, they detained his 86-year-old mother, and were keeping her in detention for several days in southern province of Hatay to ensure that her son surrendered. Hatay Governor told media that an investigation has been launched into Çakır, the owner of now defunct local newspaper, İrade, over his alleged links to 'Gülenist network.' İrade was among dozens of media outlets that have been shut down by a government decree. [105]

August 2016 - The Clarion Project reported on the torture and ill-treatment of members of "The Kurdish Peace Mothers", following the attempted coup: On August 7, millions of people gathered at a meeting venue in İstanbul's Yenikapı area for a joint demonstration called the "Democracy and Martyrs Rally" to protest the July 15 coup attempt. Yet, as millions of Turks allegedly "stood for democracy," Kurdish mothers were being tortured by Turkish police. In fact, many Kurds across Turkey are almost daily exposed to murders, arbitrary arrests, lynching attempts or torture. The day of the rally, the Peace Mothers Assembly of Amed (Diyarbakir) went to visit the Peace Mothers Assembly of Siirt.

The Peace Mothers Assembly is a Kurdish women's initiative which began in 1996 with the stated aim of "resolving the Kurdish issue through peaceful means." On the way back from the visit, they were sexually tortured by police officers. Nezahat Teke and Havva Kıran, members of the Peace Mothers Assembly of Amed, reported what happened to them in a press conference. "Female police officers forcibly undressed and frisked us. They stripped us bare-naked. But even that was not enough. They harassed us and told us to sit down and stand up repeatedly. We are their mothers' age but they did unacceptable things to us." "They made us wait without water for hours," Teke continued. "We, the peace mothers, have requested peace for years. We have not had any other slogan or request. Do they also consider this a crime? "If there is a coup, we are against the coup, as well. We are against killings but we are also against such unlawfulness. We take to the streets so that no one will die [due to the war]. We are against even their deaths. But what do they do? They strip us naked and harass us. I later noticed that my 200 liras [$65] were not in my wallet. This is not an issue of money, but this shows their ugliness."[106]

102 Source. BirGun Daily. http://www.birgun.net/haber-detay/ivf-center-shut-down-under-state-of-emergency-embryos-placed-in-custody-122416.html

103 Source: TurkeyPurge. http://turkeypurge.com/turkish-police-detain-wife-of-critical-journalist-as-a-hostage.

104 Hurriyet Daily News. Pregnant woman attacked for 'wearing revealing clothes, supporting coup' in Istanbul. August 3, 2016.

105 Source: TurkeyPurge. http://turkeypurge.com/turkish-police-keeps-86-year-old-woman-in-detention.

106 The Clarion Project. Turkey: Kurdish Mothers Tortured for Requesting Peace. August 11, 2016.

August 2016 - Human Rights Watch report detailed one incident affecting "a group allegedly linked to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) involving 19 Kurdish men and women of ages ranging from 18 to 35, who were detained on August 11 and held in police custody for 17 days". The report noted: Three İstanbul-based lawyers told Human Rights Watch that in the context of a wider operation against a group allegedly linked to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), 19 Kurdish men and women of ages ranging from 18 to 35 were detained on August 11 and held in police custody for 17 days. They were detained on suspicion of being PKK members. One lawyer told Human Rights Watch that he had seen seven of those held in the Atışalanı Police Station on the sixth day of their detention. They had reported to him that a team of police officers from the special forces had beaten them, sworn at and threatened them and that they had been given little food for the first three days of their detention. Held in overcrowded cells without beds, the detainees reported that they were sleeping in rotation on blankets on the floor. The lawyer said that on a second visit to his clients, they reported the beatings had stopped. A second lawyer said five detainees reported to him that they had been beaten repeatedly,
individually taken to a darkened room and stripped naked, beaten on the testicles with a baton and threatened with rape with a baton. They said the police made the threats to get them to break their silence and give statements. As a result of the threats and fear of repercussions if they did not give statements to the police, the five had decided to give statements to the police in the presence of the lawyer. Detainee F.P. reported similar treatment, describing at length being beaten and having his throat squeezed, being taunted and threatened with rape with a baton by a police officer. All detainees complained before the court where they were brought on August 28 that police officers had tortured and otherwise ill-treated them during detention.[107]

August 2016 – On August 14 Samanyolu Haber reported that Istanbul police detained the daughter of a Turkish poet and writer, Ahmet Özer as part of an investigation into the July 15 bloody coup attempt. Police raided the house of Özer in Istanbul's central neighborhood of Eyüp for his arrest and detained his daughter, Ayşe Betül in the father's absence. A lawyer and mother-of-one, Betül was taken into custody along with her months-old-baby at the order of Bakırköy Public Prosecutor's Office.

August 2016 - Even before the coup attempt lawyers in the southeast also reported some relaxation of the usual detention safeguards. After mass arrests, individuals were held in unofficial places of detention such as sports halls and lawyers were often barred from access to them in the midst of continuing armed clashes. Some detainees later reported to their lawyers being forced to sign papers they had not read and being coerced into identifying other suspects from lists of names and photographs. Images circulated on the internet, apparently taken by special operations police officers, appearing to show the naked and disfigured body of female PKK member Kevser Eltürk (Ekin Wan) being paraded in the streets of Varto in the eastern province of Muş, after clashes with goverment forces in August.[108]

August 2016 - The German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees noted in August that "Activists say that about 40 transgender persons have been murdered since 2008 in Turkey. Although homosexuality is legal, human rights groups say that time and again so-called hate crimes are committed against LGBT people."[109]

August 2016 - The burned remains of a transgender woman were found near Zekeriyaköy, a district in Istanbul, reported LGBTI News Turkey. Hande Kader worked as a sex worker. Her friends and lover, who identifies only as D, reported her missing about a week ago. This is the second known murder of a Turkish trans woman this year. In January (2016), Hande Öncü, was found murdered in Vienna. She had left Turkey in an effort to escape transphobic discrimination. Early summer 2016 local police used tear gas and rubber bullets to break up a Trans Pride march in Istanbul, while the annual LGBT Pride march was refused permission by authorities to take place.[110]

107 Human Rights Watch, A Blank Check: Turkey's Post-Coup Suspension of Safeguards Against Torture, 24 October 2016, IV. Allegations of Ill-treatment and Torture, Incident 13, pp. 41 – 43.
108 Human Rights Watch, Turkey: A Blank Check Emergency Decrees Facilitate Torture - Reinstate Safeguards to Curb Abuse by Police, October 24, 2016, Torture in Turkey p.15.
109 BAMF - Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Germany), Briefing Notes vom August 22, 2016.
110 Gay Star News, Burned remains of missing transgender woman found in Turkey, August 15, 2016.

August 2016 - Briefly detained for taking photos of the street next to İstanbul's Gayrettepe Police Station, journalist Tuğba Tekerek shared with the public on August 27th her time in detention, shedding light on the suffering of people jailed as part of the government's ever-increasing crackdown on the Hizmet movement behind bars. According to journalist Tekerek twenty-seven people were staying in three cells, which are supposed to accommodate only three to five people each." According to her account the detainees were mainly between 25 and 30 years of age, most of them already having babies and some were pregnant.[111]

September 2016 - At least 21 women were detained on September 5th as part of an investigation into the alleged "female network" of the Hizmet movement, accused of either providing financial support to the movement or involved in some form in its allegedly confidential activities. Detention warrants had earlier been issued against 31 women, while 12 other women who had been detained in a separate investigation into the movement in Zonguldak (Black Sea region), were referred to court, on September 5, 2016.[112]

September 2016 - Three sisters-in-law of Adil Öksüz, one of the main suspects wanted for his alleged role in the attempted coup of July 15 were detained on September 8th. Naciye Alişan, Belkıs Nur Tetik and Seyyide Öznur, sisters-in-law of Öksüz, were brought to the Sakarya Police Station for interrogation.[113]

September 2016 - The pharmacist wife of former prosecutor Hasan Bozkurt, under custody over coup charges (September 5), was detained during a visit to her husband at İzmir Police Station, on September 20.[114]

September 2016 – According to a letter sent from a recently released detainee to the independent news portal TR72, police used different torture and ill-treatment methods, including by placing a plastic bag over the head of a woman in the Ankara Police Station, to convince her to testify against the Hizmet movement. In other allegations contained in the letter, a woman with a 2-month-old baby was permitted to breastfeed her child only once a day. In order to force her plead guilty and sign a pre-arranged testimony, the police officers were threatening to also mistreat her husband and take away the baby, in order to place her in state-run children's home. In another case described in the same letter and reported by the news portal TR72, a pregnant woman was forced to almost have a miscarriage as she was held in custody for six days without interruption.

October 2016 - In a letter from prison addressed to Pen International from a women's closed prison in İstanbul, the linguist and author Necmiye Alpay stated, inter alia, that "There are more women writers and peace activists in prison than ever." [115]

October 2016 - Two female doctors recently dismissed from their posts at state-run hospitals in Ankara due to their alleged links to Hizmet movement were arrested by the Turkish authorities in Edirne province on October 5, while attempting to flee to Greece. The doctors, identified by their initials as F.D. and B.E., were arrested in Keşan as they were trying to flee to Greece. [116]

October 2016 - According to country's left-wing Kemalist daily, Sözcü, R.Y., an English teacher in Mersin gave birth on August 4 and was removed from her job on September 1. She was arrested on September 9 and put into custody over alleged coup-related charges. R.Y. and her baby is still being held in [Mersin's] Tarsus Women's Prison, in a 30-person capacity room - accommodating sixty (60) detainees.

October 2016 - According to country's left-wing Kemalist daily, Sözcü, an anonymous judge in a letter from prison stated she was arrested when she was in the 16th week of her pregnancy. Detained in August 2016 she was kept for 2 months in a room with 13 other female judges, in the Mersin's Tarsus prison.

111 Source: TurkeyPurge, http://turkeypurge.com/newly-released-journo-offers-insider-view-at-victims-of-turkey-purge.
112 Source: TurkeyPurge, http://turkeypurge.com/police-detain-21-in-operation-targeting-female-supporters-of-gulen-movt.
113 Source: TurkeyPurge, http://turkeypurge.com/police-detain-three-more-relatives-of-turkeys-major-coup-bid-suspect.
114 Source: TurkeyPurge, http://turkeypurge.com/wife-of-detained-former-prosecutor-also-detained-during-visit-to-husband.
115 Source: TurkeyPurge: http://turkeypurge.com/elif-shafak-following-a-post-coup-crackdown-turks-have-never-been-so-scared-of-words.
116 Source: TurkeyPurge, http://turkeypurge.com/doctors-detained-while-fleeing-massive-purge-in-turkey.

October 2016 - Thirteen housewives were detained on October 13 in the central province of Tokat for organizing a fundraiser event for low income students under the umbrella of a foundation linked to the Hizmet movement. The housewives were detained in the Turhal district of Tokat as part of an operation against Refia Women's Foundation by the Tokat Chief Public Prosecutor's Office.[117]

October 2016 - In a 43-page report, "A Blank Check: Turkey's Post-Coup Suspension of Safeguards Against Torture," published on October 25th, Human Rights Watch documented 13 specific abuse incidents concerning Turkey's post-coup detainees. The alleged abuse cases ranged from use of stress positions and sleep deprivation to severe beatings, sexual abuse and the threat of rape.

October 2016 - The World Organization Against Torture reported that "Ayla Akat, a leading woman human rights defender and Kurdish political activist in Turkey, who also served as an elected Member of Parliament between 2007 and 2015, was taken into custody on 26 October [2016] in Diyarbakir/Amed. Partners in Diyarbakır informed the WHRDIC that during her arrest, Ayla was dragged on the floor, physically abused and harassed." [118]

November 2016 – On November 6, 2016, a Manisa court ruled on the arrests of five pregnant women who were detained over their alleged links to the Hizmet movement, which the government accuses of masterminding the July 15 coup attempt. While the court arrested five women identified only by initials E.A., H.B., H.E., E.Y.K. and Y.Ö., the remaining two were released pending trial. [119]

November 2016 - The World Organization Against Torture reported that "Since the breakdown of the ceasefire between the Turkish State and the PKK, those speaking out on abuses in the Southeast of the country have faced threats, intimidation, persecution and sometimes imprisonment. Kurdish women human rights defenders are amongst those bearing the brunt of the State crackdown." [120]

November 2016 - Nurdan Şahin, the wife of an imprisoned teacher, mother of two girls and a cancer patient was dismissed from her position as a public servant on November 28 through a government decree. Şahin, who could not move her right hand and relied fully on her husband's care, is among hundreds of thousands of people who find themselves facing tremendous difficulties after the government crackdown on the Hizmet movement. [121]

December 2016 - A delegation from the Human Rights Association of Turkey (IHD) paid a series of prison visits to interview detained majors and People's Democratic Party (HDP) MPs. The IHD reported that at Kandıra Number 1 (Woman) F-Type Prison, "People that we interviewed reported that they don't receive the letters and faxes sent to them and some sentences in the faxes they receive is scratched out thus their rights to communicate were violated. In addition to this, registered letters with advice of receipt are given to them after an inspection" [122]

December 2016 - A delegation from the Human Rights Association of Turkey (IHD) paid a series of prison visits to detained mayors and People's Democratic Party (HDP) MPs. Following interviews with the detainees the IHD reported that at Kandıra Number 1 (Woman) F-Type Prison, "the most fundamental violation of rights that each seven people stated was the 'isolation'. According to this, all the people interviewed stated that they are kept alone in a cell room built for three people, they stay alone during the daily ventilation and no one else was let to the ventilation space; thus, they are kept alone for 24-hours and their demand on staying together was rejected by the prison administration. In addition, they stated that even though the radiators of the cell for three people are heated well, they are cold and they constantly wear thick clothes such as coat and jackets along the day because there aren't enough radiators". [123]

117 Source: TurkeyPurge, http://turkeypurge.com/turkish-police-detains-13-housewives-for-organising-fundraiser-for-needy-students.
118 World Organization Against Torture, Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (WHRDIC) is in solidarity with resilient women in Turkey, November 21, 2016.
119 Source: TurkeyPurge, http://turkeypurge.com/turkey-jails-5-pregnant-women-in-post-coup-witch-hunt.
120 World Organization Against Torture, Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (WHRDIC) is in solidarity with resilient women in Turkey, November 21, 2016.
121 Source: TurkeyPurge, http://turkeypurge.com/my-husband-and-i-sacked-by-govt-decree-i-have-cancer-he-is-in-jail-outcries-turkish-woman.
122 Human Rights Association of Turkey, IHD's Report on the Prison Visits Made to Arrested MPs and Mayors, December 15, 2016.
123 Human Rights Association of Turkey, IHD's Report on the Prison Visits Made to Arrested MPs and Mayors, December 15, 2016.

December 2016 - According to state-run Anadolu news agency, 17 women were detained on December 14, as part of an investigation into the Hizmet movement in Tekirdağ (Eastern Thrace). Four were arrested and one was released on probation; the remaining 12 were waiting to give their testimonies.

December 2016 - According to KAOS GL,[124] "Syrian refugee transgender woman Werde was stabbed with a knife in her house in Cihangir by a man pretending to be a customer. After the crime, police could not identify the murderer from the security footage. Werde's friends went to the Forensic Medicine Institute on December 18th, but they were not allowed to take the funeral. Her friends said that Werde's body had become unrecognizable". [125]

December 2016 - Turkey-based Women Writers Association (KYD) Spokesperson Sevim Korkmaz Dinç was detained by anti-terror police on December 22nd.[126]

January 2017 - On January 5, detention warrants were issued for the wives of 105 military officers as part of an investigation into the Hizmet movement. Police officers were ordered to carry out operations in 31 different provinces. Detained women included the wives of 40 majors, 40 lieutenants, 14 lieutenant colonels, 14 first lieutenants and 2 colonels. Turkish media reported that the 105 military officers were already imprisoned over coup charges. The 105 women, among them teachers, academics, sociologists and many other public workers, were accused of cheating in a countrywide exam popularly known as the KPSS to qualify for public jobs in 2010, among other accusations, including money deposit into Bank Asya. [127]

January 2017 - At a parliamentary hearing it was revealed that at least 5 women have suspiciously died at the women's prison in Kocaeli's Gebze district since the attempted coup. Women at Gebze prison reportedly complain that they are often denied medicine and permission to see doctor. [128]

January 2017 - A video widely shared on Twitter on January 13 shows patrol teams on streets of Diyarbakır's Sur district forcing school kids and their parents to remove their coats and show their naked bellies to ensure they carry no explosives. In the video that apparently was recorded by other police officers in patrol car during days of armed clashes in the Kurdish populated region, a police officer stops school kids aged between 10 to 12 for security check, asks them to remove their coats and show their abdomen area despite the cold weather. The officer also stops other women, attending school kids and asks them to show their bellies in various similar footage. Police officers in patrol car are heard speaking about kids and women sometimes pejoratively and calling them "terrorists." [129]

January 2017 - In the ongoing government crackdown on followers of the Hizmet movement, dozens of women have been detained while visiting their imprisoned husbands, with their children either separated from them and given to family members or taken to jail with the mothers. Five children left alone in tears in front of Sincan Prison in Ankara as their mother was detained while they were visiting their jailed father 856 people around the world raised $41,850 in a week as the elder brother shared a video, saying in tears: "We are five brothers, left alone. We have a handicapped brother. I commend those people to God's punishment." [130]

January 2017 - İstanbul Public Prosecutor's Office issued detention warrants for 73 women on January 13, as part of an investigation into the Hizmet movement. [131]

January 2017 – Sultan Eylem Keleş, a journalism student at Ege University in Izmir was detained over terrorism charges while leaving her school on January 16. She was a former reporter for JINHA, a pro-Kurdish news agency closed down by the government under post-coup emergency rule.

January 2017 - Thirty-four housewives were arrested on January 28th allegedly for use of a smart phone application called ByLock and links to the Hizmet movement, according to the state-run Anadolu news agency.

---

124 Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Research and Solidarity Association (Turkish: Kaos Gey ve Lezbiyen Kültürel Araştırmalar ve Dayanışma Derneği).

125 KAOS GL. Refugee transgender woman was killed in Istanbul. December 22, 2016.

126 Source: TurkeyPurge. http://turkeypurge.com/turkeys-anti-terror-police-detain-another-writer.

127 Source. TurkeyPurge. http://turkeypurge.com/detention-warrants-issued-for-wives-of-105-military-officers.

128 Source: TurkeyPurge. http://turkeypurge.com/5-suspicious-deaths-at-gebze-womens-prison-in-second-half-of-2016.

129 Source: TurkeyPurge. http://turkeypurge.com/police-order-kurdish-kids-to-strip-clothes-off-in-sur-security-check.

130 Source: TurkeyPurge. http://turkeypurge.com/?s=five+children.

131 Source: TurkeyPurge. http://turkeypurge.com/turkey-purge-in-past-8-days-442-arrested-754-others-detained-over-coup charges.

January 2017 – On January 23rd Turkey's Human Rights Association (İHD) Diyarbakır provincial branch stated that 2016 was a disastrous year for human rights abuses in Turkey since nearly 50,000 rights violations were reported, especially during a state of emergency declared by the government following the failed coup. A total of 171 charitable organizations that focused on rights, women and children were closed down." İHD also noted that 305 people were killed and 134 were wounded in arbitrary shootings by police, the military and village guards in actions against locals in eastern and southeastern provinces. While regional authorities declared a curfew 74 times in southeastern and eastern towns in 2016, women and children suffered the most from human rights violations. The İHD report also underlined that maltreatment and torture in prisons increased in 2016. Turkish police raided 3,556 houses in the region in 2016 in which 150 minors and 6,710 adults were detained. Eleven women committed suicide and 30 women died from domestic violence, while two children died in regional violence and 110 were subjected to sexual abuse in 2016, the İHD informed.

February 2017 - Twenty-one women, including 10 with newborn infants and two over 70-years of age were detained in Afyon's Dinar district as part an investigation into the Hizmet movement. Investigations carried out against 21 women whose husbands are in prison over links to the Hizmet movement, were allegedly aiming at pressuring their husbands to sign testimonies against their free will.[132]

February 2017 – A total of fifty businessmen, housewives and police officers were detained on February 14 as part of ongoing operations targeting the followers of the Hizmet movement due to their use of a smartphone application known as ByLock.[133]

February 2017 - A woman (İ.A.O.) was detained on February 14 when she stopped by the Trabzon prison on Valentine's Day in a bid to visit her husband H.O., who had been earlier jailed as part of the government's crackdown on the Hizmet movement.[134]

February 2017 - A total of 12 health workers, including doctors, nurses and midwives were detained on February 16 in Eskişehir as part of an investigation into the Hizmet movement.[135]

February 2017 - Three suspects accused of attempting to rape 6 female teachers in İzmir told a court on February 18 that they "wanted to force" the teachers to leave the town because they thought that the victims had links to the Hizmet movement, which the government accuses of masterminding the July 15 coup attempt.[136]

February 2017 - On February 18, a Turkish literature teacher (known by initials as N.A.,) who was left unemployed after her school was shuttered as part of the post-coup emergency rule, was detained when he stopped by Konya's Ereğli prison to visit her imprisoned husband, İ.A.[137]

February 2017 – According to CNN Turk, a female judge, identified with initials N.Ş.D., was arrested in the province of Hakkari as part of an investigation targeting the Hizmet movement.

February 2017 – A Turkish woman, identified with the initials H.G.D., was jailed on February 23, 2017 along with her 7-months-old baby after the Supreme Court of Appeals upheld the decision sentencing her to 6 years and 3 months in prison.

February 2017 - Nineteen housewives were detained on February 27, 2017 in Çorum (Central Black Sea Region), over alleged links to the Hizmet movement.

132 Source: TurkeyPurge, http://turkeypurge.com/turkish-prosecutor-demands-detention-of-21-women-leaving-10-infants-unattended.
133 Source: TurkeyPurge, http://turkeypurge.com/50-civilians-police-officers-detained-in-sanliurfa-istanbul-gaziantep-mersin-osmaniye-sakarya-over-alleged-coup-involvement.
134 Source: TurkeyPurge, http://turkeypurge.com/teacher-detained-while-visiting-imprisoned-husband.
135 Source: TurkeyPurge, http://turkeypurge.com/court-arrests-12-doctors-nurses-over-coup-charges-in-eskisehir.
136 Source: TurkeyPurge, http://turkeypurge.com/men-accused-of-attempting-to-rape-6-teachers-we-thought-they-were-gulenists.
137 Source: TurkeyPurge, http://turkeypurge.com/teacher-detained-while-visiting-imprisoned-husband.

February 2017 – A Turkish woman, identified by the initials H.T.K., was detained on February 28 in Artvin province while she was allegedly on her way to escape to Georgia. Police stopped a car along Turkey's Georgian border to carry out a search upon complaint. H.T.K. was found hiding in a secret compartment below backseats, established near the car's fuel tank. According to Turkish media, H.T.K. had an outstanding arrest warrant issued against her as part of government crackdown against the Hizmet movement.

March 2017 – On March 2, Zehra Doğan, a Turkish painter and reporter for the now-closed Dicle news agency was sentenced to 2 years, 9 months and 22 days for painting the destruction caused by operations carried out in the Nusaybin district of Mardin province by Turkish security forces against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

March 2017 - A total of thirty-three housewives were detained on March 3, 2017 for using a smart phone application known as ByLock and attending public meetings organized by the Hizmet movement in the province of Kayseri.

March 2017 – On March 8, a group of about 30 individuals attacked a Women's Day event at Bilgi University (Istanbul) with witnesses reporting injuries and that some of the attackers were carrying knives. The group broke into the university's Santral Istanbul campus and headed to the tents established as part of an event to mark the Women's Day on March 8. Some of the attackers also reportedly chanted slogans including "Allahu Akbar".

March 2017 – On March 8, a court in Kayseri ruled on the arrest of 12 (out of 20) female teachers over their alleged links to the Hizmet movement. The remaining eight women detained as part of the same group were released on judicial control. The detained teachers were reportedly accused of using ByLock mobile application, which the government claims to be the top communication tool among the followers of the movement.

March 2017 – On March 24, Özlem Yüzgeç, the spouse of one of the prosecutors who conducted the December 17-25 corruption probe in 2013 (implicating several members of then-Prime Minister Erdoğan's family, his inner circle and four former ministers), was arrested in Kahramanmaraş province over use of a smartphone application known as ByLock.

March 2017 - Fatma Saadet Yılmazer and Rabia Fitnat Yılmazer, daughters of jailed former police intelligence chief Ali Fuat Yılmazer, were arrested by an İstanbul court on March 27th for allegedly using ByLock, a smartphone application that is considered by Turkish authorities to be a communication tool among followers of the Hizmet movement.

April 2017 - On April 11, 2017, Ömer Akbayrak, an AKP ruling party activist and employee of the Istanbul Municipality stated on social media that if the constitutional amendments were approved, the wives and daughters of "no" voters (in particular from the opposition Republican People's Party) would be permitted as sex slaves for "yes" voters.

April 2017 – On April 11, the female Co-Chairperson of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Figen Yüksekdağ was sentenced to one year in prison for "disseminating the propaganda of a terrorist organization." Yüksekdağ was arrested in a police operation on Nov. 4 along with eight HDP deputies including the other HDP co-chair, Selahattin Demirtaş.

April 2017 - Nine housewives were detained as part of an operation targeting the alleged followers of Hizmet movement in an operation based in the western province of İzmir. According to pro-government Milat daily, the detentions took place following simultaneous raids on 10 locations in Eskişehir, Manisa, Şanlıurfa, Burdur, İstanbul, Çanakkale, Antalya, Uşak and Kayseri as well as İzmir on April 21, 2017.

***

JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS FOUNDATION
Address: 56 W45 Street 4th Floor New York, NY 10036
Phone : +1 (646) 838-4882
E-mail : info@jwf.org Web: www.jwf.org