

Turkey's New Normal: Torture and Ill-Treatment

Turkey, after the failed coup attempt has been a **tumultuous ground for human rights**. Many subtopics of **human rights violations** were brought into the spotlight especially after the declaration of the state of emergency. Perhaps some of the most important derivatives of such violations are **torture** and **maltreatment**. Although a state of emergency can help condense and concentrate efforts to bring perpetrators into justice it does not grant the government a blank check to suspend human rights. Even though a delicate matter like suspect and prisoner rights can never be dispensable, **Turkey is currently infamous for infringing plenty of them from a global standpoint**.

Since the coup attempt in 2016 a **hefty sum of 160,00 people were detained 152,000 of which were state officials varying from teachers to lawyers**. According to the government's statement a **majority of these detainees were associated with the Gulen movement**. Since 2016 an overwhelming **7,907 cases of human rights violations** occurred among these were **2,278 victims of torture** and within that number **423 of them occurred under police detention**. Methods of torture included but were not limited to **thumps, electrical chairs, and sexual assault threats (particularly women)**. In addition, **48 extralegal killings** were reported which were deemed tolerable under "troubling" provisions vaguely stated in emergency decree 667.

Besides the aforementioned brutishness, **safeguards available to any prisoner were denied by the detainers**. Among those violated safeguards were reasonable detention and **legal review arrangements, access to medical reports, right to choose a lawyer**, and last but not least **monitoring the places of detention**. Considering the absence of these safeguards combined with the turmoil within cells **detainees came to be more vulnerable to mental and physical abuse**.

Numerous examples of each different method of torture can be exemplified, whether that is a **teacher beaten to death** and his autopsy altered (teacher Acikkolu), or a **woman tortured remorselessly in front of her husband** (Asli S.). **The defiling of basic detainee rights is not only tarnishing Turkey's reputation in the world stage yet it is also obviously and gradually driving the Turkish government to a dead end**.