

Human Rights Violations in Turkey by Numbers: Kurdish People

- The government secured the lifting of the parliamentary immunity of **148** deputies, **53** of them members of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democracy Party (HDP) facing investigation on terrorism charges. (May)[1]
- Recently a prosecutor decided not to prosecute members of the air force or any state official for a December 2012 aerial bombardment near Uludere in southeastern Turkey, which killed **34** Kurdish men and boys.[2]
- **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 (Between July 22, 2015, and March, 27, 2017).[3]
- 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 November 2016).[4]
- **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 held by DBP (By the end of 2016).[5]
- 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 (In April 2017).[6]
- **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.[7]
- Over **40,000** people are estimated to have lost their lives, including civilians, military personnel, PKK members and "youth with unknown affiliation." Millions of people, predominantly of Kurdish origin have been internally displaced or forced to leave the country.[8]
- 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.[9]

- Turkish police raided the office of Diyarbakir-based Kurdish language daily Azadiya Welat and detained at least **23** employees, six of whom were later formally arrested (August 29, 2016).[10]
- In the main trial in Diyarbakir of **175** people charged simply for their association with the Union of Kurdistan Communities (Koma Civakên Kurdistan, KCK), a body connected with the PKK, all remaining defendants who had already been in pretrial detention for periods of over five years were released on bail[11]
- 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.[12]
- The Ministry of Health reported that there were at least **355,000** displaced people from Cizre, Silopi and other areas of south-east Turkey where security operations had taken place.[13]
- 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.[14]
- 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).[15]
- 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 (June 2016).[16]
- The authorities told Amnesty International that they recovered the bodies of **65** armed individuals and detained 68 people during operations in Sur.[17]
- The number of people displaced from Sur was estimated by the municipal authorities to be **40,000**. In total at least **35** districts across the east and south-east of Turkey were declared under curfew. These include, notably, the city of Cizre, with a pre-curfew population of **120,000**, for 79 days, Silopi 19 days, and Nusaybin, with a pre-curfew population of over **100,000**, where a curfew remains in place in part of the city since 14 March 2016 despite clashes there ending over six months ago.[18]
- Most of the **24,000** residents from the six neighborhoods in Sur under the main curfew remain displaced, as do a minority of residents from other neighborhoods within Sur.[19]

- [1] Human Rights Watch Reports, Turkey: Events of 2016 (January 2017), p.5, para.6
- [2] Human Rights Watch Reports, Turkey's Human Rights Rollback: Recommendations for Reform (September 2014), p.9, para. 2
- [3] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.10, para.2
- [4] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.11, para.1
- [5] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.11, para.1
- [6] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.11, para.2
- [7] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.11, para.3
- [8] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.26, para.2
- [9] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.27, para.4
- [10] Human Rights Watch Reports, Silencing Turkey's Media: The Government's Deepening Assault on Critical Journalism (December 2016), p.10, para.4
- [11] Human Rights Watch Reports, Turkey's Human Rights Rollback: Recommendations for Reform (September 2014), p.21, para.2
- [12] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.5, para.5
- [13] Amnesty International Reports, Turkey: displaced and dispossessed: Sur residents' right to return home (December 2016), p.9, para.2
- [14] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.10, para.3
- [15] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.48, para.2
- [16] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.48, para.4
- [17] Amnesty International Reports, Turkey: displaced and dispossessed: Sur residents' right to return home (December 2016), p.8, para.2
- [18] Amnesty International Reports, Turkey: displaced and dispossessed: Sur residents' right to return home (December 2016), p.9, para.2
- [19] Amnesty International Reports, Turkey: displaced and dispossessed: Sur residents' right to return home (December 2016), p.25, para.2