

# PERSECUTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN TURKEY

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After July 15 failed coup attempt, Turkish government accused Fethullah Gulen and his followers for having connection with the failed coup. After death of 245 people failed coup, Turkish authorities started investigating people with any kind of link with the Gulen Movement. Since July 15 of 2016, more than 60,000 people have been arrested. They are all well educated individuals with different backgrounds such as soldiers, lawyers, judges, teachers, engineers and so on. Almost 150,000 people have been dismissed from their governmental jobs. But the most miserable stories are, of course, women and children's. Today 17,000 women, 668 babies and children are jailed in Turkey. While some of the children are brought to the prison with their mother, lots of children stays with their relatives or public dorms due to their parents are jailed. Nonetheless, some women imprisoned have serious disease and illnesses, which are exacerbated with the hard for prison conditions.

## 1. After the Coup, the 62 Children Being Held in a Turkish Prison

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/23/after-the-coup-the-62-children-being-held-in-a-turkish-prison/>

“Some families haven’t heard anything from their children for seven days — children at the age of 14 or 15. That’s not something that should be happening even in a state of emergency,” said Nazli Tanburaci Altac, a lawyer representing three of the Kuleli High School (was a military school) students.

She said three of the students had been subjected to a mass preliminary hearing of 55 prisoners in a single crowded courtroom, adding: “They got just two to three minutes to testify”. The boys’ families were not allowed to attend.

Outside Maltepe Prison, a father of a 14-year-old student says he has not been allowed to speak to his son since last Friday, wiohen he, too, went off to the school's “cocktail party”.

## 2. 1914 Children Officially in Prison in Turkey

<https://m.bianet.org/english/human-rights/157061-1-914-children-officially-in-prison-in-turkey>

While responding Pervin Buldan’s parliamentary inquiry, Justice Minister Bekir Bozdağ expressed that 1914 children jailed in Turkey. Also number of children whose staying with their prisoner convict mothers 353. Children’s average period of internment is 110 days.

### 3. Crackdown: Prison Conditions Worsen in Post-Coup Turkey

<https://www.irinnews.org/investigations/2017/09/06/crackdown-prison-conditions-worsen-post-coup-turkey>

Sevgul\*, a young mother convicted of spreading terrorist propaganda after taking part in a protest, was given a multi-year sentence even though her six-month-old was still breastfeeding. As Turkish law allows children as old as six to stay with their mothers in prison, she opted to serve her sentence with her child in tow.

Sent to a prison in the eastern province of Elazığ, Sevgul found herself and her infant crammed with 23 other women into a cell built for eight.

Sevgul has struggled to care for her newborn, who cries through the nights and has developed a skin infection, according to Sevgul's sister Ayten\*.

Since the conviction, Ayten has taken Sevgul's husband and older daughter into her apartment. Ayten visits her sister regularly and, in an interview with IRIN, described her sister's difficulties in procuring baby food and supplies while in jail, as well as the wider human rights abuses that have become commonplace in Turkey's post-coup prison system.

Ayten said Sevgul has been beaten at least once, when guards dragged her down a stairway by the hair for refusing orders to give a military salute.

The impacts of Sevgul's detention have been felt through the entire family.

"Her older daughter cries sometimes when we are home and asks for her mother," Ayten said. "She's old enough to know what is going on now. I can see that she is as imprisoned as her mother and her little sister."

Officials from Turkey's Ministry of Justice and the General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses did not respond to requests for comment before the publication of this article.

- 50,000 people jailed for suspected connection with attempted coup
- Overcrowding, mistreatment rife
- An estimated 220,000 held in total in Turkish prisons
- Lawyers say solitary confinement used as form of discipline
- Political prisoners regularly denied medical check-ups
- Little accountability and EU court accused of 'negligence'

### 4. What's Going on Turkey's Prisons?

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/04/turkey-outcry-grows-ill-treatment-in-prisons.html>

"A prison for 750 people, for instance, is holding about 1,700 inmates. Up to eight people stay in cells for three or four inmates, with mattresses thrown on the floor or bunk beds crammed into tiny rooms,"

#### **5. New Mom Jailed with Baby for Alleged Ties to Turkey Coup**

<http://nypost.com/2017/05/15/new-mom-jailed-with-baby-for-alleged-ties-to-turkey-coup/>

A woman in Turkey who just gave birth was arrested at the hospital and thrown behind bars three days later — along with her newborn baby — as part of the country's widespread purge of "Gülenists," a report says. At these days four more mother was also arrested just after gave birth.

#### **6. Veiled Women Detained, Handcuffed Spark Public Outcry in Turkey**

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/tr/originals/2015/11/turkey-new-controversy-for-headscarf-in-handcuffs.html#ixzz4yFW4kOPt>

Turkish police performed contemporaneous raids on 35 locations in the western Turkish town of Manisa on Nov. 10, to detain suspects of the "parallel state" (The term referred a group of people which has connection with Gulen movement before 15 July 2016 coup attempt ). The 26 detainees included lawyers and educators, but what really caught the attention of the media were the photos of two young handcuffed women wearing headscarves.

#### **7. Mother's Day 2017: Over 17,000 Women Behind Bars Across Turkey, with Many Children**

<http://m.asianews.it/index.php?art=40742&l=en>

Arrested by government even pregnant women or those who have just given birth. In several cases, women were detained in the hospital immediately after the delivery of her baby and before they had a chance to recover. Others were jailed while visiting their husbands in jail. In the first two weeks of May, 1257 people were arrested, 264 were imprisoned. As Turkey celebrated the Mother's day on Sunday, more than 17,000 women, many of them with babies, have been deprived of enjoying the day as they are obliged to spend it in prisons all across Turkey.

#### **8. German Woman Arrested in Turkey's Post-Coup Crackdown**

<http://m.dw.com/en/german-woman-arrested-in-turkeys-post-coup-crackdown/a-19452344>

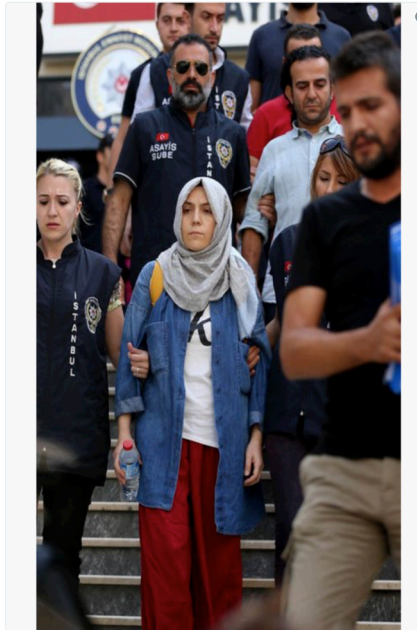
Turkish security forces have reportedly arrested a German woman on suspicion of belonging to the Gulen movement. The detained German woman was reportedly arrested after Turkish authorities allegedly found books at her residence that suggested links to the Gulen movement.

9. The veteran journalist Nazlı Ilıcak, 72, is among those detained.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jul/30/turkish-correspondent-tweets-arrests-of-42-journalists-in-turkey>



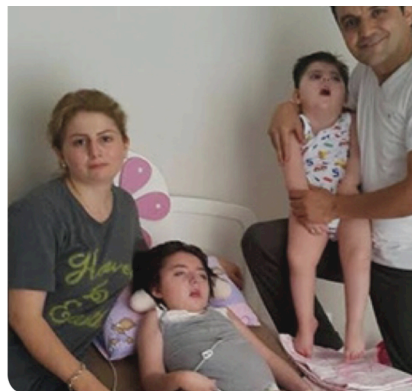
Veteran journalist Nazlı Ilıcak, 72, is one of the journalists detained.



10. <https://confilegal.com/20161109-la-carta-abierta-la-esposa-juez-turco-detenido-tras-golpe-estado-impacta-las-redes/>

**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.





<https://www.rheinpfalz.de/artikel/dem-himmel-so-fern/>

Dem  
Himmel  
so fern

Die Kinder dieser Welt sind oft blind in stolischen  
Gefühlsmomente – unter unpharmakologischen, OTC und  
Soll-Wirkung der Kinder haben Vertriebsstellen zunehmend  
schafft. (von Erika Pöhlke)

### NACH DEM PUTSCH

[illegible]

118.115 Menschen wurden befragt.

1200 Unternehmen wurden verstaatlicht, weil ihr Besitzer als Güterbesitzer gelten. (Quelle: Fikkinche Regierung, Türkei, Gruppe Gerechtigkeit)

**JUSTIZENTWICKLUNG**  
Bereits am Tag nach dem Festschuss wurde rund ein Fünftel der türkischen Kiklererschaft abge-  
nommen oder verurteilt. (2012) (Neben und Innen)

Die Betroffenen wurden aus ihrer Dienstwohnung genommen, ihre Koffer gepackt, sie überprüfungslos konfisziert, Flur wurde eingeprengt. Das Ver-

politische Netzwerk der Richterseite (TNC) schließt im Dezember das Hohe Richteramt der Türkei an. Dieser sei nicht in der Lage, die Unabhängigkeit der türkischen Justiz zu wahren. (3)

#### REDAKTIONSSCHLUSS

werden, also 2008 Millionen/2008 verlorene Arbeitsplätze. Nach Bildung von PEN International, dem Dachbündnis Center for Freedom und andere Organisationen sind 200 Journalisten brigadiert worden. Nachschub ist folgen befristet.

vor wenigen Tagen die Anzahl der akkreditierten Journalisten mit 171. Sie alle seien in Vorbereitung, im Land „Kennedy International“ sitzen derzeit in seinem Land der Welt mehr Journalisten als in Großbritannien, als das Mitglied der Organisation der Vereinten Nationen.

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12. <http://jwf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Womens-Rights-Under-Attack.pdf>



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.<sup>33</sup> At least 2,200 judges and prosecutors are jailed pending investigation, reportedly because their names appeared on a list of alleged Gülen supporters.<sup>34</sup> 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,<sup>35</sup> the Journalist and Writers Foundation believes approximately 35 percent of all detained judges are women.

13. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/10/10/award-winning-turkish-writer-free-travel-again/752270001/>

<http://jwf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Womens-Rights-Under-Attack.pdf>

#### *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."



14. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/silenced-9mqf0l9xx>

<https://teleobs.nouvelobs.com/actualites/20170713.OBS2068/le-prix-albert-londres-et-la-scam-se-mobilisent-pour-les-journalistes-turcs.html>

<https://www.franceinter.fr/monde/photos-les-visages-des-journalistes-et-intellectuels-victimes-de-l-oppression-turque>

<http://jwf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Womens-Rights-Under-Attack.pdf>



#### *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.

## 15. March for Turkey's Jailed Judges

Nesrin Şimşek remembers in vivid detail the moment she was released from prison and was reunited with her infant son. “I cried for a month after I saw my baby again,” recalled the former Turkish judge. “He had given up breastfeeding while I was in jail, and in every dream I saw my child, and I was trying to give him milk.”

Şimşek (not her real name) was taken with her husband from their home on the Black Sea four days after the coup attempt in the country in 2016. She was released two months later to care for her boy. Her husband, a former prosecutor, has now been in jail for nearly a year without trial. Both are still under investigation.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jul/07/march-for-turkeys-jailed-judges-highlights-purge-on-dissidents>

## 16. Dozens take to Parliament Hill to protest Turkish human rights violations

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/parliament-hill-protest-turkey-human-rights-violations-1.4388041>

Dozens of protesters packed the steps of Parliament Hill Saturday to draw attention to human rights violations against women and children in Turkey, in the wake of last summer's failed coup. The protesters said 17,000 women and 668 babies are currently imprisoned in Turkey without cause. They were calling on the Turkish government to release those babies and their mothers. Many of the babies were born in detention centres and haven't seen the outside of a jail cell, said Vaner Kaplan, who fled Turkey for the United States in 2013 and then made his home in Canada last year.

