

# **BORN AND RAISED IN PRISON: **TURKEY'S** **CAPTIVE CHILDREN****

*"A Report on Mothers and 780 Children Held as Political Prisoners in Turkey"*

April, 2020





# Advocates of Silenced Turkey: Our Story

*When the Turkish President declared in an infamous speech that “old Turkey no longer exists; this Turkey is new Turkey”, the story of Turkish authoritarianism took on a new character once and for all. Since July 2016, the Turkish government has been improperly imprisoning hundreds of thousands of homemakers, mothers, children, babies, teachers, NGO workers, academics, judges, prosecutors, journalists and countless other victims.*

*Once upon a time, the Republic of Turkey was lauded by insiders and outsiders for constituting a powerful model for democratization. In New Turkey, however, silence against the regime’s draconian laws, mass imprisonment, and frequent violations of universal human rights has become the sole norm.*

*The presiding government in Turkey ranks as the worst upholder of the rule-of-law in Eastern Europe & Central Asia, the most arbitrary jailer of journalists in the world, and a prime example of democratic backsliding as a result of unmitigated authoritarianism.*



*In New Turkey, liberal democracy and democratic safeguards have been sidelined and undermined in less than a decade:*

***Dissent in New Turkey is absent.***

***Human rights protections in New Turkey are absent.***

***Respect for human dignity in New Turkey is absent.***

*In light of Turkey's deteriorating human rights record, we have decided to take action against the worst instincts of Turkey's oppressive regime. We are a group of lawyers, judges, academics, journalists, and hundreds of activists who cherish democratic ideals and universal human rights.*

*We are prisoners of conscience wanted by the Erdogan regime, relatives of political prisoners, and victims who have lost their jobs, property, and family members to the current administration which has been described as a Mafia State.*

*We are the Advocates of Silenced Turkey.*

*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.*



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# INTRODUCTION

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*The purpose of this article is to report on the children who have been jailed along with their mothers via the persecution of the people related to the “Hizmet Movement”. These persecutions have been going on in Turkey since the July 15, 2016 coup attempt.*



According to the Turkey’s Justice Department Prison and Penitentiaries Management there are 864 children in the prisons, from newborn to age 6, as of May 24, 2019. These children are almost never acknowledged by the current Turkish Media, mostly due to lack of freedom of expression but also due to fear and hatred. Therefore, data regarding these children and their mothers is mostly collected from social media and various other sources. Each case has been evaluated for verification and unconfirmed cases have been excluded from the list.

Since access to any information regarding these captive children is very limited and mostly unavailable, the number of cases in this report is much less than the actual number of incidents. Nevertheless the list will be updated once new information becomes available.

We ask you kindly to contact us in case you know of a person who is imprisoned but not included in our report. Please contact us by sending an e-mail through the following websites:

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

[help@silencedturkey.org](mailto:help@silencedturkey.org)

We deeply appreciate your contribution.

# METHODOLOGY

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This report is based on desk research and interviews with former prisoners conducted mainly via telephone and skype in January to March 2020. It was not possible to interview prisoners who remain behind bars and others who continue to live in Turkey as they fear government retribution for sharing their stories. The report proceeds by analyzing the current condition of prisons in Turkey as they pertain to pregnant women and women with dependent children. The analysis provides a succinct overview of the ongoing violations in Turkish prisons by comparing and contrasting current practices of the Turkish government with the universally recognized and widely ratified United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (Bangkok Rules). The analysis is composed of part commentary and part interview data. The details of each violation are interwoven directly into the comments to provide a vivid and relatable description of victims' experiences.

Volunteer interviewers for Advocates of Silenced Turkey conducted telephonic interviews with victims whose identities have been anonymized for this report. While some of these women have agreed for AST to publicize their identity, we have currently chosen to keep all data anonymous in order to protect the families of victims who continue to live in Turkey and may face persecution as a direct result of this publication. All interviews have been audio recorded with permission, transcribed, and translated with special attention paid to preserving the authenticity of the information shared by interviewees. Volunteers who conducted interviews utilized an organic conversational tone throughout each meeting, however, they were appropriately trained to effectively extract certain data from each woman. All questions used by interviewers were distilled from relevant international human rights instruments. The Tokyo Rules and Bangkok Rules in particular have played a critical role in shaping and directing the language and content of the questionnaire shared in its entirety below.

In the second and final part of the report, AST has created a catalogue of all victims whose information has been made available through open-source research platforms. The desk research conducted by our associates has mainly relied on social media platforms, especially Twitter, which remain as final standing sources of real news in the Republic of Turkey. In a strictly controlled media

environment, news regarding victims of the presiding government receive little to no attention. Thus, our cataloguing efforts rely on publicly available information often volunteered by victims or close friends and relatives of victims on social media platforms. The information contained in the catalogue section of this report will continue to be updated with increasingly more reliable data and sources as they become available over time.

## QUESTIONNAIRE

### PRE-IMPRISONMENT

When were you arrested?

Were you harmed when they arrested or detained you; were you harmed while in custody?

Were you held in pre-trial custody?

Were you deprived of minimum necessities such as adequate food, water, hygiene products while in pre-trial custody?

How long were you held in pre-trial detention?

What criminal charges were brought against you by the prosecutor?

Did you request house arrest because you were pregnant or a mom?

How many years of prison time were you given?



## IMPRISONMENT

### *Medical Screening & Services*

When you first arrived at the penitentiary, were you allowed to make phone calls to your family, friends, or lawyer?

Were you given an opportunity to make arrangements for your children before you were brought to the penitentiary?

Were your general and womanly hygiene needs provided from your entry to release?

Were you subject to medical screening when you first arrived at the prison? (If mother, ask about kids)

Were medical services available at all times?

Were you subjected to unwanted medical screening?

Were you screened by female doctors and nurses? If not, did you request to be screened by female staff?

During your medical examinations, was anyone other than medical staff present in the room? If yes, were they female?

Was your child provided medical services at your request?

Did you experience a medical emergency with your child? How did prison staff help?

### ***Pregnant Women and Breastfeeding Mothers***

If pregnant while in prison, were you given ALL necessary prenatal vitamins, adequate food, and water?

If you gave birth in prison, were you taken to an appropriate medical facility on time?

Were you restrained in any way during or after giving birth?

How many days after giving birth did you return to prison?

Did the prison provide medical attention, a crib, proper bedding, clothing, and food for your baby?

Were you allowed to breastfeed your child?

Were you allowed to see your baby at all times?

### ***Safety & Security***

While in prison, were you ever subject to a body scan? If yes, were the people searching you respectful of you and your body?

Were you given an additional alternative to a body scan?

While in prison, was your child ever subject to a body scan? If yes, were the people searching your child respectful of your child and their body?

Was your child ever treated like a prisoner?

### ***Discipline, Punishment, and Inspections***

While in prison, were you, your child, or another inmate around you subject to solitary confinement?

Were you or anyone around you cuffed as a form of punishment while in prison?

Were you, your child, or anyone around you subject to harm, rape, or sexual harassment while in prison?

Did anyone threaten you while in prison?

If yes, did you report the abuse to authorities? Were you given an opportunity to report?

While in prison, did you face blatant discrimination for your affiliation with the Hizmet Movement?

### ***Contact with the Outside World***

Were you allowed conjugal or family visits?

During visits, were you allowed to see your family, other children, relatives, and attorneys?

Did any of your children live outside while you were in prison?

If your children living on the outside were allowed to visit you, did these meetings happen in an appropriate and peaceful environment?



### ***Institutional Conditions, Personnel & Training***

What were the prison conditions like?

Were you given bedding? Sheets? Pillows?

Were you allowed to sleep with your child in the prison ward?

Was your child given their own bed?

Approximately how many people did you share the ward with?

Were prison guards trained to deal with problems of inmates?

Did prison guards treat your child with respect? If not, did you report this abuse?

### ***Social Activities and Care***

Were children given the chance to play? Were there activities for you or your child?

What, if any, cultural or religious activities did the prison organize for prisoners?

Did the prison provide psychological support of any kind? (Psychologist, psychiatrist visits etc.)

Were you allowed to pray and worship God in the way that your religion dictates?

## POST-IMPRISONMENT

How long were you held in prison?

Why were you released from prison?

What happened to you after you were released from prison?

Do you suffer from any mental issues or trauma because of the time you spent in prison?

# VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

*International human rights standards are increasingly understood to require special and improved care for women prisoners with children. Pregnant women, women in the post-partum phase of childbirth, and crucially, newborns, require access to intensive and routine medical services and highest attainable prison standards.* Imprisoned women with children face distinct challenges that other prisoners may not experience while they serve their sentences. In international human rights terms, rights of women with children fall under three categories and are protected by instruments of international law which enumerate the rights of prisoners, women, and mothers.

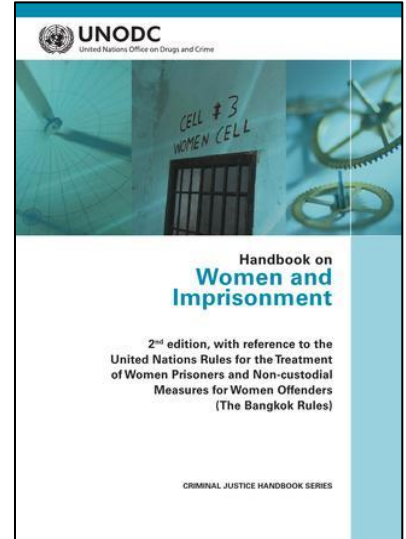
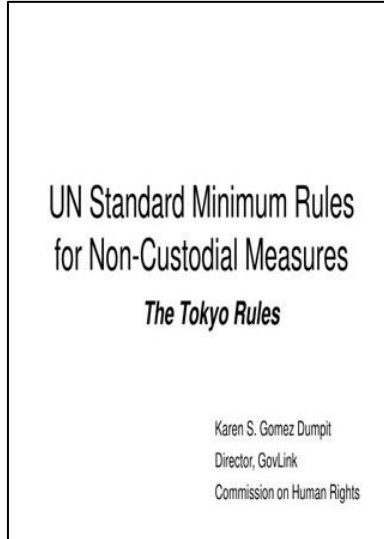
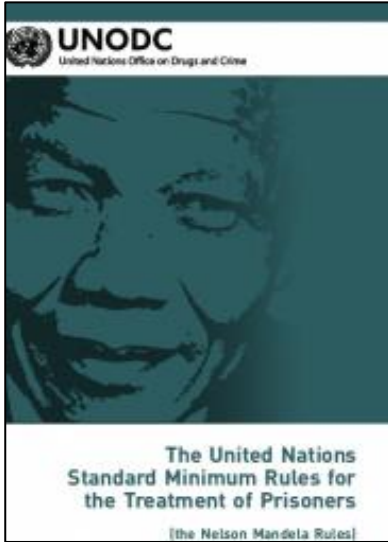
In the Turkish Republic, governed by President Recep T. Erdogan and Justice and Development Party (AKP), the treatment of women prisoners and their children has deteriorated since 2016, the year during which Turkey experienced a general shift towards authoritarianism. At the time of this publication, the first quarter of 2020, the Turkish government's treatment of women prisoners and their children falls





radically short of standards detailed by landmark instruments put forth by the United Nations and adopted by the international community. Developments pertaining to rights of women and children signal the continued deterioration of these rights under the current government without legitimate efforts to improve conditions by Turkish authorities.

The subsequent pages in this section analyze the aforementioned deterioration through the human rights framework established by the United Nations. In particular, the analysis delineates the most relevant sections of three major human rights instruments in the Turkish context and supplements each observed violation with evidence collected from primary and secondary sources (*see Methodology*). The following instruments of international human rights shape and determine the direction of this analysis:



## The Absence of Non-Custodial Measures

Taking into account the Rule 2.3 of Tokyo Rules, the foremost opinion of the international community unequivocally recommends a wide range of non-custodial measures deemed appropriate for the crimes of offenders. Tokyo Rules advocate for non-custody in cases where offenders pose no realistic threat to public safety for the duration of the pre-trial period. While the Turkish Criminal Code technically provides non-custodial measures leading up to trials, political prisoners in Turkey, especially those affiliated with the Hizmet Movement, have been intentionally deprived of such measures with

exceptions. Turkish Law includes various remedies that would ease the lives of most vulnerable populations, including pregnant and postpartum women as well as women with dependent children. However, these remedies have been wholly absent in lawsuits launched against those accused of Hizmet membership, given that the presiding government has, first through Decree Laws and later legislation, recognized the Hizmet Movement as a terrorist organization.

Non-custodial measures, or the lack thereof in the Turkish context, require additional attention. The nationwide defamation campaign launched against those deemed “enemies of the state” by the government has systemically depreciated the respect and empathy that individuals might instinctively have towards expectant and current mothers. Thus, many expectant mothers have faced social ostracism in their communities and families. In the absence of non-custodial measures, women awaiting trial are forced to bring their children into the criminal justice system which remains unequipped to deal with the presence of children in prison facilities. The unavailability of non-custodial measures for political prisoners has been a widely used and known discriminatory practice since 2016. In a personal interview conducted by Silenced Turkey, A.K., a mother of one, who was taken into custody less than an hour after giving birth spoke of her decision to evade the law until after her birth: **“On December 16, 2017, in the midst of my first pregnancy, I received a phone call from the local prosecutor’s office who informed me of the warrant for my arrest. Knowing fully well that many innocent people had been arbitrarily taken into custody for their affiliation with the Hizmet Movement, I decided not to turn in myself during my pregnancy. I simply could not muster up the courage to turn in myself when I had not committed any crimes. My husband and I remained hopeful that this misunderstanding would be resolved by the time of my birth. Unfortunately, my wish did not materialize.”**

In the aftermath of government’s propaganda messaging, people labeled as “traitors” by the government have received no goodwill from prosecutors and judges who would ordinarily view pregnant women and homemakers without prior criminal records as non-threatening offenders. Another victim interviewed by Silenced Turkey, F.A, a mother of two, who was also imprisoned while pregnant explained the day of her first court hearing in the following way: **“I was 4.5 months pregnant and going through an exceptionally rough pregnancy when the police arrested my husband and I. I initially refused to turn myself in but my family insisted that they wouldn’t arrest a pregnant woman. I knew this**

wasn't true but my parents, my 80 year-old father and 75 year-old mother, and my elder brother pressured me into going to the police... Since this was only a month after the July 15 coup attempt, the judge refused to grant requests [for non-custodial measures]. In our group of 22 people accused of [Hizmet] membership, I wasn't the only pregnant one. We all requested judicial control, offered to come in for weekly signatures, and asked for house arrest.” The experience recounted by victims underlines the consequences borne out of judicial decisions made by a politicized judiciary. The inflexibility of the judiciary has widely affected the lives of hundreds of women who have had to endure lengthy pre-trial detention periods while pregnant or breastfeeding. Furthermore, in Silenced Turkey's interviews with victims of ill-treatment in pre-trial detention, it became clear that non-custodial measures were simply not an option because the involved authorities – police officers, prosecutors, and judges – preemptively found all political prisoners guilty of the charges prior to trial under the directives of government and ruling-party officials.

An important caveat which goes against the general trend laid out here is the judiciary's willingness to grant non-custodial measures to those who agree to be criminally charged for their Movement affiliation, take advantage of the so-called “effective repentance” law, and submit names of other people who may have been affiliated with the Hizmet Movement in multitude of ways. While interviewees of Silenced Turkey have neither confessed nor shared names according to their testimonies, multiple sources have witnessed the discharge of individuals who have agreed to share confidential information with authorities in exchange for noncustodial measures. In short, despite international norms which uphold noncustodial measures as ideal tools for arbiters of justice, the Turkish courts have actively taken an opposite approach, resorting mainly to detention of all offenders.

## **Pretrial Detention of Pregnant & Postpartum Women**

### ***A. Provision of Appropriate Healthcare***

The Rule 6 (b) of Bangkok Rules establishes that all incoming prisoners must be medically examined prior to imprisonment, and crucially, screened for reproductive health history, including current or recent pregnancies, childbirth and any related reproductive health issues. In Turkey, medical screenings take place post-detention and prior to preliminary hearings with prosecutors, thus, malpractice and mishandling of the medical screening process often occurs without any official record of such subpar



treatment. A pregnant woman, age 30, reported, that **“On July 26, officers from the local station came back and took me into custody while assuring me that I’d be allowed to go home after providing a brief testimony. In fact, they said it would take 5 minutes at most but the police station transferred me directly to the local courthouse without questioning me. Prior to the courthouse, I was brought into a clinic for a health assessment and I repeatedly told everyone, police officers, doctors, and nurses there, that I had just given birth. I naively repeated myself, telling them about my post-birth stitches. I hoped that doctors would be more understanding but they did not care at all, transferring me from one floor to another without listening to my pleadings.”** In another instance, a mother of three, **“insisted during my health control for the doctor to make a note of my 4.5 pregnancy but they did not. I was afraid of losing my baby and not being able to prove that the police officers knew about my pregnancy.”** It has been discovered by AST that police officers uniformly ensure that all offenders receive medical screenings when they are being processed into the criminal justice system. However, the resources of police stations, in terms of sheer manpower and time, have been overwhelmed by the dramatic uptick in number of political arrests across the nation, forcing police officers to rush through the medical screening process, often entirely ignoring health histories and needs of victims who require critical medical services and attention due to chronic health conditions, pregnancies, or both. If and when harm occurs, whether to the victim’s health or the victim’s child’s health, the medical screening procedure lends itself to abuse and ill-treatment with nonexistent supervision. Potential for harm remains high while avenues of accountability do not exist, given that women mostly experience screenings prior to their first appearance at the courthouse.

Another widely present issue in the Turkish prison system is access to timely and regular medical assistance for women and children. AST’s research revealed that appropriate and sufficient health-care services were often absent, especially for women incarcerated in remote cities of Southeast Turkey. Urban prisons, such as the Kandira Penitentiary in Kocaeli, provided more regular access to healthcare services according to the 33-year-old mother of 3 who spent nearly 6 months in prison: **“[Officers] drove me to 5 or 6 hospital visits. About once a month. But it was always a different doctor. Doctors were often male even when I requested a female doctor. Doctors never shared information about my baby’s development. “We will tell you if there is a problem” was their response to my questions.”** Timely responses to emergencies, however, were nearly absent in the case of this victim when **“I fell down the stairs twice. I was 7 months pregnant the second time. They took me to a**

**hospital but it was a Sunday and there weren't any doctors. They refused to admit me. Apparently, my baby moved inside me because of the impact but I only found out after we went to three different hospitals."** Similar experiences of neglect and insufficient resources have repeatedly affected many others who required immediate medical attention in emergency situations. This singular example, of course, represents a relatively better case where the pregnant prisoner ultimately received medical care. In many cases prisoners are neglected, ignored, and sent back to their cells without the administration of proper medical care.

Even in cases where emergency responses have been swift, healthcare delivered to patients has continually fallen short of minimum requirements. According to AST's sources, a clear pattern of professional neglect and apathy exists among medical staff, including doctors and nurses, towards pregnant women in custody. Medical staff have reportedly been uninterested in providing medical services to pregnant women and often ignored their questions and requests. According to an aforementioned interviewee who spent a substantial portion of her pregnancy imprisoned in Mardin, **"when they took all of the pregnant prisoners to the hospital, they kept handcuffs on our hands at all times. I remained strong but some of my friends cried every time because it's psychologically traumatic to sit in a Mardin hospital with handcuffs, it's a small city so the risk of being seen by friends and acquaintances is high."** Moreover, she detailed the treatment received by prisoners on the way to and inside the hospital as **"Depressing... There is gendarme in front of you and another one behind you at all times. Doctors look at you with disgust during visits. One in particular once said 'why do you bring these women here? Bring them to some other doctor.'"** The general disdain against pregnant and postpartum political prisoners and the open hostility against prisoners raises serious questions about the quality and reliability of the care received by women in Turkish prisons today.

Psychological and psychiatric services for prisoners, especially prisoners from vulnerable groups, are necessary and equally important as physical medicinal services. AST's research has uncovered that mental health services varied drastically at each prison facility. However, there are a few overarching observations worth noting. Among AST's interviewees, majority of respondents did not have access to mental health services of any kind. At facilities where psychologist visits were theoretically possible, requests were pooled from prisoners at random intervals and prisoners were put on lists with waiting times as long as 12 months, a time period longer than the length of average pretrial detention. In other

words, prisoners awaiting trial often did not get to see a professional despite being placed on queue. Finally, recreational time, often in the form of soccer games, were cited by several interviewees as substitutes used by prisons for psychological rehabilitation activities. However, according to F.A, **“Normally they organized a sport activity every 15 days and all prisoners except us were allowed to play soccer. Since the state of emergency (OHAL) was ongoing, they did not let us go, we weren’t allowed as [accused] terrorists.”** Prisoners in general have been deprived of mental health services and political prisoners, charged with terrorism in all cases, have also been deprived of recreational activities as well.

### ***B. Provision of Healthy Living Conditions for Mothers & Babies***

A lackluster medical screening process represents one dimension of the issues present within the realm of health-care services for prisoners. Once pregnant women are officially checked into penitentiaries, they join the general prison population without special accommodations. This means that pregnant and breastfeeding women do not receive any additional food items or vitamins to supplement their demanding diets. Rather, in many cases, prison administrators have recommended pregnant prisoners make purchases at the prison commissary in case they require additional nutritional supplements. A woman who was arrested in the city of Mersin 1 month after giving birth provided that **“[the prison] does not bring much of anything for breakfast. We usually pooled money among ourselves to purchase breakfast food from the canteen. Other meals were also a problem when my baby started eating solid foods because we could not shop from the canteen daily and the food given to us wasn’t appropriate for my baby.”** The prison systems in Turkey, while exceptions may exist, have generally ignored the needs of mothers and their newborns, placing the burden of providing for the baby on incarcerated mothers. The same victim added, **“I was lucky to not have money problems but some moms and dads disowned their children, did not visit or provide money. Some of my friends in prison struggled a lot with feeding their children. The canteen was not a cheap place at all, to the contrary, it was very expensive.”** Even when victims were allowed to purchase their own food, the prison often refused to provide refrigeration. According to our interviewee, R.Y., **“our cell was full of cockroaches. They were all over us, our beds, our food. We had to hide everything in sealed boxes, even our cutlery and plates were stowed away because we could not get away from the cockroaches.”** Information volunteered by victims reveals a pervasive pattern of neglect by prison

administrators in regard to nutrition and shed light on the institutional roadblocks faced by incarcerated pregnant and postpartum women who require nutritional meals and supplements for the proper development of their children.

An additional challenge for all prisoners and mothers in particular is indoor smoking and lack of proper ventilation in cells. It has been reported by all of AST's interviewees that an abundant number of prisoners were habitual smokers and smoked cigarettes indoors without supervision or warning from prison administrators. In Mardin, F.A., a pregnant mother reported **“out of 32 prisoners, 13 were smokers. They smoked 24/7 at all hours of day and night.”** A similar experience shared by R.Y., a victim from a Mersin prison established that **“cigarettes are smoked by everyone in there. I suffer from asthma and all of the cigarette smoke enveloped the room. There was a small hallway area by the bathroom and they mostly congregated there to smoke but the smoke covered our sleeping area.”** A well-established right by the United Nations requires that all prison administrations provide avenues for official complaints. A complaint procedure in Turkey's prisons exists, however, administrators often ignore pleas from prisoners regarding health, sanitation, and ventilation issues. The aforementioned victim, F.A., reports having **“drafted a complaint letter to the [prison] director and requested a face-to-face meeting. He invited me to his office for a meeting and said he cannot do anything. That “the prisoners’ cigarettes and tea are sacred and nobody touches that.”** This particular notion about smokers in prison appears to be a pervasive problem that continues to affect the overall health of the prison population. Overcrowding in nearly all prisons and conversion of all prison spaces into sleeping quarters compounds the effects of smoking by prisoners. Prisoners who do not smoke, and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers in particular, are put at grave risk given that secondhand smoke in close quarters deems all prisoners passive smokers. Unable to escape the secondhand smoke, pregnant mothers and mothers with their babies are continually exposed to secondhand smoke harmful to the health of their fetuses, toddlers, and grown children. In case of the prisoner who awaited her trial in Mersin, R.Y., **“both my baby and I became severely ill around our 40<sup>th</sup> day in prison. My baby developed a mucus congestion issue because of the smoke and choked up several times. When he choked the last time, the prison took us to emergency services and the doctor said my baby could develop apical pneumonia if left untreated. She requested that I be removed from my cell immediately. They transferred me to the prison infirmary for 5 months but the prison administrator really did not want me there.”**

### *C. Humane Treatment for Women & Children*

The Bangkok Rules pay ample attention to the continual safety and perpetual security of prisoners, especially women prisoners deemed exceptionally vulnerable due to pregnancy and postpartum periods. The Rules require women to be treated with humanity and with dignity at all times. A clear pattern of neglect in this regard exists in the Turkish prison system. In particular, police officers, gendarme, and prison guards continue to use instruments of restraint on women during labor, during birth, and immediately after birth. Women with infants and breastfeeding mothers are forced into overcrowded dormitory-style holding cells. Dormitories lack proper sanitation, ventilation, and bedding. Prison guards as well as prison transportation officers conduct routine searches on women after time spent outside and visitations.

### **Living Conditions**

The prison system in Turkey has been overwhelmed by the spike in number of new political prisoners. In fact, the current prison population at approximately 286,000 exceeds the national prison capacity by 66,000. The Erdogan government is currently building 137 new prisons to expand the current capacity of 220,000 by adding 80,000 new beds for new prisoners. Overflow in prisons and the government's intention to persecute more dissidents hurts women the most, given that only a fraction of the overall prison capacity has been built for women prisoners. The individual interviews conducted by AST reflect this reality as well. A victim of overcrowding and the mother of a 1-month-old newborn at the time of imprisonment shared that **"they brought us to a prison dormitory with 26 beds. Two other women and I joined 55 existing prisoners. Normally, dormitories have sleeping and living quarters but they converted the second room into a sleeping area as well. They covered the ground with mattresses lined up next to each other. The entire floor, from one end to the other, was covered in beds. People slept on top of each other because it was so crowded and some prisoners did not get beds. Other prisoners tried to give beds to mothers with babies but it was a frightening atmosphere."** Another victim of the Turkish prison system provided further insight, confirming that **"our dormitory situation was terrible. It was a children's dorm for 4 people but I stayed there with 8 others. The number sometimes went up to 10-11. They all slept on the floor."** Another victim who awaited trial in Mardin shared a similar story, **"our dormitory was built to house 20 people. It was small even for 20 people but we were 32. I slept on a tiny piece of foam stowed under one of the**

**bunkbeds with my arms tightly wrapped around myself.”** These anecdotal experiences shared by victims provide insight into specifics of daily living in women’s prisons in Turkey. Conditions continue to deteriorate as increasingly more women are brought into the prison system without a proportionate increase in resources made available to prison administrations.

## **Safety and Security**

A major discriminatory practice in Turkish prisons exists towards members of the Hizmet Movement due to their alleged membership in an extralegal community. Since the Turkish government has falsely and without justification classified Hizmet as a “terrorist organization”, all pregnant and breastfeeding women charged with Hizmet Movement membership have been subject to harsher treatment by security guards, transportation personnel, and high-ranking prison administrators. A practice used by all prisons, as mandated by law, is the use of bulletproof vans which have no windows and provide no access to daylight for the transportation of pregnant and breastfeeding women. Originally designed to transport highly dangerous criminals, these vans have been and continue to be used to transport women between prisons, hospitals, and police stations. An AST interviewee detailed her experience, **“they took me to the hospital for prenatal visits in a metal van covered with heavy metal bars. It’s the van used for people charged with terrorism. My trips to the hospital took 30 minutes in each direction and it was very dark and shaky in there. I puked throughout the duration of every trip.”** In many cases there seems to be no justification in practice for such transportation practices other than the oppressively expansive definition of “terrorism” in the Turkish Criminal Code. Pregnant women and breastfeeding women in particular do not pose a risk to public safety and none of our interviewees or contacts had any criminal record whatsoever. The same is true for all accused specifically mentioned in this report.

Prison guards have reportedly shown undue cruelty to Hizmet affiliates, ignoring their presence and requests. Interviewee F.A. reports that **“guards treated us terribly during the first few months [after the July 15 coup]. In fact one of them responded to my efforts to chat with “we aren’t allowed to look you directly in the eyes”. They got along just fine with all the other prisoners, chatted, joked, and laughed with them. They didn’t even speak a sentence to us unless they had to.”** Accounts shared by F.A and others reveal a major and systemic discrimination campaign that is ongoing against pregnant and breastfeeding women for their Hizmet Movement affiliations. In fact, in the same prison, **“[Hizmet] women were required to clean bathrooms and offices of guards once a week. It was**



**required of petty criminals but not PKK members. I was pregnant and we wrote a letter to the director who insisted that we had to continue cleaning.”** A major disconnect exists between how women are treated in Turkish prisons – they are disciplined and treated harshly with utmost security measures for unjustified charges of terrorism when they have not been charged or even officially indicted.

The mistreatment faced by pregnant women continues after they give birth. In many cases, women who come to the prison with their children are forced to live in abysmal conditions while trying to protect their children’s lives and preserve their health. According to international standards and local Turkish law, children are not to be treated like prisoners regardless of their parents’ status. However, research by AST indicates that the state of emergency (OHAL) measures taken by the Turkish government have directly caused a halt in recreational activities available for children in prison. Due to various bans put in place that bar Hizmet Movement members from participating in cultural, sports, and religious activities in prison, women with young children continue to be deprived of entertaining activities which kids naturally desire and need. In her descriptions of friends, F.A. described that **“3 friends had their children visit for 3 to 4 weeks at a time. They had to send them back outside because, trust me when I say this, the prison refused all entertainment to children. There was a “kindergarten” room but guards only took kids there a handful of times while I was there because they didn’t want the responsibility.”** Similar complaints have been shared by all interviewed mothers who independently confirmed that no toys from the outside were allowed unless they were mailed to the prison. In addition to taking several months to arrive, toys mailed to prisons had to match specific criteria that appears to be wholly arbitrary without strict and publicly available guidelines in place.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

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Advocates of Silenced Turkey urges conscientious objectors, relevant human rights organizations, and UN special rapporteurs to encourage the government of Turkey to implement four major recommendations related to improving the living conditions of captive mothers and babies, by:

- Urging the Turkish government to effective immediately revise its policy of imprisonment towards pregnant women and women with dependent children. Non-custodial sentences shall be preferred where possible and appropriate, especially when prison conditions pose a threat to the lives of mothers and children.
- Urging the Turkish Ministry of Justice to eliminate excessive overcrowding in prison dormitories, dedicate increased resources to physical and mental wellbeing of women and children, provide maternity support before and after birth, and ensure access to adequately nutritional food.
- Encouraging independent organizations to organize and promote transparent research on the number of children affected by their mothers' confrontation with the criminal justice system in order to contribute to policy formulation and program development, taking into account the best interests of the children.
- Urging Turkish authorities to liaise with international criminal justice experts to develop better institutional safeguards & provide training to prison administrators and staff in order to prepare them to respond correctly to the day-to-day needs of imprisoned mothers and children.

## CAPTIVE MOTHERS AND BABIES

	First Name of Mother	Last Name of Mother	Name of Child	Child's Age	Date of Imprisonment	Prison
1	Sümeýra	Gökhan	Selma	45 days	01/16/2019	İzmir Aliğa Womenis Jail
2	Çinar	Babacan	Begüm	5 months	04/12/2017	Konya Ereğli Jail
3	Yağmur	Balcı	Ertuğrul Selim	3 months	11/21/2016	Trabzon Bahçecik Jail
4	Filiz	Yavuz		gave birth after 8 hours	02/07/2017	Mersin
5	Rukiye	Koçak	Oğuz Akıf	1.5 year	11/06/2018	Konya
6			Asım Sencer Uslu	2 months		Konya Ereğli Jail
7	Nurhayat	Yıldız	*lost			Sinop
8	Meltem	Sarlak	Burak	1.5 year	07/10/2018	Konya Ereğli Jail
9	Fadime	Kılıç	Burak	50 days	05/08/2018	Gaziantep/ Mersin
10	Emine	Aslan	Cemile	1.5 year	03/03/2018	Kayseri
11	Funda	Belde		2 year	01/23/2019	Tokat Type T Jail
12	Hüsna	Sarıkaya		3.5 year	05/26/2018	Şakran Jail
13	Melek	Şahin	Mustafa	9 months	12/25/2018	Amasya Jail
14	Öznur	Çakar	Bahar	7 months	11/16/2016	Konya Ereğli Jail
15	Zeynep	Levent		9 months	01/28/2019	Sakarya
16	Ayla	Akbaş	Ömer Ferhat	2 years	11/11/2018	Hilvan Jail

	First Name of Mother	Last Name of Mother	Name of Child	Child's Age	Date of Imprisonment	Prison
17	Meliha	Pişkin	Murat Eymen	4.5 years	08/01/2016	Tarsus Jail
18	Beyza	Demir		8.5 months pregnancy	01/29/2019	
19	Büşra	C	Miray	6.5 months		
20	Yasemin	Ünver	Salih/Esat	2 years / 3 years	12/04/2018	Bünyan Jail
21	Esra	Marangoz	Osman	5 months	12/19/2018	Kütahya Sulh
22	Ayşe Şeyma	Taş		25 days	11/11/2018	Sakarya Ferizli Jail
23	Emine	Ay		4.5 month pregnancy	08/04/2018	Bitlis Jail
24	Şeyman	Tekin	Yusuf Burak	2 day	02/02/2019	Erzurum Type E Jail
25	Tuba	Ardıç		1 day	09/11/2018	Trabzon Bahçecik Jail
26	Fatma	Altundağ	Hüseyin Saim	2 years	06/13/2018	Burdur Jail
27	Zerrin A.	Eroğlu				
28	Aynur	Gazioğlu	Furkan	2 years		Tekirdağ Closed Prison
29	Melike Alp	Akoğlu		3 days	8/17/2018	İzmir
30	Hilal	Uysal	Zuhal	2 years	05/09/2018	İzmir
31	Hacer	Gümüş	Emir	1 year	02/08/2019	Manisa Jail
32	Serap Betül	Soydaş	Emir Asaf		02/07/2019	
33	Gülşah	Altun	İnci Nur	7 months	02/02/2019	
34	Esra	Yüksel	Selman	2.5 months	06/23/2018	Kocaeli
35	Seyda	Atmaca		8.9 months of preganancy		İstanbul Vatan Polica Quarters
36	Elif	Aydın		7.5 pregnancy/ 2 years	10/20/2018	Gebze Jail

	First Name of Mother	Last Name of Mother	Name of Child	Child's Age	Date of Imprisonment	Prison
37	Meltem	Güney		6 months pregnancy	05/08/2018	İzmir
38	Yasemin	Baltacı	Nilüfer Zümra	7 months pregnancy		
39	Büneyye	Özmen	Yusuf Salih	7 months	05/04/2019	Niğde Jail
40	Senem	Ataseven		2 years		Samsun
41	Zeynep	Hazar	Uğur Akif	2 months	04/23/2018	Bolu Jail
42	Halime	Kaman	Vedat Akif	35 days	12/01/2017	Bakırköy Jail
43	Serap	Öztürk		2 months	03/23/2018	Bakırköy Jail
44	Rabia	Çetin	Ali Nadir	1 year	05/22/2018	Manisa Jail
45	Büşra			7 months pregnancy	02/20/2018	Gaziantep
46	Sibel	Kurt	Twins	6 months	02/08/2018	İzmir
47	Havva	Yıldız	Elif Yaren	2 years		İstanbul
48			Elif Zümra	4.5 months	11/16/2017	İzmir Şakran Jail
49	Ayşe	Ateş		5 months pregnancy	07/17/2017	İzmir Şakran Jail
50	Yıldız	Toz		5.5 months pregnancy	03/11/2019	Ordu
51	Sümeyye	Bozkurt		pregnant		
52	Sevcan	Avcı	Zeynep/Asaf	6 years/ 2.5 years	03/14/2019	Bursa Women Jail
53	Zeynep	Zeyfeoğlu				
54	Gülnür	Sayım	Mahir	1 year		
55	Hülya	Usanmaz	Avşin	1 year	04/03/2019	Mardin E Type Jail
56	Safiye	Görmez	Akif	4.5 months	03/29/2019	Edirne Jail

	First Name of Mother	Last Name of Mother	Name of Child	Child's Age	Date of Imprisonment	Prison
57	Ayşegül	Özer	Ahmet İhsan	3 years	11/22/2017	
58	Eda	Korkut	Ceyda	1 months	12/08/2017	
59	Fatma	Erden	Ömer Asaf	8 months	04/20/2019	
60			Zümra	1.5 years	05/16/2019	Balıkesir Kepsut Jail
61	Edibe	Tatar	Hilal	5 years	08/17/2018	Kars T Type Prison
62	Nurhan	Erdal	Muaz	2 months	01/13/2019	Tarsus Jail
63	Derya	Gül	Yağız	22 months	11/13/2018	
64	Semanur	Kütükçü	Kerem Sabri	2.5 years	06/06/2018	
65	Gülistan Diken	Akbaba	Miraz	8 months	07/15/2017	Bakırköy Jail Gebze Prison
66	Özge Elif	Hendekçi	Bahar	3 months	12/27/2017	Tokat Jail
67	Türkan	Kepsüt	Esra Kepsut	26 months		Balıkesir Jail
68	Fatma	Urunga	Selma Betül	2 years	05/02/2019	Mersin Tarsus C type Jail
69	Melek	Özer	Betül	18 months	08/03/2019	Tarsus Jail
70	Hatice	Şehnaz		3 week pregnancy	09/04/2018	Antalya Jail
71	Filiz	Karaoğlu	twins: Nazlı Zilan/ Şiyar Faik	6 months	03/11/2019	Partnos L Type Jail
72	Tuğba	Koçal	Zehra	1 year	07/18/2019	Tokat Jail
73	Zeynep	Öztan	Nadir	1.5 years		
74	Burcu	Arkan	Betül Zümra	3.5 years	04/26/2019	Bartın
75	Benazir	Oktay		7 months	04/12/2019	Bursa Prison



	First Name of Mother	Last Name of Mother	Name of Child	Child's Age	Date of Imprisonment	Prison
76	Cemile	Çetin		2.5 years	05/18/2019	Muğla T Type Jail
77	Büşra	Şerif	Meryem	6 months	05/08/2019	İzmir Prison
78	Berka Erimez	Çoban	2 kids	1 years / 3 years	04/22/2019	İzmir Prison
79	Esmâ	Yılmaz	Arin	15 months		Urfa Jail
80	Zinnet	Kaya	Bedirhan	2 years	01/01/2019	Burhaniye Jail
81	Mehtar	Baysal	Faruk	8 months	11/24/2017	Tokat Jail
82	Fadime	Demirel	Recai	3 years	02/20/2019	Antalya
83	Nazlı Nur	Mert	Melike		06/03/2017	Kırşehir
84	Nurcan Çelik	Alagöz	Şanlıurfa	1 day	02/15/2018	
85	Fadime	Coşar				Gebze Jail
86	Zehra	Kılıçparlar	Elif	3 months	10/26/2018	Manisa Jail
87	Birsên	Hasırcı		4.5 months	09/20/2017	Eskişehir Jail
88			Enis	1.8 years	09/29/2017	Konya
89			Ebubekir	2 days	02/01/2017	
90			Yiğit		09/01/2017	
91	Nazlı	Çatpınar	3 children	1/3/5 years	03/02/2019	Düzce Prison
92	Nazmiye	Düzgün		3 years	08/23/2019	Aydın Jail
93	Gülşah	Kartal	Mehmet Selim	1.5 years	06/04/2019	Konya
94	Rabia	Byıklı	Mavi	5 months pregnancy	09/20/2018	Elazığ Jail
95	Aysun	Aydemir		3 days	05/15/2017	

	First Name of Mother	Last Name of Mother	Name of Child	Child's Age	Date of Imprisonment	Prison
96	Yasemin	Yılmaz		3 day	07/03/2017	Karabük Jail
97	Emine	Toraman	Saliha	1 year	11/03/2017	Gebze Jail
98	Arzu	Aygün		4 months	08/15/2017	Kahramanmaraş
99	Raziye Koç	Işık	Adil Bera	3.5 years	06/18/2018	
100	Emine	Aşkın	Zehra	5 years	08/13/2019	Gebze Jail
101	Yasemin	Aladal	Mahir	2 years	10/02/2019	Kütahya
102	Hanife	Eroğlu	Dilara/Ayşe	2 years/ 4 years	12/11/2017	Sincan Prison
103	Halime	Şahin	Seyma	10 months	07/06/2019	Konya Prison
104	Elif	Gürhanlı	Meryem	4.5 years	06/09/2019	Manisa Jail
105	Ayşe Şeyma	Taş		25 days	12/28/2018	Sakarya
106	Gülşah	Subaşı	Melike	2.5 years	09/23/2019	Bakırköy Jail
107	Filiz	Olgun	İpek	4 years	05/01/2019	Gebze Jail
108	Aysel	Akkanoglu	Sibel	3 years	05/24/2019	Tarsus Prison
109	Songül	Kaya	Liya Berrin	2 years	06/01/2018	Aydın Prison
110	Gülseren	Arslan	Selma	5 years	07/01/2018	Karabük Jail
111	Sümeyra	Sarıcan	Ebrar	1 years	08/27/2019	Manisa
112	Seynur	Özdemir	Bahar Nur	3 years	06/19/2019	Antalya Jail
113	Esra	Işık	Zümra	2 years	11/17/2019	Balıkesir Jail
114	Gülende	Bıçakçı	Hamza	2.5 months	03/01/2018	Çorum Jail
115	Hilal	Önder	Tarık	4 years	09/05/2019	Nazilli Jail

	First Name of Mother	Last Name of Mother	Name of Child	Child's Age	Date of Imprisonment	Prison
116	Hüda	Çulluoğlu		2 years (20 months)	06/05/2019	
117	Rabiya	Duymaz	Ahsen	5 years	09/01/2017	
118	Ümmühan	Keleş	Ayla Nihal	4 years		Sincan Jail
119	Selma	Polat	Emir	2 years	12/01/2017	Kırıkkale Jail
120	Gülsüm	Kocek	Yusuf Bera	5 years	08/06/2017	Artvin Jail
121	Sümeýra	Öztürk	Hafsa Elif	3 years	03/01/2019	Antalya Jail
122	Fatma Zehra	Gül		5 months pregnancy	06/20/2019	Uşak Jail
123	Seda	Akpolat	Nida	3 years	05/01/2017	Bandırma Jail
124	Sultan	Çetintaş		1 day	08/01/2017	İzmir
125	Fatma	Öztürk		0 day	07/09/2017	Manisa
126	Hatice	Avan		1 day	06/23/2017	Denizli
127	Havva	Hamamcioğlu		1 day	06/10/2017	Yalova
128	Fadime	Günay	Beyza	1 day	01/30/2017	Alanya
129	Ayse	Elibol	Orhan/ Ekrem/ Emir	10 / 7 / 4	April 26, 2018	Kirsehir Cezaevi

# BABIES IN CONFINEMENT

1



Sümeysra Gökhan, tried and arrested on the charges of "Membership to a Terrorist Organization", was sent to the Izmir Aliğa Women's Jail on January 16, 2019, together with her 45-day-old baby. Her husband, Hasan Gökhan, is currently still under custody and the police interrogation process is ongoing.<sup>1</sup>

Wife of former AKP provincial mayor Çınar Babacan, Ferda Babacan, an English teacher by profession, was tried and arrested on the charges of "Membership to the FETO Armed Terrorist Organization". She was sent to the Konya Ereğli Jail on April 12, 2017, together with her 5-month-old baby.<sup>2</sup>



2

3



Housewife Yağmur Balci, resident of Çaykara district of Trabzon, was arrested on the charges of "Membership to the FETO Armed Terrorist Organization". She was taken to the Trabzon Bahçecik Jail on November 21, 2016, together with her 3-month-old baby Ertuğrul Selim. Balci's sister said: "During the 5 days my older

sister was kept under custody, we were only allowed to bring her baby to her three times a day for 10-minute nursing sessions. The prison conditions of where they are kept now is not good for Selim at all. They can't get any supplemental food for the baby, nor does he have any room to crawl around. Even the use of wet wipes is not permitted. As for diapers, they bring them in 2-3 weeks later than expected. My older sister had been at the Bahçecik Jail for 4 months before they brought in any walker or high chair for the baby."<sup>3</sup>

Filiz Yavuz, Qur'an teacher living in Mersin, was dismissed from her job with an Emergency Decree Law. On February 7, 2017 she was taken under custody, only 8 hours after she gave birth, despite all the objections and persistence from her doctor. Filiz Yavuz was wheelchair bound when she was taken to the jail.<sup>4</sup>

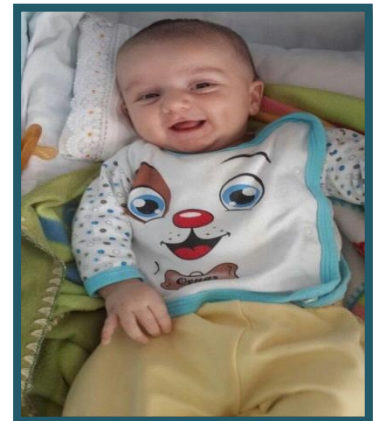


4



Rukiye Koçak was arrested on November 6, 2018. She has thyroid cancer and heart disease. 1.5-year-old baby, Oğuz Akif, is living in jail in Konya, together with his mother. Because their dad is also under arrest, his 5-year-old sister is living with their grandmother.<sup>5</sup>

Baby Asım Sencer Uslu was only 2 months old, when he was taken to the Konya Ereğli Jail, together with his mother. Because of the trauma her mother went through, her milk supply did not come in and baby Asım was deprived of his mother's milk for more than 2 months.<sup>6</sup>



6



“I had a miscarriage while I was locked behind bars” 27-year-old housewife Nurhayat Yıldız, was pregnant with twin babies when she was arrested on August 2016. Being 14 weeks pregnant, she was on her way to a doctor's appointment as she boarded a bus in the city of Sinop and soon after she was arrested because of the ByLock communication application on her cellphone. Her friends who knew her very closely, stated that Yıldız had never downloaded that application. At 19 weeks pregnant, locked behind bars, Yıldız suffered a miscarriage and lost both her babies. <sup>7</sup>

1.5-year-old Burak Şarlak is living in the Ereğli Jail, together with his mother. His mother Meltem Şarlak was arrested on July 10, 2018 on the charges of 'Membership to a Terrorist Organization'.<sup>8</sup>



Baby Burak, only 50 days old, was taken under custody in Gaziantep on May 8, 2018 together with his mother, Fadime Kılıç, and was transferred to Mersin. Fadime Kılıç's other two children, ages 2 and 4, are currently under the care of their grandmother. <sup>9</sup>





1.5-year-old baby Cemile from Kayseri is living with her mother, Emine Aslan, in jail. Her mother and father was tried on FETO charges and were sentenced to 10 years and 9 years imprisonment, respectively.<sup>10</sup>

At 7 months pregnant, Funda Belde, together with her 2-year-old baby, was taken to the Tokat Type-T Jail on January 23, 2019.<sup>11</sup>



Housewife Hüsna Sarıkaya was arrested on May 26, 2018, charged with using ByLock App on her cellphone and was later sentenced to 8 years 9 months imprisonment. She is yet another innocent individual whose voice has been silenced due to the injustice and lawlessness experienced in Turkey every day. As for her 3.5 year old son, he is growing up in the Şakran Jail, together with his mother.<sup>12,13</sup>

Melek Şahin from Amasya was arrested on December 25, 2018 and was taken to Amasya Jail together with her 9-month-old baby Mustafa. The baby's older sister is currently living with her uncle.<sup>14</sup>





Öznur Çakar was arrested on November 16, 2016 and was taken to Konya Ereğli Jail together with her 7-month-old baby Bahar. They stayed in jail for 9 months.<sup>15</sup>

Zeynep Levent, was arrested in Sakarya, together with her 9-month-old baby, on the charges of 'Membership to the Gulen Movement' .<sup>16</sup>



Şanlıurfa resident Ayla Akbaş is a mother of three children, ages 2, 8 and 10. She is currently under arrest in the Hilvan Jail, together with her youngest, Ömer Ferhat.<sup>17</sup>

5-year-old Murat Eymen is currently living in the Tarsus Jail, together with his mother Meliha Pişkin, who was convicted on charges of FETO. Because his father is also under arrest in the same jail, they are only able to meet from hearing to hearing.<sup>18</sup>

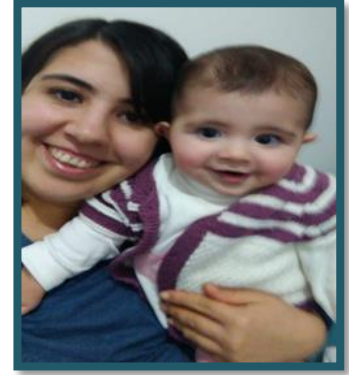




18

Beyza Demir was arrested while 8.5 months pregnant. Demir was sentenced by the İstanbul 14<sup>th</sup> High Criminal Court to 7 years 6 months imprisonment and was sent to jail with her newborn baby immediately after the birth. They have been in jail for 11 months now.<sup>19,20</sup>

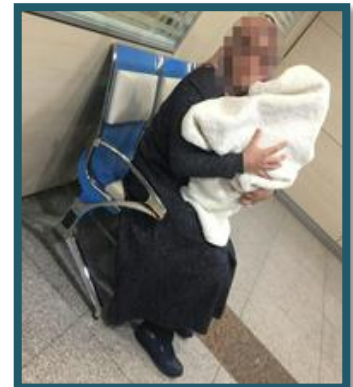
6.5-month-old baby Miray was arrested in Ardahan, together with his mother Büşra C. who is a lawyer.<sup>21</sup>



20

2-year-old Salih and 3-year-old Esat were sent to the Bünyan Jail, together with their mother Yasemin Ünver.<sup>22</sup>

Esra Marangoz was arrested in Kütahya on December 19, 2018, along with her 5-month-old baby Osman. Esra's husband is also arrested.<sup>23</sup>





**Ayşe Şeyma Taş was arrested with her 25-day-old baby and taken to the Sakarya Ferizli Jail, on November 11, 2018.<sup>24</sup>**

Emine Ay was arrested on FETO charges and was sent to the Bitlis Jail. Emine Ay, who was pregnant at the time, had to leave her other two children, ages 4 and 8, under the care of their grandmother. Her husband İsmail Ay is, too, under arrest at the Adıyaman Jail. Even though Emine Ay was going through a high-risk pregnancy, their requests for release with a pending trial were denied. Ay's baby was born at 6 months, only 820 grams, and under critical condition.<sup>25,26</sup>



**"Baby Yusuf was born yesterday, today he is in jail with his mother Şeyma Tekin"**

**"I seek justice...justice is meant for everyone."**

**In Erzurum, one-day-old baby Yusuf Burak, was sent to jail together with his mother Şeyma Tekin who was arrested on February 2, 2019, for charges of ByLock use. It was reported that baby Yusuf suffered from two holes in his heart and a fractured vein.<sup>27</sup>**





25

Tuba Ardıç, mother of two children, was taken to the police station in Trabzon, on November 2018, together with her newborn one-day-old baby. <sup>28</sup>

2-year-old baby Hüseyin Saim has suffered from serious health problems during his stay in the Burdur Jail, with his mother Fatma Altundağ. He was then taken under the care of his grandmother. Because he is in need of his mother's care, baby Hüseyin Saim is frequently taken back to jail to stay with his mother.<sup>29,30</sup>



26



27

While pregnant with her child, Zerrin A. Eroğlu (25) was taken under custody and arrested in Samsun only three weeks prior to her due date. Her husband is also arrested. <sup>31</sup>

28



Aynur Gazioğlu is being kept in the Tekirdağ Closed Prison, together with her two-year-old son baby Furkan. Just because of an argument about a specific type of baby food that she had asked for, she got punished to 10 days in solitary confinement cell, together with her baby.<sup>32</sup>

Melike Alp Akoğlu gave birth on August 13, 2018. The mother and her 3-day-old baby were taken under custody as they were being discharged from the hospital in İzmir.<sup>33,34</sup>



29



Hilal and Ali Uysal were both taken under custody and arrested with charges of "Labor Union Membership" on May 9, 2018, İzmir. Their 2-year-old daughter baby Zuhale is living with her mother in the jail.<sup>35</sup>

Hacer Gümüş, mother of two children, was taken under custody in Aydın and taken to Manisa Jail. Her daughter Zeynep (5 years) is suffering from a lung condition and has to undergo surgery. Her son Emir (1 year) is staying in the jail with his mother.<sup>36</sup>



31





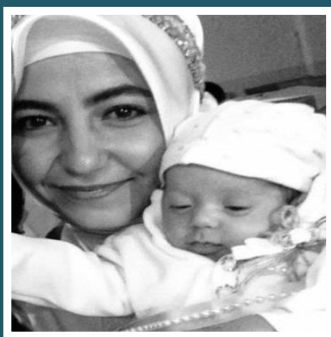
Suffering from severe migraine, Serap Betül Soydaş, is currently under arrest in jail, together with her baby Emir Asaf. Soydaş's husband, too, has been imprisoned.<sup>37</sup>

Gülşah Altun and her husband Hüseyin Altun were taken under custody at Istanbul Vatan Police Quarters. Their 7-month-old baby İnci Nur was taken with her mother to the police station. The other sibling, five-year-old Zeynep, was left under the care of her grandmother.<sup>38</sup>



Mother, Esra Yüksel, and father, Murat Yüksel, were both taken under custody in Kocaeli on June 23, 2018. The mother was then transferred to Trabzon and the father transferred to Giresun. As for the couple's 2.5 month old baby, he was taken by his grandmother to see his mother at the jail where she was being kept. Because Esra Yüksel's milk supply dried up during the time period she was kept under custody, baby Selman will not be able to feed on his mother's milk anymore.<sup>39</sup>

Şeyda Atmaca is in her last month of pregnancy, and she is being kept under custody at the Istanbul Vatan Police Quarters. Atmaca has only three weeks to go until her due date.<sup>40</sup>



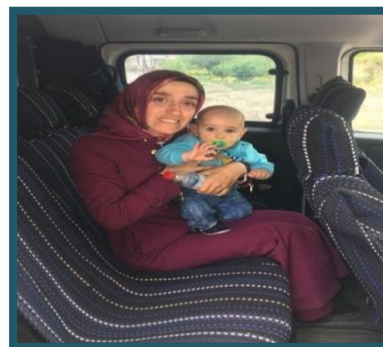
Elif Aydın was 7.5 months pregnant. She has been under arrest at the Gebze Jail, together with her other child (2 years old). She has been sentenced to 6 years 10 months imprisonment.<sup>41</sup>

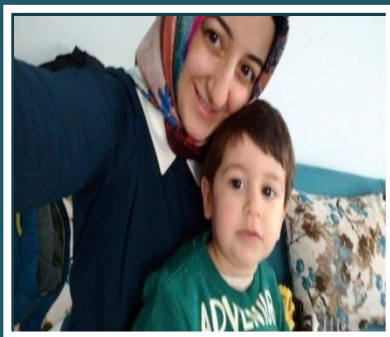
History Teacher Meltem Güney is 6 months pregnant and previously had two miscarriages. She was arrested in İzmir on May 8, 2018. With low blood count levels and a vitamin-D deficiency, both Meltem Güney and her baby have been under critical condition. <sup>42</sup>



Yasemin Baltacı was 7 months pregnant when she was arrested. After giving birth to her baby Nilüfer Zümra, she was sent back to jail, this time together with her baby. <sup>43</sup>

Büneyye Özmen was taken under custody on the same day that she gave birth. She was later released with the condition that she were to report to the authorities five days a week to provide her signature. During her court hearing on May 4, 2019, she was sentenced to 10 years 6 months imprisonment and was later on sent to the Niğde Jail, together with her 7-month-old baby Yusuf Salih.<sup>44</sup>





Senem Ataseven was initially being tried through the SEGBIS (Audio and Visual Information System) in Muş without arrest. After being arrested in Samsun, her 2-year-old baby was sent to the jail with her.<sup>45</sup>

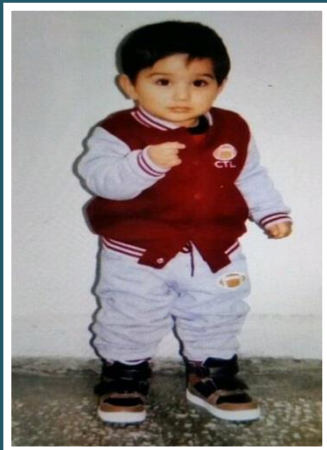
2-month-old baby Uğur Akif was sent to the Bolu Jail with his mother on April 23, 2018. Baby Akif's father is also under arrest and his 7-year-old sister is being taken care of by close family members.<sup>46</sup>



19 days after giving a C-section birth, Halime Kaman was taken under custody only to be arrested shortly after. She was sent to the Bakırköy Jail, together with her 35-day-old baby Vedat Akif. Halime Kaman has another son, Murat, who is 4 years old.<sup>47</sup>

Serap Öztürk, was arrested on March 23, 2018, and she was sent with her 2-month-old baby to the Bakırköy Jail. They are living in jail since almost 2 years ago.<sup>48,49</sup>





1-year-old baby Ali Nadir is being kept in jail in Manisa, together with his mother, Rabia Çetin. Baby Ali Nadir took his first steps in the courtyard of the jail, which does not have sufficient amount of space to walk around or run in. The jail conditions are in no way fit for a baby, and he is unable to find the kind of nutrition he needs.<sup>50</sup>

Mr. Ufuk and his 7-month-pregnant wife Mrs. Büşra were taken under custody in Gaziantep on February 20, 2018. Despite the fact that Mrs. Büşra is going through a difficult pregnancy she is still being kept in detention.<sup>51</sup>



Oğuz and Sibel Kurt were both taken under custody in İzmir and later arrested on February 8, 2018, for claims of having worked in an institution that was later shut down by an emergency decree law, following the coup attempt in Turkey. The couple has three children. The 6-month-old twins need their mother's milk and are thus growing up in jail with their mother. The 7-year-old daughter is being taken care of by their grandmother.<sup>52</sup>



47



15 months after her 70% disabled husband was arrested, Havva Yıldız herself was arrested, too. She was sent to jail in Istanbul together with her daughter, baby Elif Yaren (2).<sup>53</sup>

Having been introduced to the jails while still in her mother's womb, baby Elif Zümra was denied the chance to be taken to a hospital despite the fact that she suffered an injury to her shoulder during birth. She is growing up in the Şakran Jail.<sup>54</sup>



48

49



Another victim of the emergency decree law, income expert Ayşe Ateş was arrested while 5 months pregnant. With only days left until her due date, she awaits her ongoing trial while under arrest at the İzmir Şakran Jail.<sup>55</sup>



50 Yıldız Toz from Ordu was arrested in Ordu, while she was 5.5 months pregnant. She has 2 more children. <sup>56</sup>

Sümeyye Bozkurt was arrested while pregnant. She was taken from jail to the hospital, to give birth. Following her C-section, she was immediately taken back to the jail.<sup>57</sup>



51



52 Sevcan Avcı is under arrest in the Bursa Women Jail; her husband is also under arrest. Their children Zeynep (6) and Asaf (2.5) are living with their mother, in jail. Sevcan Avcı has an upcoming court hearing that is scheduled for March 14.<sup>58</sup>

Zeynep Zeyfeoğlu and her 2.5 year old son Hakan are both in jail in Osmaniye. They have been in jail for 15 months. Hakan's father, who is also suffering from health problems, has also been under arrest for 15 months, in the same jail.

59



53



Mother, Gülnur Sayım, and father, Özgür Sayım, are currently under arrest. 1 year old Mahir is together with his mother, in jail. <sup>60</sup>

Hülya Usanmaz has been sentenced to 6 years 7 months imprisonment. Her 1-year-old baby Avşın is living with her mother in the Mardin E-type jail where they were sent to. Baby Avşın has a tumor underneath the skin on her head. Spots and swelling of her face have increased in jail. <sup>61</sup>



Safiye Görmez is a mother of three children , Sevim (11), Ekrem (9), and Akıf (4.5 month-old). She was arrested on March 29 and sent to the Edirne Jail, with baby Akif. <sup>62</sup>



57



Özer couple was arrested on November 22, 2017. Ergun Özer was sentenced to 10 years 1 month. Ayşegül Özer was sentenced to 9 years. 3-year-old Ahmet İhsan was "sentenced" along with his mother. He will spending years in jail, his childhood will be confined between 4 walls. <sup>63</sup>

1.5-year-old baby Ceyda has been under arrest with her mother, Eda Korkut, for the past 16 months. She is spending the most precious years of her life behind bars. Ceyda is a celiac patient and suffers from a gluten allergy. How can a sick baby thrive under prison conditions? Baby Ceyda and her mother should be given the opportunity to await their trial without arrest. <sup>64</sup>



58



8-month-old baby Ömer Asaf is living in a 50m<sup>2</sup> prison ward where there is also a tuberculosis patient. His mother Fatma Erden was initially suspended from her job, and though she was later reappointed to her profession, some time later she was arrested just because her name was mentioned in a text message. <sup>65</sup>

,66

59



Zümra is only 1.5 years old, yet she is under arrest with her mother, who has been sentenced to 6 years 3 months imprisonment, at the Balıkesir Kepsut Jail. Her father is under house arrest and he is taking care of their 7 year-old daughter. How can a baby possibly thrive in jail for 6 years?! Zümra and her mother should be set free. <sup>67</sup>

Haydar Tatar, father of M.Ali (1.5), Hilal (5), and Nihal (9), is under arrest. Their mother, Edibe Tatar, is also under arrest, and has been for the past 8 months, at the Kars T-type closed prison. 5-year-old Hilal is living with her mother in jail, while M.Ali and Nihal are under the care of their elderly grandparents. <sup>68</sup>



Nurhan Erdal was arrested and sent to the Tarsus Jail together with her 2 month old baby. The baby is allergic to milk and other dairy products and is not able to receive sufficient nutrition. The baby's tear ducts are clogged and his parents are unable to receive any treatment for it. Baby Muaz suffers from a condition called strabismus, or commonly known as crossed eyes. His medicine was 1 month delayed in arriving at the jail. His

mother should be given the chance to await her trial without arrest. Muaz is having to grow within the confines of a prison as he also struggles with health problems. <sup>69,70</sup>



Derya GüL is a mother of three children. Her husband is in prison. She has also been under arrest for the past 6 months together with her 22-month-old baby, Yağız. Her baby suffers from the croup infection, he has shortness of breath and suffers from frequent attacks. His mother should be given the opportunity to await

her trial without arrest. Yağız should not have to grow up in a prison ward.<sup>71</sup>

Kerem Sabri is 2.5 years old. Her mother Semanur Kütükçü was initially released under probation yet was taken under arrest again and sentenced to 7 years 11 months imprisonment. Her alleged crime was use of the ByLock App on her cellphone. The reason for her arrest was "You should stay locked in a bit more, or else it would be unfair to the others who are locked up".<sup>72</sup>



Having initially been arrested in January 2012 on charges of "Organization Membership", Gülistan Akbaba had been kept under arrest at the Bakırköy Jail for 1.5 years. She was released to await her trial without arrest. After she was sentenced 6 years and 3 months imprisonment, she was re-arrested and placed in jail together with her 8 month old baby, Miraz. Baby Miraz has been living with

his mother in jail for 2 years. Baby Miraz's father Cengiz Akbaba picks him up from the jail on the weekends. After spending the weekends with his father, baby Miraz is readmitted into the jail during the week to be with his mother.<sup>73,74</sup>



66 Having been 78-days-old when put in jail, baby Bahar is growing up in the Tokat Jail, together with her mother, attorney Özge Elif Hendekçi. Hendekçi was taken under custody on December 27, 2017, together with her 3-month-old baby daughter Bahar and after two days she was arrested and sent to the Tokat prison. Baby Bahar is still behind bars.<sup>75,76</sup>

26-month-old baby, Esra Kepsut, was arrested along with her mother, Türkan Kepsut. Her father, Bülent Kepsut, is also under arrest, at the Balıkesir Jail. No information is provided regarding the reasons baby Esra's parents' arrest, on account of "confidentiality".<sup>77</sup>



67 2-year-old Selma Betül Urunga was admitted to the Mersin Tarsus C-type Closed Jail on May 9, 2019 where her mother Fatma Urunga (34) had been confined for one week already. Her father, Ersin Urunga (37), has been also under arrest in the same jail for the past 16 months. Baby Betül's mother has been sentenced to 9 years, and her father has been sentenced to 10 years 6 months in prison. The other two children in the family, Hakan (8) and Metin (6), are now living under the care of their grandmother.<sup>78</sup>





Melek Özer is a mother of three children. She is under arrest in Tarsus Jail. Her 18-month-old baby daughter Betul has been living in the jail with her mother. <sup>79,80</sup>

Hatice Şahnaz was sentenced to 6 years and 10 months imprisonment. She was 3-week pregnant when she was put in Antalya Jail on September 4, 2018. She gave birth to baby Safiye on May 24, 2019. One day later, they were sent back to prison.

<sup>81,82</sup>



6-month-old twins Nazlı Zilan and Şiyar Faik, are being kept in the Patnos L-type Jail and are suffering through very difficult times in jail. Their mother Filiz Karaoğlu was sentenced to 4 years 2 month imprisonment. Ms. Filiz and her twins should be set free. <sup>83,84</sup>

Baby Zehra is 1-year-old. She is living in Tokat jail, together with her mother Tuğba Koçal. Her father, İhsan Koçal, is also under arrest. Her older sister, 2.5-year-old Esra, is living with her grandfather.<sup>85</sup>





73 Zeynep Öztan, mother of three, has been under arrest for the past 16 months, while her husband has been under arrest for 13 months. 1.5-year-old baby Nadir is growing up in jail with his mother.<sup>86</sup>

In Bartın, detainee Burcu Arkan's 3.5-year-old daughter Betül Zümra suffered a third-degree burn and needs to be under regular doctor control.<sup>87</sup>

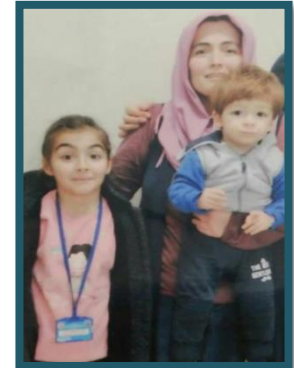


74



75 Benazir Oktay and İshak Oktay were arrested on April 12, 2019, when their daughter was 7 months old. The baby is growing up in Bursa prison ward. Prison is not where a baby should be raised. The mother should be given the chance to await her trial without being under arrest.<sup>88</sup>

Cemile Çetin is under arrest in the Muğla T-type Jail, together with her 2.5-year-old child who suffers from severe allergies. Her 8-year-old child is in need of special education and has been left under the care of her grandmother who has health problems herself.<sup>89</sup>



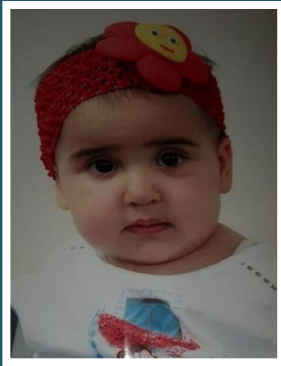
76



77

Büşra Şerif and İsa Şerif were taken into custody on May 8, 2019. Their 6-month-old baby, Meryem, was brought to İzmir with her mother. The father, İsa Şerif, is under custody in Turgutlu. Baby Meryem has had health problems since birth.<sup>90</sup>

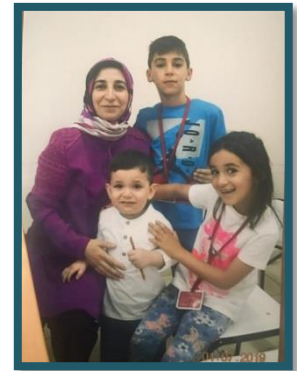
Berka Erimez Çoban had been awaiting her trial without arrest. On Monday April 22, 2019 she was arrested and sentenced to 8 years 9 months in İzmir prison. Her two children, ages 1 and 3, will be locked up behind bars along with her during this period of time. <sup>91</sup>



79

Baby Arin suffers from asthma. She is growing up behind bars because her mother Esma Yılmaz is under arrest in the Urfa Jail. Her condition is worsening every day. Due to her irregular diet, baby Arin has developed a reflux condition, yet no action has been taken so far to restore baby Arin's health.<sup>92</sup>

A family torn apart: Zinnet and Babahan Kaya are in prison since two years ago. Their children Nihal (7) and Kamil Yusuf (9) are staying with their grandparents, while Bedirhan (2) is staying with his mother, in Burhaniye Jail. Her father is sentenced to 9 years, 4 months and her mother to 8 years 9 months imprisonment. <sup>93</sup>



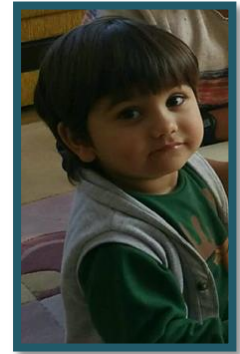




81

2-year-old Ö. Faruk has been living with his mother, in Tokat Jail, for the past 8 months. Ö.Faruk's face turns purple whenever he cries. The prison conditions are harsh and getting harsher. Their father, who suffers from stomach cancer, has also been under arrest for the past 5 months. Babies thrive with love, not locked up behind bars! <sup>94</sup>

3-year-old Recai has two other siblings. His father Murat Demirel and his mother Fadime Demirel are both under arrest in Antalya. Out of the three siblings, Recai is together with his mother, in jail. The other two siblings have been stripped from both their mother and father. <sup>95</sup>



83

Nazli N. Mert gave birth to her baby Melike on June 3, 2017. On the same day, she got taken under custody due to her alleged affiliation with the Gülen Movement. During a year-long probational period she reported to the authorities and provided a signature on a regular basis, still she was

arrested in Kırşehir on April 24, 2018, together with her 11-month-old baby Melike. Kırşehir Court did not take into consideration the fact that she had fulfilled her signature requirements completely and had not missed a single appointment. Melike's father is also under arrest. <sup>96,97</sup>



84 Nurcan Çelik Alagöz gave birth Şanlıurfa. Public Prosecutor's Office of Mardin had issued an arrest warrant in her name. Police officers were waiting at the door of the hospital room in which she had just given birth to her new baby. Unable to even rejoice in the birth of her new baby, the mother is expected to be sent to Mardin, escorted by police, right after she is discharged from the hospital. Alagöz has another child waiting for her back home and her family is fearful that their daughter will be arrested. <sup>98</sup>

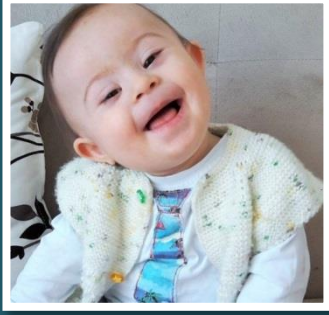
Fadime Coşar is under arrest at the Gebze Jail, together with her baby. It was discovered that she developed ovarian cancer in March of 2018 yet was denied permission to receive treatment and undergo an operation. According to the Institution of Forensic Medicine, mother Coşar needs to be operated on urgently, however she has been waiting to receive medical care for 10 months already. Meanwhile, the cancer has spread to the other ovary. <sup>99</sup>



86 Zehra Kılıçparlar, was arrested on October 26, 2018, together with her 3-month-old baby, Elif, and was put in the Manisa Jail. Baby Elif is suffering from urethritis and has anemia. <sup>100</sup>

Birsen Hasırcı, was arrested on September 20, 2017, and put in the Eskişehir Jail with her 4.5-month-old baby. The baby is now 15 months old. The mother is a Thyroid patient and has been waiting for a long time to see a doctor. <sup>101</sup>





**In Konya, 22-month-old baby Enis, with Down Syndrome, was taken under custody on September 29, 2017, alongside his mother and father. <sup>102</sup>**

Baby Ebubekir was born into this world behind bars in İzmir and it is where he is growing up. He spent just one day outside, in the hospital. Other women inmates took turns taking care of the mother and the newborn baby. <sup>103</sup>



**Baby Yiğit has been behind bars in İzmir for 9 months. Every two months, during open visitation, he is able to meet with his older brother and play in the small playground. <sup>104</sup>**

Fuat Çatpınar ve Nazlı Çatpınar are both under arrest in Düzce. They have three children. All three children, ages 1,3, and 5, are living with their mother Nazlı Çatpınar, in jail. The children get sick frequently. The 5-year-old child is suffering from growth failure and psychological problems. <sup>105</sup>





92 Nazmiye Düzgün, is a mother of two children, ages 3 and 4.5. She was sentenced to 7 years 3 months imprisonment in Aydın. Both children have been severely traumatized from having their mother taken away from them. Because she has no one to look after her, the 3-year-old daughter has to stay with her mother in the prison. <sup>106</sup>

Mehmet Selim is only 1.5 years old. Both his father and mother are under arrest, in İzmir and Konya respectively. The mother, Gülşah Kartal, could not bear being away from her child. Mehmet Selim is living with her mother, together in jail. <sup>107</sup>



94 Rabia Bıyıklı was arrested on September 20, 2018 and put in the Elazığ Jail when she was 5 months pregnant. On February 4, 2019 she was transferred to a hospital to give birth. The birth was medication-induced and during the two days she was in labor she was kept in handcuffs and forced to give birth under such inhumane and torturing conditions. She named her baby Mavi (*Blue*) to spite the darkness surrounding the country and the world. <sup>108</sup>

A group of police officers stood guard in the doorway of a delivery room in a hospital in Zonguldak Ereğli, waiting on Teacher Aysun Aydemir. Upon her discharge after 3 days on May 15, 2017, she and her 3-day-old baby were arrested and sent to jail. <sup>109</sup>







Police took Yasemin Yılmaz under custody, while she was still in a hospital in İstanbul after giving birth with a C-section, on July 3, 2017. 3-day-old baby and her mother are taken to Karabük Jail. <sup>110, 111</sup>

Emine Toraman was put under arrest on charges of having ByLock App at her cellphone and having worked as a teacher at a private school which was shut down due to a decree law following the July 15 coup attempt. Emine Toraman, whose husband also in prison since September 2016, was taken to the Gebze Jail in November 2017, together with her 1-year-old daughter Saliha. <sup>112, 113</sup>



25-year-old Arzu Aygün was arrested in Kahramanmaraş and was sent to jail together with her 4-month-old baby. This tiny baby's father was also arrested, right after the July 15 incident, and for the past year he has been under arrest in the jail in Iskenderun. <sup>114,115</sup>

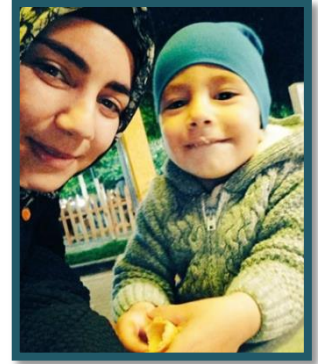
The Koç Family is fighting a hereditary disease called Men2A, which is affecting one person in every one million and turns to thyroid cancer. The family, which has suffered a lot due to illness, is now under heavy investigation because of their connection with Hizmet Movement. Two sisters, whose treatment was ongoing, were arrested for the second time in February 2019 in Sivas. One of the siblings Raziye Koç Işık (32) 's husband and 3.5-year-old Adil Bera were also imprisoned. <sup>116</sup>





Emine Aşkın is in Gebze prison and her husband Cengiz Aşkın is in Silivri prison. Their daughter Zehra (5) lives in prison with her mother and İdil (10) lives with her grandparents. They've been detained for 2.5 years. <sup>117</sup>

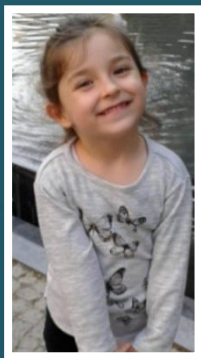
Yasemin Aladağ is imprisoned in Kütahya with her 2-year-old son Mahir. Her husband Kadir Aladağ has been under arrest for 1.5 years. Yasemin has been suffering from severe shingles disease and Mahir has allergy problems. <sup>118</sup>



Hanife Eroğlu, mother of Dilara (2) and Ayse (4), has been in Sincan Prison for 19 months. She was sentenced to 7 years and 6 months. Dilara stayed in prison with her mother for 9 months. She got the Rotavirus disease and was hospitalized for 5 days. Eventually she had to leave her mother because of the improper conditions of the prison. <sup>119</sup>

Halime Şahin (law student) is imprisoned in Konya Prison with her 10-month-old baby Seyma. The baby girl has a milk allergy. She cannot consume every food. Halime's husband has been under arrest for 15 months. <sup>120</sup>

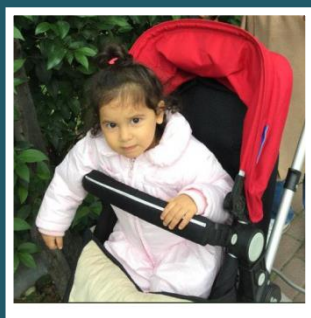




104

Meryem (4.5) with chronic asthma needs regular monitoring and treatment. Her mom Elif Gürhanlı was sentenced to 7.5 years in Manisa Jail and her dad Mehmet Gürhanlı has been also imprisoned. Meryem has been living with her mom in prison. <sup>121</sup>

Ayşe Şeyma Taş, who gave birth on December 3, 2018, was jailed after 25 days together with her newborn baby in Sakarya as part of the massive post-coup witch hunt targeting alleged members of the Gülen movement. <sup>122</sup>



106

Gülşah Subaşı, mother of Melike (2) has been arrested and put in Bakırköy Jail. Melike, who stays with her mother in jail sometimes is having traumatic psychiatric disorders. Melike often sees child psychiatrist. She is getting oversensitive and aggressive, and she is uncontrollably crying. The mother should be released pending trial. <sup>123</sup>

Filiz Olgun, mother of İpek (4) Yavuz (6) was arrested in May 2019. Her husband, who was a teacher in a school which was shut down due to a decree law following the July 15 coup attempt, was arrested in March 2018. Ipek (4) stays in Gebze Jail with her mother. <sup>124</sup>

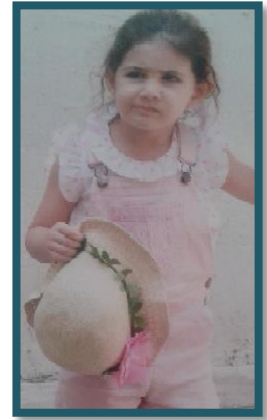






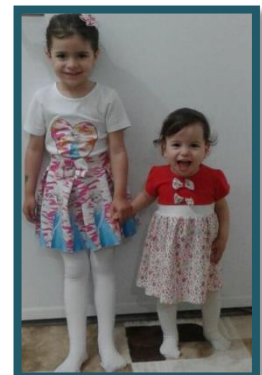
Aysel Akkanoglu, has been detained on her alleged links to Gülen Movement. Akkanoglu's passport was confiscated by the Turkish government more than a year ago and she has been trying to take it back since then. On May 24, 2019 she was detained on terror charges and the Mersin court sent her to the Tarsus prison.<sup>125</sup>

Songül Kaya was sentenced to imprisonment for 6 years and 3 months due to use of Bylock communication app at his cellphone. Her daughter Liya Berrin Kaya (2) stays in Aydın Prison with her mother since June 2018. Her eye pupils turned black because of malnutrition and she now has strabismus (crossed eyes).<sup>126</sup>



Gülseren Arslan and her husband Zülküf Arslan are both arrested and in Karabük Jail since July 2018. The mother is sentenced to 9 years imprisonment. They have three children, Yasemin (8) is now in İzmir with her grandmother, Selma (5) is in jail with her mother, Mahir (3) is in İstanbul with her aunt, and he has pneumonia.<sup>127,128</sup>

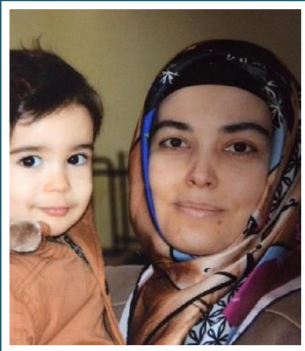
Sümeýra Sarıcan, mother of two children, Ebrar (1) and Azra (5) is arrested in Manisa on August 27, 2019. Ebrar is living with her mother in jail.<sup>129</sup>





Seynur Özdemir was arrested on June 19, 2019 and taken to Antalya Jail. She is mother of two children, Salim (5) and Bahar Nur (3). The children are living with their mother in jail. The mother suffers from Gardner's Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder. On Özdemir's leg, calf to thigh, there is a 32-cm cancerous tumor. <sup>130</sup>

Esra Işık is kept in Balıkesir Jail with her 2-year-old daughter Zümra. Her husband Faruk Işık is under house arrest and taking care of Büşra (7). Esra Işık was arrested for having an account in a bank which is affiliated with Gülen Movement and for using Bylock communication app on her cell phone. <sup>131</sup>



Gülende ve Erdal Bıçakçı have been arrested since March 2018. They have three children. 2.5-month-old Hamza is living with her mother in Çorum Jail. Zeynep (7) and Numan (10) are taken care of by their grandparents. <sup>132</sup>

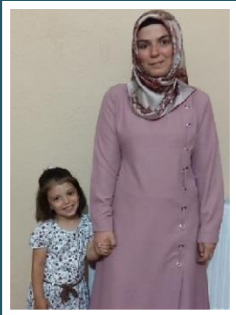
Mehmet and Hilal Önder were both arrested and taken to Nazilli Jail. They have two children, Tarık (4), Burak (6). Burak is a cancer patient and has growth deficiency. <sup>133</sup>





Hüda Çulluoğlu was arrested on July 5, 2019 in Osmaniye. Her husband was imprisoned since June 2017. They have two children. <sup>134</sup>

Rabiya Duymaz was arrested on September 2017 in Adana. She is mother of three children. She is sentenced to 9 years imprisonment. Her husband Hasan Duymaz is also arrested. Her daughter Ahsen (5) is living with her mother in jail. <sup>135</sup>



Ümmühan Keleş and her daughter Ayla Nihal (4) are living together in Sincan jail. <sup>136</sup>

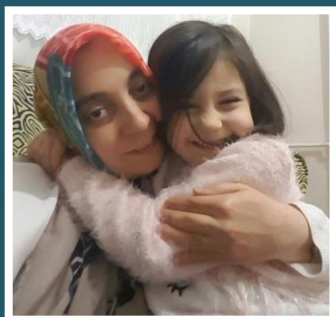
Selma Polat (30), a teacher and mother of two children, was taken under custody in July 2017 and released on the condition of wearing electronic monitoring ankle bracelet. On December 1, 2017 she got arrested and sent to Kırıkkale jail with her son Emir (2). She is sentenced to 7 years and 7 months imprisonment. <sup>137,138</sup>





**Yusuf Bera (5) is living with his mother Gülsüm Köçek in Artvin Jail. <sup>139</sup>**

Sümeýra Öztürk and her husband Fatih Öztürk have been arrested since March 2019. Their daughter Hafsa Elif (3) is living with her mother in Antalya jail. <sup>140</sup>



**Fatma Zehra Gül, mother of Semra (6) was arrested on June 20, 2019 and sent to Uşak Jail, when she was 5 weeks pregnant. She was taken to hospital several times due to abnormal bleeding and miscarriage risk. 6-year-old Semra often sees child psychiatrist. <sup>141</sup>**

Seda Akpolat and her husband Osman Akpolat are arrested in Bandırma Jail since May 2017. They are sentenced to 8 years imprisonment. Nida (3) is living with her mother in jail. <sup>142</sup>







Sultan Çetintaş, who gave birth on July 31, 2017 to her third child in İzmir, was detained after one day of giving birth, on August 1 over alleged links to the Gülen Movement. Çetintaş was taken to İzmir courthouse with her one-day-old baby after undergoing a C-section.<sup>143,144</sup>

Fatma Öztürk, a teacher, was arrested only couple hours after giving birth in Manisa, on July 9, 2017. The police officers handcuffed her to the hospital bed while she was resting after birth.<sup>145</sup>



Hatice Avan, a teacher, who had given birth on June 22, 2017 in Denizli, got arrested on the following day, on June 23, over alleged links to the Gülen Movement.<sup>146</sup>

Havva Hamamcioğlu gave birth on June 10, 2017 in Yalova. Police has reportedly been waiting at the door of hospital room to took her into custody. It was also reported that Havva Hamamcioğlu's husband was detained by Turkish police as his wife was delivering the baby.<sup>147</sup>





Fadime Günay, a 32-year-old woman who gave birth in a hospital in Alanya on January 29, 2017, has been detained over alleged Gülen links one day later, on January 30. A group of police officers arrived in the hospital and demanded Günay's immediate discharge from the hospital as soon as she delivered her baby. Günay's husband has also recently been detained by police over alleged links to the Gülen movement.<sup>148</sup>

Ayşe Elibol, a Turkish woman and the mother of three children has been arrested by a Turkish court over alleged links to Turkey's Gülen group. Elibol was initially detained on April 26, 2018 in Kırşehir and released pending trial later the same day while her son Emir was 11 months old. Upon the demand of a Kırşehir prosecutor, Mrs Elibol has been re-detained and this time sent to prison over "membership" in the Gülen group. Elibol's sons Orhan, Ekrem, and Emir are 10, 7, and 4 years old, respectively.<sup>149</sup>





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