



12/10/2018

Dear Mr./Ms. Name,

TODAY, I am writing to draw your attention to the violation of **HUMAN RIGHTS** in **Turkey**.

Under the state of emergency, imposed after the July 2016 attempted coup and lifted on July 2018, President Erdogan presided over the cabinet, which could pass decrees without parliamentary scrutiny or the possibility of appeal to the constitutional court. Many decrees adopted contained measures that **undermine human rights safeguards and conflict with Turkey's international human rights obligations**. The routine extensions of the state of emergency within two years have led to profound **human rights violations against hundreds of thousands of people – from arbitrary deprivation of the right to work and to freedom of movement, to torture and other ill-treatment, arbitrary detentions and infringements of the rights to freedom of association and expression**.

The Erdogan government is showing disregard to the rights of its dissidents. Approximately **217,000** people are detained and over **82,000 people** are arrested on terrorism charges. Those prosecuted include journalists, civil servants, teachers, politicians, academics, human rights defenders as well as police officers and military personnel. The prosecutions often lack compelling evidence of criminal activity. Thereby the State officials use torture and ill-treatment in custody, including severe beatings, threats of sexual assault and actual sexual assault, electric shocks, waterboarding and interference with medical examinations.

Public officials continued to be dismissed or suspended by decree without due process, with more than **170,000** dismissed since July 2016. Those dismissed from their jobs lost their income, social benefits, medical insurance and even their homes, as various decrees stipulated that public servants “shall be evicted from publicly-owned houses or houses owned by a foundation in which they live within 15 days”.

Websites including Wikipedia are blocked. Hundreds of media outlets, associations, foundations, private hospitals, and educational establishments that the government shut down by decrees are still closed, their assets were confiscated without compensation. The states of emergency have been used to severely and arbitrarily curtail the human rights of a very large number of people which is also declared by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein.

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One of the most alarming actions of the Turkish authorities is incarceration of women who are pregnant or have just given birth. Some are incarcerated with their children and others violently separated from them. At this moment, seven hundred forty-three (743) children under the age of six are in jails across Turkey with their mothers, detained or arrested as part of the government crackdown on its dissidents. One hundred forty-nine (149) of these children are infants under a year old. “This is simply outrageous, utterly cruel, and surely cannot have anything whatsoever to do with making the country safer” as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein” also emphasized.

Another alarming action of the Turkish government is the overseas operations conducted by Turkey’s National Intelligence Organization (MIT) to capture perceived political opponents of President Erdogan’s administration. Abductions are perpetrated by violating international legal norms.

We, as Advocates of Silenced Turkey (AST), want to emphasize our deep concern and make you aware of human rights violations in Turkey. We want the Turkish government to change its seizure policies and reinstitute human rights all over the country and follow the rule of law. **Turkey is in breach of its International Law Obligations.** We, as AST urge you to address this situation and attract attention to it in your official capacity. AST urges to stand against the unlawful practices of the Turkish government after the failed coup attempt in July 2016.

In this regard, we call upon the Government of the Republic of Turkey to:

- **Stop** arbitrary arrests, detentions and wrongful prosecution of political prisoners and release them;
- **Stop** arbitrary arrests, detentions and wrongful prosecution of women and children;
- **Stop** illegal overseas operations to capture perceived political opponents;
- **Stop**, prevent and punish the use of torture and ill-treatment by State officials;
- **Reinstate**, those wrongly detained, prosecuted and dismissed from their posts;
- **Ensure and safeguard** the independence of legal profession.

If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to call or send an email. Thank you in advance for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.



Hafza Y. GIRDAP
Spokesperson