

# IS TURKEY STILL A DEMOCRACY?

*Advocates of Silenced Turkey*



## FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

**HRW'S REPORT SHOWS THE SEVERITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN TURKEY**

**TURKEY MUST ENSURE FREEDOM OF RELIGION UNDER ITS JURISDICTION**

**OPPRESSION OF SUPPORTERS OF THE HIZMET MOVEMENT IN TURKEY AND ABROAD**

## A Chronic Problem: Torture and Ill-Treatment

*by AST Editorial Board*

Torture and ill-treatment of peaceful protesters have become routine procedures in Turkey.

According to UN Special Rapporteur's report, people detained for suspected links to the U.S.-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen or to outlawed Kurdish rebels were "exposed to brutal interrogation techniques" including beatings, electrical shocks and threats.

Victims, their relatives, and friends who have appealed to authorities have been systemically ignored by the Turkish judiciary. Further, no serious measures appear to have been taken by the authorities to investigate these allegations or to hold perpetrators accountable.

The authorities' failure to publicly condemn torture and ill-treatment, and to enforce the universal prohibition of such abuse in daily practice seems to have fostered a climate of impunity, complacency and acquiescence which gravely undermines that prohibition and, ultimately, the rule of law.



**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**

# Turkey in February

## Women's & Children's Rights



80 WOMEN REPORTEDLY  
SUBJECTED TO INHUMANE  
TREATMENT AT MERSIN  
POLICE STATION



HUNDREDS OF YOUNG  
TURKISH CHILDREN JAILED  
ALONGSIDE THEIR MOMS



3 VICTIMS OF ERDOĞAN'S  
PERSECUTION DROWNED  
TRYING TO CROSS RIVER  
TO GREECE



PA LEGISLATOR MARGO  
DAVIDSON REFLECTS ON  
HER VISIT TO TURKISH  
REFUGEES IN GREECE

TAKE ACTION NOW!

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



UNITED NATIONS  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

TAKE ACTION NOW!

URGING THE EUROPEAN COURT OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS TO TAKE IMMEDIATE  
ACTION AS REGARDS THE RECENT  
APPLICATIONS FROM TURKEY

## REPORT OF THE MONTH: TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT RISING IN TURKEY

The authorities' failure to publicly condemn torture and ill-treatment, and to enforce the universal prohibition of such abuse in daily practice seems to have fostered a climate of impunity, complacency and acquiescence which gravely undermines that prohibition and, ultimately, the rule of law.

## Rule of Law & Arbitrary Detention



ARTISTS PUT IN PRETRIAL  
DETENTION OVER SONGS  
IN KURDISH LANGUAGE



RIGHTS DEFENDER  
GERGERLIOĞLU GETS 2.5 YEAR  
PRISON SENTENCE ON TERROR  
CHARGES



TURKEY SENTENCES  
JOURNALISTS TO LIFE IN  
JAIL OVER COUP  
ATTEMPT



845 PEOPLE DETAINED  
OVER CRITICAL STANCE  
ON AFRIN OFFENSIVE

# Advocates of Silenced Turkey Papers

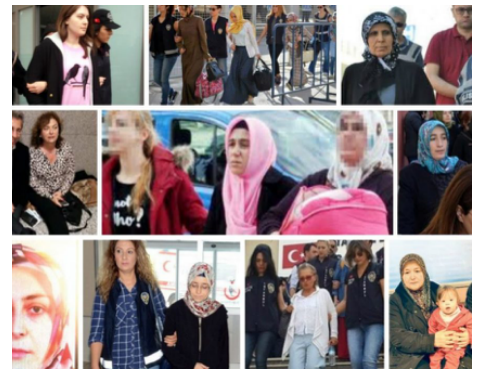
## HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

### HRW'S REPORT SHOWS THE SEVERITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN TURKEY

Many people including teachers, public servants such as police officers and military personnel, journalists and politicians were either arrested or detained under the state of emergency as well. The striking point is that most were imprisoned with no compelling evidence of any criminal activity, but only because of their alleged links with the Hizmet Movement inspired by an Islamic scholar Fethullah Gulen who has been blamed by the government to mastermind the coup attempt. [Read More...](#)

### OPPRESSION OF SUPPORTERS OF THE HIZMET MOVEMENT IN TURKEY AND ABROAD

There is an ongoing suppression of dissidents following the attempted coup of July 15, 2016. More than 150,000 public officials are dismissed from their positions without any evidence, due process and any explanation but their names appear on long lists. More than 60,000 people have been arrested because of alleged links with the Hizmet Movement without any concrete criminal evidence. Much more were taken into custody and released under probation. [Read More...](#)



### TURKEY MUST ENSURE FREEDOM OF RELIGION UNDER ITS JURISDICTION

Considering all different types of persecutions religious communities have been suffering, one cannot say that Turkey is complying with its responsibilities under the 1982 Constitution, the ICCPR as well as the ECHR. If the country is secular, then it must be equidistant from all types of beliefs. As the Advocates of Silenced Turkey, we would like to remind the Turkish government that it is obligated to ensure freedom of religion under its jurisdiction and also that it must align its domestic law and practices with internationally accepted human rights standards.



### EU PARLIAMENTARIAN PIRI: "DEAR OSMAN, DEAR AHMET, DEAR SELAHATTIN"

The state of emergency has led to a situation that the government can rule by decree – without parliamentary or judicial scrutiny. Every aspect in Turkish society has become securitized – meaning, that all who voice criticism against the government's policies, are being labelled as terrorist or terrorism supporters. With that, legitimate and peaceful opposition is being silenced – in real life and on social media. Last two weeks, almost 500 people were detained for peacefully opposing Turkey's military operation in Afrin. [Read More...](#)





# TAKE ACTION!

## AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT ERDOĞAN FROM 38 NOBEL LAUREATES

Dear President Erdoğan,

"We wish to draw your attention to the damage being done to the Republic of Turkey, to its reputation and the dignity and wellbeing of its citizens, through what leading authorities on freedom of expression deem to be the unlawful detention and wrongful conviction of writers and thinkers.

We voice the concern of many inside Turkey itself, of its allies and of the multilateral organisations of which it is a member. We call for the abrogation of the state of emergency, a quick return to the rule of law and for full freedom of speech and expression. Such a move would result in the speedy acquittal on appeal of Ms Ilıcak and the Altan brothers, and the immediate release of others wrongfully detained. Better still, it would make Turkey again a proud member of the free world."

## NEED HELP?

The Advocates of Silenced Turkey can help you with urgent and regular submissions to the United Nations' Arbitrary Detention Commission. Visit *Silenced Turkey...*



**SIGN PETITION**

IT IS HIGH TIME FOR THE  
EUROPEAN COURT OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS TO STEP  
IN!



**SEND A LETTER**

STATUTORY DECREE NO.  
696



**URGE US AUTHORITIES**

PROTECTING ERDOĞAN  
DISSIDENTS IN THE U.S

[www.silencedturkey.org](http://www.silencedturkey.org)