



HIGHLIGHTS FROM

# **TURKEY 2019 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT**

BY UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Click here for the Turkey 2019 Human Rights Report  
by U.S. Department of State](#)

# Turkey 2019 Human Rights Report



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

## SINCE THE 2016 COUP ATTEMPT



**+45,000**

Police and Military Personnel  
Dismissed or Suspended



**+80,000**

Citizens  
Arrested or Imprisoned



**+130,000**

Civil Servants  
Dismissed or Suspended



**+1,500**

Nongovernmental  
Organizations (NGOs)  
Closed



**one-third**

of the judiciary dismissed

**PRIMARILY FOR ALLEGED TIES  
TO THE MOVEMENT OF CLERIC  
FETHULLAH GULEN**

*As many as 100 persons, including former members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs dismissed under the 2016-18 state of emergency decrees due to suspected ties to the Gulen movement, were mistreated or tortured while in police custody.*

**38**

Suspicious deaths in  
prison related to illness,  
suicide, violence, or other  
reasons.

**+34**

Individuals disappeared  
or were the victims of  
politically motivated  
kidnapping attempts.

**780**

Children including children  
younger than six years of  
age were being held in  
prison with their mothers.

The HRA reported separately that in the first 11 months of the year, it received

**840**

complaints of abuse by  
security forces

**422**

complaints alleging  
torture and inhuman  
treatment



**The government did not release data on inmate deaths due to physical conditions or actions of staff members.**

*14 inmates died in an eight-month period at an Izmir prison.*



*The report alleged that overcrowding and lack of proper hygiene and nutrition led to the outbreak of an epidemic that resulted in the quarantine of one ward.*



**1,334**

sick prisoners in the  
country's prisons

**457**

of sick prisoners were in  
serious condition



**The government did not release data on its investigations into alleged torture.**

**Some doctors would not sign their names to medical reports alleging torture due to fear of reprisal. As a result, victims were often unable to get medical documentation that would help prove their claims.**





Although no official figures were available, observers estimated the government held

# 3,000

inmates in solitary confinement during the year.

The use of solitary confinement rose, and some observers assessed it contributed to an increase in the suicide rate in prisons, although official figures were not available.



**The government did not allow NGOs to monitor prisons.**



There were widespread reports of

- police beating detainees,
- subjecting them to prolonged stress positions,
- threats of rape,
- threats to lawyers,
- interference with medical examinations.

Police intervened in 962 demonstrations. As many as **2,800** persons **faced beating and inhuman treatment** claimed they during these police interventions.



## THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON PRACTICES UNDER THE STATE OF EMERGENCY HAD

RECEIVED  
**126,200**  
APPLICATIONS

ADJUDICATED  
**84,000**  
CASES

APPROVED  
**6,700**  
CASES

REJECTED  
**77,600**  
CASES

Critics complained

- the appeals process was opaque, biased, slow,
- and did not respect citizens' rights to due process,
- including by prohibiting defendants from seeing the evidence against them or
- presenting exculpatory evidence in their defense.

**SOME LAWYERS STATED THEY WERE HESITANT TO TAKE CASES, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF SUSPECTS ACCUSED OF PKK OR GULEN MOVEMENT TIES, BECAUSE OF FEAR OF GOVERNMENT REPRISAL, INCLUDING PROSECUTION.**





**PRISON  
OVERCROWDING  
REMAINED A  
SIGNIFICANT  
PROBLEM.**

*On the three-year anniversary of the July 15 coup attempt,* the government announced that **540,000 individuals** had been detained since the coup attempt on grounds of alleged affiliation or connection with the Gulen movement.

Under the previous state of emergency law, authorities could detain persons without charge for up to 14 days. Human rights organizations raised concerns that police authority to hold individuals for up to 12 days without charge increased the risk of mistreatment and torture.

**Without  
charge up  
to 14 days**



"In many cases, lawyers defending those accused of terrorism offenses were arrested themselves." Since 2016 authorities had

**Prosecuted  
1,546 Lawyers**

**Arrested  
Nearly 600**

**Sentenced  
274 to lengthy prison terms.**

In September the Interior Ministry reported the government had **Detained 540,000** persons in connection with the 2016 coup attempt.

Of those, the courts had **Convicted Nearly 30,000** people and another **70,000 were in prison awaiting trial.**

There were **41,000** individuals in prison for terror-related crimes. Of these, **28,000 were Gulen movement related.**



In the aftermath of the July 2016 coup attempt, the Turkish government labeled the movement of self-exiled Fethullah Gulen as the "Fethullah Terrorist Organization" ("FETO").

**"FETO" IS NOT A DESIGNATED TERRORIST  
ORGANIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES.**



The Turkish government continued to refuse to renew the passports of some Turkish citizens with temporary residency permits in other countries on political grounds, claiming they were members of “Gülenist” organizations;

**THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE  
UNABLE TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF  
THESE COUNTRIES.**

For those barred from travel, some chose to leave the country illegally. In October, a boat carrying 19 citizens seeking to flee the country capsized in the Aegean Sea,

**KILLING SEVEN, INCLUDING  
FIVE CHILDREN.**



The government engaged in a worldwide effort to apprehend suspected members of the Gulen movement. There were credible reports that the

**GOVERNMENT EXERTED  
BILATERAL PRESSURE ON OTHER  
COUNTRIES AIMED**

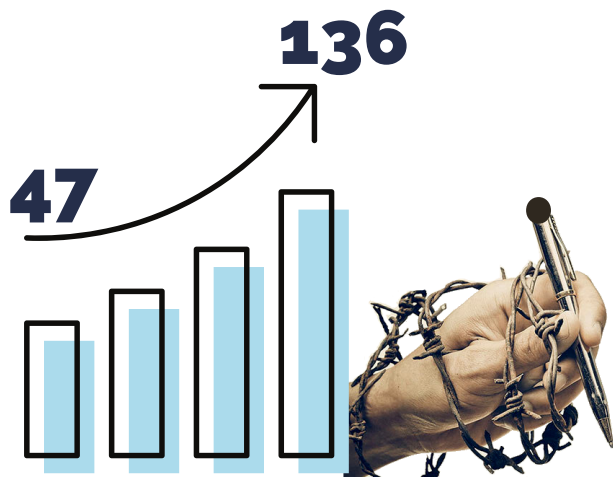
at having them take adverse action against specific individuals, at times without due process.

According to the Savings Deposit Insurance Fund of Turkey, as of September the government had **SEIZED** approximately **1,100 BUSINESSES** worth an estimated

**59.4 billion lira  
(\$10 BILLION)**

since the 2016 coup attempt.



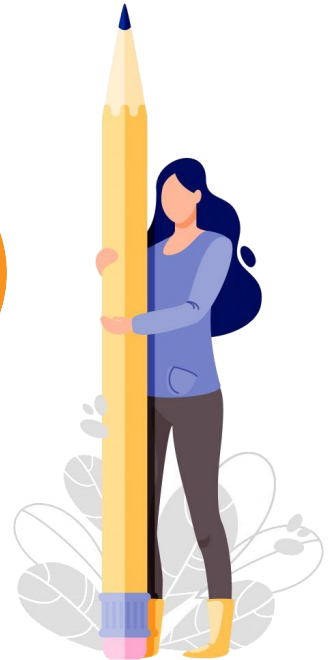
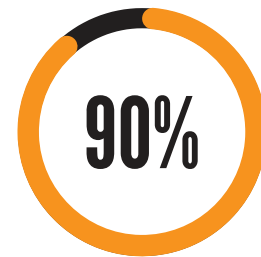


Estimates of the number of

# INCARCERATED JOURNALISTS

ranged from at least 47 to 136.

The government exert power in the administration of 90 percent of the most-watched television stations and most-read national daily newspapers.



65 percent of respondents in Turkey stated, "...concern that openly expressing their views online could get them into trouble with the authorities."

## SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

EXAMINED  
**10,250**

IN LEGAL ACTION  
**3,600 +**

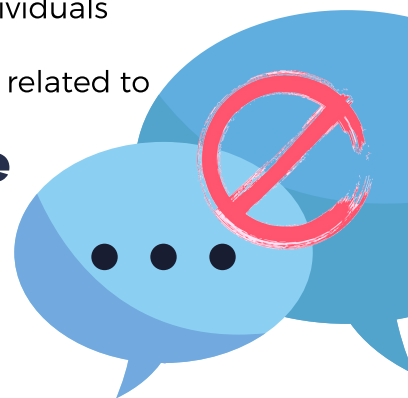
DETAINED  
**1,700**

ARRESTED  
**366**

ACCUSED OF PROPAGANDIZING OR PROMOTING TERROR ORGANIZATIONS, INCITING PERSONS TO ENMITY AND HOSTILITY, OR INSULTING STATE INSTITUTIONS.

The government investigated more than **36,000** individuals and filed criminal cases against more than **6,000** people related to

**accusations they insulted the president or the state.**





[Click Here to See That U.S. Refuses to Accept Turkey's Political Designation of Hizmet Movement](#)

**DONATE...**

**AND MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE...**

If you would like to support Advocates of Silenced Turkey  
you may make your donations by clicking the link below or  
scanning the QR code

<https://silencedturkey.org/donatenow>



**FOLLOW  
US**



@silencedturkey



[www.facebook.com/silencedturkey](https://www.facebook.com/silencedturkey)



[www.youtube.com/AdvocatesofSilencedTurkey](https://www.youtube.com/AdvocatesofSilencedTurkey)



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



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

**SUBSCRIBE  
NOW**