

Human Rights Violations in Turkey by Numbers: Women

- We Will Stop Femicide Platform February 2018 report indicated that **47** women were killed by men during the 28 day period.[1]
- The Platform to Stop Murders of Women (Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız Platformu) reported **237** murders of women in 2013, the vast majority of whom had been killed by partners, ex-partners, and family members.[2]
- Most alarming, hundreds of women, children and elderly are among approximately **1,200** local residents killed between July 2015 and December 2016 in the context of security operations in Southeast Turkey.[3]
- The Justice Minister Bekir Bozdağ revealed in February 2017 that at least **5** women have died under suspicious circumstances at the women's prison in Kocaeli's Gebze district, during the second half of 2016.[4]
- There are several figures reported in the Turkish media which put the number of women in prison at **6,616** as of March 2016 and **7,894** as of November 2016. The number of women under custody pending trial tripled from **1,157** in March 2016 to **3,235** in November 2016. It is estimated that around **17,000** women are currently under custody across Turkey.[5]
- Considering that Turkish prisons have a capacity of **180,176** the overcrowded jails present significant problems. There are only six prisons (one is an open prison) in Turkey specifically dedicated to women, while many women were incarcerated in prisons built just for men. Although women are kept in a separate section of these prisons, they are not allowed to enjoy their rights because of the lack of facilities specifically built to address women needs.[6]
- Turkey's Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu informed on April 2, 2017 that 113,260 people had been detained for alleged links to the Hizmet movement. Of these, 47,155 were formally arrested and put behind bars pending trial in the last eight months alone. Based on these figures, several estimates were reported by Turkish media outlets that the number of detained women is around **17,000**; **560** babies are also into custody along with their mothers.[7]

- At least **21** women were detained on September 5th as part of an investigation into the alleged “female network” of the Hizmet movement, accused of either providing financial support to the movement or involved in some form in its allegedly confidential activities (September 2016). Detention warrants had earlier been issued against **31** women, while 12 other women who had been detained in a separate investigation into the movement in Zonguldak (Black Sea region), were referred to court, on September 5, 2016.[8]
- According to country’s left-wing Kemalist daily, Sözcü, an anonymous judge in a letter from prison stated she was arrested when she was in the 16th week of her pregnancy. Detained in August 2016 she was kept for 2 months in a room with **13** other female judges, in the Mersin’s Tarsus prison (October 2016).[9]
- According to state-run Anadolu news agency, **17** women were detained on December 14, as part of an investigation into the Hizmet movement in Tekirdağ (Eastern Thrace). Four were arrested and one was released on probation; the remaining 12 were waiting to give their testimonies (December 2016).[10]
- On January 5, detention warrants were issued for the wives of **105** military officers as part of an investigation into the Hizmet movement. Police officers were ordered to carry out operations in 31 different provinces. Detained women included the wives of 40 majors, 40 lieutenants, 14 lieutenant colonels, 14 first lieutenants and 2 colonels. Turkish media reported that the **105** military officers were already imprisoned over coup charges. The 105 women, among them teachers, academics, sociologists, and many other public workers, were accused of cheating in a countrywide exam popularly known as the KPSS to qualify for public jobs in 2010, among other accusations, including money deposit into Bank Asya (January 2017).[11]
- At a parliamentary hearing it was revealed that at least **5** women have suspiciously died at the women’s prison in Kocaeli’s Gebze district since the attempted coup (January 2017).[12]
- İstanbul Public Prosecutor’s Office issued detention warrants for **73** women on January 13, as part of an investigation into the Hizmet movement (January 2017).[13]
- **21** women, including 10 with newborn infants and two over 70-years of age were detained in Afyon’s Dinar district as part an investigation into the Hizmet movement. Investigations carried out against 21 women whose husbands are in prison over links to the Hizmet movement, were allegedly aiming at pressuring their husbands to sign testimonies against their free will (February 2017).[14]

- [1] Aktif Haber, <http://aktifhaber.com/yasam/kadin-cinayetlerini-durduracagiz-platformu-28-gunde-47-kadin-cinayeti-h113212.html>
- [2] Human Rights Watch Reports, Turkey's Human Rights Rollback: Recommendations for Reform (September 2014), p.36, para.2
- [3] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.5, para.5
- [4] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.24, para.4
- [5] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.41, para.4
- [6] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.43, para.7
- [7] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.51, para.2
- [8] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.51, para.9
- [9] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.53, para.1
- [10] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.53, para.4
- [11] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.53, para.5
- [12] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.53, para.8
- [13] Journalists and Writers Foundation Reports, Women's Rights Under Attack in Turkey (May 2017), p.54, para.2