



SCIENTIFIC REGRESSION IN TURKEY IN THE AFTERMATH OF JULY 15th -1:

ERCIYES UNIVERSITY



The alleged coup attempt of the July 15th struck the real impact in the field of education. The most important pillars of education, universities were closed, thousands of educated academics were discharged overnight without any reason, and even sent to prisons. This study analyzes the negative effects of the academic slaughter that took place in one of Turkey's most reputable universities after the July 15th, The Erciyes University.

Erciyes University was founded in 1978 under the name of Kayseri University. It was renamed Erciyes University in 1982. Today, Erciyes University serves with 19 faculties, 1 college, 2 vocational schools, 7 institutes, 6 departments, 44 research centers and an advanced practice hospital with 1350 beds. In addition to Gevher Nesibe Hospital, Cardiovascular Diseases Hospital, Organ Transplantation and Dialysis Hospital, Oncology Hospital, Children's Hospital and Bone Marrow Transplant and Stem Cell Treatment Center are the most important health institutions of the region. Approximately 65,000 students receive education [1]. In addition, Melikşah University, which was closed unlawfully on 23 July 2016, was transferred to Erciyes University and the campus of MELİKŞAH University was named "Erciyes University, The July 15th Campus" [2].

The toll numbers reached 6070 just for public university academics in Turkey after the July 15th [3]. 2,808 academics in 15 terminated foundation universities were not included in this number. 144 people, namely 6% of the total academics, were discharged from the 2398 academics at ERCIYES University after the so-called coup attempt. The distribution of the discharged academics regarding their ranks has given in Table 1.

Objective measurement of scientific contributions of academics is widely used to understand the quality of universities and countries in the world. Google Scholar [4] is an important open

source where researchers can track their publications, citation numbers, and index values. In this analysis, the Google Scholar criterion was taken to examine the scientific contributions of the discarded academics. The average number

ACADEMIC TITLE	#of DISCHARGED
Professor	27
Assoc. Prof.	31
Assist. Prof.	35
Instructor	10
Research Fellow	40
Expert	1
TOTAL	144

Table 1 Academic ranking of the discharged professors at Erciyes University

of citations of the discarded academics was calculated as 891.83, which is quite impressive. For example, Professor SALİH ÖZGÖÇMEN has 10261; Assistant Professor KAZIM ZİYA GÜMÜŞ has 10159 citations. In addition to that, an important demonstration of broad success to be underlined is that 24 academics have more than 500 citations, as well as 52 academics, have more than 100 citations.

In addition to the number of citations, the h-index values of the dismissed academics were also examined. H-index is more reliable in measuring qualified scientific contribution since it measures the number of publications and citation efficiency together. Academic Data Management publishes the h-index numbers within the system. But instead of publishing all the academics, they list the first 20 with the highest citations in their field [5]. According to the current figures of the Academic Data Management System, the average h-index of 20 academicians with the highest h-index number

It is clear that these academics who were victimized after the July 15th, have made significant scientific contributions with their previous individual achievements [6] [7] [8]. A few examples;



Prof. Dr. Salih KUK,

Carried his research at the Johns Hopkins University Malaria Institute in the USA. His work has been published as a cover story in the Nature Medicine magazine. Became one of the leading scientists in the country in recombinant DNA technology.

Prof. Dr. Yunus SERİN

He specializes meadow, pasture, forage crops cultivation and breeding.

During the AKP governments, he worked as an advisor to the Ministry of Agriculture for 13 years. He improved two different plants, which are called perennial boneless bromine (*Bromus inermis* Leyss) and perennial common grassland waste (*Agropyron cristatum* L. Gaertn.) Upon the request of the President of the Republic of Turkey, he worked on rehabilitation of 136 thousand decares of meadows in Kayseri. In two years, he helped increase productivity by 267 times. Despite his important contributions to Kayseri, he was discharged from citizenship. [9]



Assoc. Prof. Mustafa Tutak



He became the first scientist who developed Functional Clothes that Support Blood Circulation.

of ERCİYES University is calculated as 14. The h-index average of the dismissed academics was found to be 13.10, which clearly shows their contribution to ERCİYES University.

Despite the fact that only 6% of the academics at ERCİYES University were discharged after the alleged coup of the July 15th, and all the facilities and infrastructure of MELIKSAH University were seized, a 17% dramatic decline in the ranking of the academic achievement in the world could not be prevented [10]. The above information shows clearly, how the alleged coup attempt impacted the scientific research in ERCİYES University and Turkey.

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