

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN CRISIS

Advocates of Silenced Turkey



FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

**LETTER CAMPAIGN
LAUNCHED FOR TURKEY'S
IMPRISONED WOMEN**

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TURKISH CHILDREN JAILED
ALONGSIDE THEIR MOMS AS
PART OF THE POST-COUP
CRACKDOWN**



A Chronic Problem: Violence Against Turkish Women

by AST Editorial Board

The end of February is quickly approaching and this year, 2018, has already proven to be the worst year for women's rights in the Republic of Turkey.

According to the Journalists and Writer Foundation's report, women in Turkey are marginalized. They face economic hardship, exclusion and violence, humiliating and degrading treatment in prisons, healthcare facilities, and across the country.

Tens of thousands of women, including housewives, journalists, teachers, academics, physicians, health care professionals and businesswomen have been arbitrarily detained. Many of the detained women in the prison system have been routinely subjected to torture and ill-treatment. 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".

WHEN YOU DONATE, YOU MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

**WE, THE ADVOCATES, HAVE MADE IT OUR MISSION TO CHAMPION THE RIGHTS OF SILENCED TURKEY UNTIL
UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE ARE ESTABLISHED AND SUSTAINED AS THE
UTMOST PRIORITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

ARBITRARY PERSECUTION

NUR MADEN, MOTHER OF THREE, DROWNED IN THE AEGEAN SEA FLEEING PERSECUTION



On November 11, 2017, Greek media outlets reported that Greek authorities discovered bodies of three children on the northeast coast of the Aegean island of Lesbos. Later in the week, the bodies were identified as Nur Maden and her two children Feridun and Nadire Maden. The story of Maden family is a typical story of a Gulen Movement-affiliated middle-class family. Like many others, they have been persecuted by the government during the past few years.

Nur Maden was a kindergarten teacher. She was investigated for being a member of a "terrorist organization." Fearing of an arrest which will leave their three children helpless and alone, the couple decided to hide from the authorities and flee the country with their savings.

SELMA POLAT JAILED FOR 7 YEARS AND 7 MONTHS WITH HER BABY

Unable to find Polat's husband who is wanted by the government due to his affiliation with the Gulen Movement, the Turkish police forces detained Selma Polat and her 9 month old baby and 4 year old toddler. Selma is a 29 year old elementary school teacher with no criminal past.

After being held hostage by the police until her husband returned, Selma Polat was charged with aggravated felony for identifying with a "terrorist group". The Kirikkale Criminal Court made a decision to imprison Selma Polat for 7 years and 7 months based on her affiliation.

The Court has provided no evidence of criminal doing and moved forward with their decision to imprison Selma Polat and her two children.



HUNDREDS OF YOUNG TURKISH CHILDREN JAILED ALONGSIDE 17,000 WOMEN



Mothers and their children continue to be rounded up with tens of thousands of other Turks following the July 2016 coup attempt against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The country has, since that attempt, been in a legal "state of emergency," one that allows the government to jail anyone believed to pose a threat to national security.

"What is striking about detained women since the failed coup is that some of them are simply wives or children of suspects, but not suspects themselves. This amounts to collective punishment,"

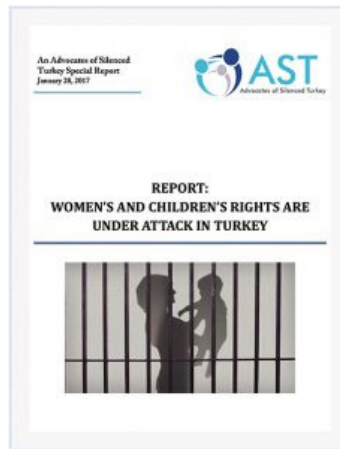
The Turkish government intentionally under-reports the number of women in jails. In fact, at least 17 thousand women are behind bars.

TAKE ACTION



President of the Republic of Turkey:
"Women are not equals of men"

AN ADVOCATES OF SILENCED TURKEY SPECIAL REPORT



**WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ARE
UNDER ATTACK IN TURKEY**

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TAKE ACTION NOW!

**URGING AUTHORITIES TO
TAKE ALL NECESSARY
STEPS FOR THE PROTECTION
OF HIZMET PARTICIPANTS**

TAKE ACTION NOW!

**TURKISH FAMILY DROWNED IN
AEGEAN SEA ESCAPING FROM
ERDOGAN'S REGIME**

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

NEARLY 2,000 WOMEN KILLED IN EIGHT YEARS IN TURKEY



Nearly 2,000 women have been killed over the past eight years in Turkey, according to statistics gathered by a website tracking femicides across the country based on reports by the Bianet news website.

At least 1,915 women were killed since 2010 and the only province where no femicides were reported out of all of Turkey's 81 provinces was the northern province of Bayburt, kadincinayetleri.org stated.

One out of every two women killed since 2010 was murdered either by their husbands or boyfriends. Most shocking is the fact that at least 237 murders were committed despite the victimized women having applied to the state for protection.

A CHRONIC PROBLEM: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN TURKEY

Domestic violence is appallingly common, with Turkey's Ministry of Family and Social Policies reporting that a jaw-dropping 86% of women in Turkey reported experiencing physical or psychological violence from a partner or family member.

In a country whose President openly called women unequal to men, and where the Deputy Prime Minister urged women not to laugh in public, lest they "invite" unwanted male attention, Early marriage is particularly common in rural areas in southern and eastern Turkey, where poorer families might see a financial advantage to foisting teenage daughters onto another family.



365 WOMEN KILLED IN TURKEY IN FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 2017: REPORT



A total of 365 women were killed by men in the first 11 months of 2017, according to data compiled by the "We Will Stop Femicide" women's rights activist platform based on news reported in the media.

The report stated that in November 15 percent of the women killed were victims of murder for "wanting to get a divorce," 11 percent were killed for "taking decisions about their lives independently," seven percent were killed for "financial reasons," four percent were killed for "turning down [the man's] reconciliation efforts," and another four percent were killed over "debates about their children

Among many victimized women, some end up committing suicide.