

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners

A person with long hair is seen from behind, sitting in a wooden chair with vertical bars. The person's hands are resting on the bars. The background is dark and textured, with a large red crescent and star symbol visible in the lower left corner.

in  
ERDOGAN'S  
TURKEY

**Special Report**

October, 2021



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





# **Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners IN ERDOGAN'S TURKEY**

**Special Report**

**October, 2021**

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



**Our aim is,**

- To address all forms of human rights violations being perpetrated in Turkey -- including civil, political, economic, social and cultural-- based on the tenets upheld in fundamental human rights documents;
- To speak up against any forms of genocide, crimes against humanity, arbitrary detentions, cases of torture and ill treatment, and discrimination, and stand up for principles and values such as the right to life, the rule of law, the right to privacy, freedom of expression, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and freedom of associations;
- To utilize all human rights advocacy tools, mechanisms, and systems that can possibly be utilized in order to protect and demand the fundamental human rights of those whose voices are being silenced in Turkey and beyond;
- And to hold accountable the perpetrators who are denying individuals in Turkey and beyond their fundamental Human Rights while providing the victims with the opportunity to obtain justice and reparation.

**In order to do so, we use the power of the law to fight the impunity of the perpetrators, their accomplices and the instigators of these crimes; we defend the interests of the victims before both national and international courts and we bring specific cases before the appropriate international human rights bodies, working in close collaboration with local partners and the victims themselves to make sure that the authorities take firm action against such violations.**

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



AST is a 501(c)(3) Not for Profit charitable and educational organization based in NJ, exclusively for defending human and civil rights.

*Copyright © AST, 2021 All publication rights of this work belong to AST.*

*It is forbidden to reproduce, publish and store the texts and pictures in the work with electronic, mechanical, photocopying or any recording system without the written permission of AST*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>PART 1</b>	<b>10</b>
THE CURRENT SITUATION OF PRISONS	10
SICK PRISONERS ARE IGNORED	14
THE SITUATION DURING THE PANDEMIC	18
<b>PART 2</b>	<b>25</b>
INTERNATIONAL LAW PROVISIONS	25
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 45/111	25
INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS	26
NELSON MANDELA RULES	26
EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS	28
LANTSOVA V. RUSSIAN FEDERATION	28
SALAKHOV AND ISLYAMOVA VS. UKRAINE CASE	29
<b>PART 3</b>	<b>30</b>
MOANS THAT FADED ON THE STONE WALLS	30
THE ANATOMY OF A CRACKDOWN	31
1 / MUSTAFA KABAKÇIOĞLU	34
2 / YUSUF ÖZMEN	35
3 / MEVA SELIMOĞLU	36
4 / MERVE AYDOĞAN	37
5 / ABDÜLAZİM ÖZDEMİR	38
6 / TAHSİN MANAV	39
7 / ÜMIT GÖKHASAN	40
8 / BÜŞRA İNAN	40
9 / EMRE TURAN	41
10 / BİLAL SEL	42
11 / HATİCE ÖĞÜT	43
12 / OSMAN GENÇ	43
13 / ASLI KIŞI	44
14 / ADİL BERA IŞIK	44
15 / VEYSEL AVUNAN	45

# TABLE OF

16 / FATMA AŞKIN	46
17 / SEYNUR ÖZDEMİR	46
18 / KADIR ÇEÇ	47
19 / AYŞE ÖZDOĞAN	47
20 / SEVGİ SEZER	49
21 / HİDAYET TOSUN	50
22 / HATİCE EROL	50
23 / ALİ İMRAN CİRİTÇİ	51
24 / YAĞIZ GÜL	51
25 / ALİ ÖZLÜ	52
26 / MUSTAFA KORAY MEHIRLİ	53
27 / KADRI SANCAR	54
28 / HALİL KÜÇÜKER	55
29 / BETÜL AYGÜN	55
30 / RAMAZAN KURU	56
31 / AHMET FERAH	57
32 / ADEM ERDOĞDU	57
33 / MUAZ BAHADIR	58
34 / ÖZGÜR DOĞAN	59
35 / HÜSEYİN KARA,	60
36 / ZÜBEYDE KARA	60
37 / MUHAMMET KOŞAR	60
38 / ÖMER ERTAŞ	61
39 / OĞUZ ASLAN ÖZEN	62
40 / TACETTİN ÖZER	63
41 / GÜLDEN AŞIK	63
42 / AYŞE KURT	64
43 / ADEM KAÇAR	64
44 / ENGİN KARA	65
45 / ŞERİF AGU	65
46 / YUSUF AKKUŞ	66
47 / HARUN KARATEKE	67

# CONTENTS

48 / AHMET AKDOĞAN	68
49 / SINAN BÜYÜKORAL	68
50 / AHMET KARAKUŞ	69
51 / BEKİR BIÇAKÇI	69
52 / RUKİYE KOÇAK	70
53 / AHMET POLAT ÖNEL	70
54 / ÜNAL ÜNEŞ	71
55 / MERYEM KARATEKE	71
56 / ABDULLAH ASLAN	72
57 / FADİME COŞAR	72
58 / TURGAY DOĞAN	72
59 / SEVİM DEMİRDELEN	73
60 / UĞUR BAŞBUĞA	73
61 / BİLAL KARAKURT	73
62 / ÖMER ŞAMLI	74
63 / CANAN UTANGAÇ	75
64 / YÜKSEL KIZILKAYA	76
65 / SÜLEYMAN SAİD	76
66 / RABİA ERBAY	76
67 / UĞUR YELOĞLU	77
68 / ARİN YILMAZ	77
69 / CELAL AFŞAR	78
70 / ABDÜLKADİR TURAN	79
71 / DOĞAN OLCABAY	79
72 / HASAN GEMİ	80
73 / YAHYA ÖZDEMİR	80
74 / ÖMER FARUK	81
75 / AYHAN GENÇAY	81
76 / BİRSEN HASIRCI	81
77 / EMRAH MEYDAN	82
78 / FATMA ZEHRA BABACAN	82
79 / BAHATTİN TÜRKASLAN	83

# TABLE OF

80 / AHMET MAKAL	83
81 / EMRAH ÇELİK	83
82 / MUSTAFA AYDIN	84
83 / MALİK CULA	84
84 / DENİZ HAKAN ŞEN	85
85 / SAVAŞ UYAR	85
86 / ERDAL DENGİZ	86
87 / YAHYA KARADENİZ	87
88 / SONGÜL YANAK	87
89 / MUSTAFA DEMİRTAŞ	88
90 / KAZIM AVCI	88
91 / MEHMET EMİN ULUTAŞ	88
92 / AZİZ BAĞLAN	89
93 / ABDULKERİM CAMKURT	89
94 / FATMA BEKTAŞ	90
95 / MEHMET EMİN ÖZKAN	90
96 / HAKKI SARAÇ	91
97 / FUAT ÖZKAN	92
98 / ERDEM KIZILKAYA	92
99 / ALİ ORHAN	93
100 / SADI ŞAKACI	93
101 / ALİ OSMAN KARAHAN	94
102 / MUSTAFA TÜRK	94
103 / MEHMET GELEN	95
104 / SEBAHATTİN AKBAŞ	95
105 / MELİH GASGAR	96
106 / FERHAN DEMİR	96
107 / MEVLÜT ÖZTAŞ	97
108 / VEHBİ YILDIZ	98
109 / ZÜLKÜF TEKİN	98
110 / GÜRBÜZ DÖNMEZ	99
111 / YAVUZ SELİM BURGU	99

# CONTENTS

112 / TUBANUR AYÇİÇEK	100
113 / KEREM SABRİ KÜTÜKÇÜ	101
114 / DEVRİM AYIK	102
115 / ELİF ŞAHİN	103
116 / MUKADDER ALAKUŞ	104
117 / EKREM ÖĞDEM	104
118 / YASEMİN ALADAĞ	105
119 / AYTAÇ ABALİ	105
120 / DAMLA AKÇAKAYA	106
121 / YUSUF PEKMEZCİ	106
122 / YELİZ KURTOK	107
123 / ENGİN EROL	108
124 / YAKUP DURAN	108
125 / CELAL BÜLBÜL	109
126 / NURCAN BIÇER ÖNER	109
127-128 / EBRU & TUNAHAN BABİES	110
129 / MEHMET ALİ DURMAN	110
130 / LEVENT YAŞAR	111
131 / İSMET ÖZÇELİK	111
132 / ESRA ÇEPIK	112
133 / BİRGÜL BULUT	112
134 / GÜZİN MIZRAK	113
135 / SERDİN CENGİZ	114
136 / HAYATİ KAYTAN	115
137 / FATİH TERZİOĞLU	115
<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>TABLE 3: DECEASED PRISONERS IN THE LAST DECADE</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>TABLE 4: A LIST OF INMATES WITH CRITICAL HEALTH CONDITIONS</b>	<b>128</b>

# INTRODUCTION

---

The jails in Turkey have long been mentioned in the same breath as inhumane actions and the breach of even the most basic rights, especially against the political prisoners. The violations have reached to unprecedented levels in parallel with the emergence of the current political-Islamist authoritarianism. The oppressive regime under President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's rule instrumentalized the country's legal system to muzzle the political dissidence, turning the prisons into concentration camps. The number of inmates behind the bars has reached historic highs. Hosting convicts much more than their capacities, the prisons, which were already substantially subpar, have fallen way below the minimum acceptable standards for human dignity. Patients in particular bore the most of the brunt of this precipitated deterioration of the prison conditions and the wrath of the Turkish regime against its opponents.

People are suffering from torments of negligence; even some have died as authorities have turned deaf ears to their cries of anguish while diseases and hardships of old age were gnawing at their flesh and bones. Stories of tragedies, heart-rending images of the victims who died in solitary confinement cells alone, miserable outcries of prisoners who sent letters after letters to human rights watch associations or reactions from international bodies were not enough to cause even a slightest move in the needle of the moral compass of the Turkish authorities. Erdoğan and his political allies, as well as their supporters, even demanded an increase in the pressure on the political prisoners. Even some judges who released a number of journalists due to the lack of evidence were expelled from their duties,<sup>1</sup> while their replacements hastily ordered the arrest of these journalists even before they were let leave the prisons.

Even the photograph showing the frozen body of Mustafa Kabakçioğlu, who was a deputy policy inspector dismissed in September 2016 for alleged membership to the Gülen movement and who died on a plastic chair in a cold, damp, single-person cell in the basement of Gümüşhane Penitentiary Institution<sup>2</sup>, did not cause any reaction other than weak public reactions. The photo, which was announced in a Parliamentary general session by HDP Kocaeli Deputy Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu, who spent almost his entire life fighting against human rights violations in Turkey, could not find its place even as news in the mainstream media under the intense pressure of the country's autocratic administration. The Ministry of Justice

---

1. Tahliye kararı veren hakimler açığa alındı (Judges who ordered release were suspended), CNN Turk, <https://www.cnntrk.com/turkiye/son-dakika-tahliye-karari-veren-hakimler-aciga-alindi>

2. Photographs of deputy police inspector who died in prison quarantine show criminal neglect, SCF, <https://stockholmcf.org/photographs-of-deputy-police-inspector-who-died-in-prison-quarantine-show-criminal-neglect/>



did not even respond to a lawmaker's questions. Let alone inspecting the negligence that led to the death of Kabakçioğlu, the prosecution instead started an investigation into how his pictures were leaked.

In other occasions, no one was found responsible for the deaths of journalist Mevlüt Öztaş and director Fatih Terzioğlu, who caught cancer in prisons. They were not treated, were not given a timely postponement of execution and their release was delayed despite the reports that they could not stay in prisons. They both died. Old people in their 80s, incapable of taking care of their needs on their own and in need of someone's care at any moment, have been ruthlessly left at the mercy of death in prisons, despite no serious charges being brought against them.

There is a banality of evil, as Hannah Arendt conceptualized it. Officials don't even think about whether their actions are evil. They do torture with a great sense of duty, enthusiasm, and civic consciousness. Every political prisoner they cause their suffering, misery, even death, is just another brick in the wall of patriotism.

The power partnership led by Erdoğan is acting with such an approach in which cruelty towards certain groups has become so banal and common. In Turkish prisons, complaints that the right to life of prisoners, especially political convicts, are disregarded, and that prison administrations are mostly indifferent in the face of their health problems, can only cause muffled reverberations in the domestic and international public opinion. In general, the report in your hand aims to contribute to the chorus to shatter the exasperating silence against the agonies of the ailing prisoners. It aims to raise a voice on behalf of the silenced masses captive in the Turkish prisons from all walks of life. In particular, this report aims to carve a mark in the history, registering the records of atrocities against the people who had no crime other than refusing to bow to authoritarianism. All in all, this report aims to hold a magnifying glass on the problems experienced by sick prisoners by compiling the information reflected in the media, the activities and reports of the associations operating in this field, official and unofficial statistics as well as the opinions and experiences of the prisoners and their relatives.

## PART 1

### THE CURRENT SITUATION OF PRISONS

Under the political Islamist Erdoğan regime, which has been ruling Turkey since 2002, the number of prisons reached the highest level in history. With Erdoğan's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) abandoning libertarian discourse and policies and turning to one-man rule in the country, it is striking that prison populations have also increased. The prisons were filled with political prisoners far exceeding their current capacity especially after the failed coup attempt in 2015, with the crackdown carried out against the members of the Gülen movement, an international, voluntary-based education and dialogue community, which the Turkish government designated as a terror organization after the corruption allegations in 2013.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has been targeting followers of the Gülen movement, inspired by Turkish Muslim cleric Fethullah Gülen, since the corruption investigations of December 17-25, 2013, which implicated then-Prime Minister Erdoğan, his family members and his inner circle. Erdoğan dismissed the investigations as a Gülenist coup and conspiracy against his government. He initiated a massive witch hunt against the members of the movement, also known as Hizmet, all across the country and even the world. He intensified the crackdown on the movement following an abortive putsch on July 15, 2016 that he accused Gülen of masterminding. Gülen and the movement strongly deny involvement in the coup attempt or any terrorist activity.

The Turkish Statistical Institute's (TurkStat) numbers demonstrate that the number of detainees and convicts, which was 59,429 in 2002, increased approximately fivefold in 2019.<sup>3</sup> As detailed in Table 1, there were 56,000 detainees and convicts in prisons in 1970, while in 1972 the number was 64,889. The number of detainees and convicts, which was 70,172 in 1980, when the 12 September Military Coup took place, increased to 79,786 in 1981. If it is taken into account that the prison population remained below 80,000 even after the 1980 coup, which took place after intense internal conflicts, the awfulness of the current situation of the prisons will be more clearly comprehended.

**To put it more concretely, with respect to Turkey's population in 1980-81, 1,813 out of every 1 million people were in prison. Nevertheless, as of today, 2,625 people out of every 1 million are living behind bars.**

3. Penitentiary Statistics, 2019, <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Prison-Statistics-2019-33625>

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

**TABLE 1: PRISON POPULATION IN TURKEY, 1998-2019**

YEARS	TOTAL
1998	66,096
1999	67,676
2000	50,628
2001	55,804
2002	59,512
2003	63,796
2004	58,016
2005	55,966
2006	70,524
2007	90,732
2008	103,435
2009	115,920
2010	120,194
2011	128,253
2012	136,638
2013	144,098
2014	158,690
2015	177,262
2016	200,727
2017	232,340
2018	264,842
2019	291,546

**SOURCE: PRISON STATISTICS, 1998-2019**

**NOTE. DATA ARE GIVEN AS AT 31 DECEMBER.**

According to the data of the Ministry of Justice the total number of all detainees and convicts in Turkish prisons was 287,094 as of the end of June 2021<sup>4</sup>. Another set of data, announced by the Ministry of Justice as of April 2021, shows that there are a total of 371 penal institutions

4. Cinsiyete ve infaz durumuna göre Ceza İnfaz Kurumları Mevcutları (Number of prisoners in Penitentiary Institutions by gender and execution status), CTE, <https://cte.adalet.gov.tr/Resimler/Dokuman/istatistik/istatistik-1.pdf>

in Turkey and the capacity of these institutions is 250,576 people, indicating an approximate figure of 15 percent overcapacity that causes prison wards to be overpacked for the most part. Of these prisons, 264 are closed prisons, 80 are independent open prisons, 4 are children's education centers, 9 are closed for women, 7 are for women and 7 are closed for children.<sup>5</sup>

The Turkish state doesn't pay attention to objections to violations of rights in prisons that house detainees/convicts above their capacity. In a way that can be interpreted as an indication of the politicization of the judiciary in Turkey, individual applications to the Constitutional Court (AYM) cannot yield legal and humanitarian results. For instance, Mehmet Hanefi Baki, who was detained in Osmaniye No. 1 T-Type Closed Prison, made an individual application to the AYM after his formal complaints that the A-38 ward where he was detained housed more detainees than its capacity were not heeded. Baki claimed that the ban on ill-treatment was violated because he was kept in a crowded room in the Penitentiary Institution. The prison administration's defense was to say that "The average number of rooms A-38 is 25, the per capita usage area is 4.25 square meters, the number of bunk beds allocated for sleeping and resting in the ward is 16, and about nine detainees had to sleep on floor beds due to overcapacity." Although the administration admitted that the ward was hosting detainees beyond its capacity, the Constitutional Court did not give a decision of violation of rights in the hearing dated 27 July 2018.<sup>6</sup>

There is no official data on how many of them are sick with chronic and severe diseases or how many inmates are too old to stay in prisons. However, there is some data that certain civil society organizations have mustered through their own research. For example, the Human Rights Association (İHD), one of the associations that carries out the most serious and comprehensive studies on the victimization of prisoners, says that 1,605 patients, 604 of whom are seriously ill, are fighting for their lives in prisons across Turkey.<sup>7</sup> The already very negative approach and indifference towards sick and old prisoners became much more severe, especially during the new type of coronavirus epidemic called COVID 19, which affected the whole world throughout 2020 and most of 2021. A report launched by the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) showed that the number of prisoners who lost their lives in prisons between 2002 and 2018 was 3,432.<sup>8</sup> A relatively limited list, compiled from media coverage of deaths of prisoners, can be found in Table 3 at the end of this report.

---

5. General information note published by the General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses for the basic figures on Turkish prisons is available at <https://cte.adalet.gov.tr/Home/SayfaDetay/cik-genel-bilgi>

6. For the review and considerations of the Constitutional Court regarding the application made by Mehmet Hanifi Baki, see <https://www.anayasa.gov.tr/icsayfalar/basin/kararlarailiskinbasinduyurulari/bireyselbasvuru/detay/180.html>

7. Kelepçeli ameliyat, tek kişilik hücrede ölüm, keyfi uygulamalar: Pandemide cezaevlerinin durumu (Handcuffed surgery, death in a solitary cell, arbitrary practices: The situation of prisons in the pandemic), Euronews, <https://tr.euronews.com/2020/10/26/turkiye-de-hasta-mahkumlar-cezaevlerinde-nas-il-muamele-goruyor>

8. 20 bin mahkûm nöbetleşe uyuyor (20,000 prisoners sleep in turns), Birgün, <https://www.birgun.net/haber/20-bin-mahk%C3%BBm-nobetlese-uyuyor-215162>

Deputy Gergerlioğlu, who was at the forefront of the fight against the unlawfulness of the political power in general to suppress the opposition, and especially against the injustices in prisons, and who himself was imprisoned by the Erdoğan regime for this cause in 2021, was also at the forefront of creating public opinion about the suffering of sick prisoners. According to him, the deaths occurred due to the failure of timely release of sick convicts. "The deaths are murders. The perpetrator is political power, state institutions that share evil, and the Ministry of Justice itself," he said.<sup>9</sup>

Gergerlioğlu said that, "Prison administrations, judiciary organs, deputies, Ministry of Justice officials and doctors of some hospitals treat prisoners 'according to the type of crime.' "The following words of the deputy reveal the picture with all its clarity: "People are dying in plain sight. This shows that there is no human value. Detainees are not released due to political considerations. The situation of sick prisoners is left to the discretion of the prison managers and no one questions them. Courts do not release people despite medical reports. We tell the Ministry, we speak in the Parliament, we convey it to the prison administrations, we call the judges and prosecutors, but it is as if there is a wall in front of us. This wall is the state with all its institutions. We see the most concrete countenance of the state, which never takes a step back, never regrets, and says 'it can happen' even in the face of a most painful event. We see a great injustice."

An extensive report by the Platform for Peace and Justice demonstrated how far the Turkish prisons are from meeting the internationally accepted standards to accommodate detainees and prisoners. The report stated:<sup>10</sup> "It has been observed that the facilities in 72 out of 80 prisons are inadequate. To name a few examples: the gym in the Karabuk Prison is used as a ward and there are only 3 shower facilities and 3 toilets in a ward where 100 detainees are staying together. In the women's section of the Tarsus Prison, 70 women are detained in a ward for 17 people, and in the men's section, 60 detainees are staying in a ward for 26 people. In the Düzce Prison, 25 people are detained in a ward for 8 people; in the Bursa TYPE H Prison, 18 detainees are staying in a ward for 8 people; in the Bandırma Type T Prison, 42 detainees are staying in a ward for 22 people, in the İzmir Aliaga Closed Prison, 28 detainees are staying in a ward for 12 people; in the Manisa Type T Closed Prison, 30 detainees are staying in a ward for 14 people; in the Osmaniye Type E T Closed Prison, 24 people are detained in a ward for 10 people; 42 detainees are staying in a ward for 15 people in the Burdur Type E Closed Prison; ... while in the Manisa Type E Closed Prison for women, in a space of 33 square meters, 30 inmates are being detained, which means only 1 square meter is allowed per person. Since the number of toilets and shower facilities were built for the ideal capacity of the prisons and because the number of detainees staying in one ward is well over that

---

9. Kronos, Gergerlioğlu: Hasta mahkumlar öleceği anlaşıncaya bırakılıyor (Gergerlioğlu: Sick prisoners are released when it is understood that they will die), <https://kronos34.news/tr/gergerlioglu-hasta-mahpuslara-dusman-hukuk-uygulaniyor/>

10. In Prison 2017, "A Comprehensive Report on the Prison Conditions in Turkey", Platform for Peace & Justice, p. 8. <https://peacejustice.eu/wp-content/uploads/IN-PRISON-2017.pdf>

capacity, every 25-30 detainees have to share 1 toilet and 1 shower and this causes long queues. Taking into consideration the limited availability of hot water as well, the opportunity for taking a shower is very limited. For instance, in some prisons, such as the Bandırma Type T Prison, each detainee can only take a shower once a week, and for only 5 minutes. In prisons with poor conditions, due to the shortage of beds, some detainees have to sleep on bedding laid out on the floor.”

Prisons under such poor conditions are particularly hard to tackle for prisoners who are already struggling with the frailties of various health problems and old age.

## **Sick Prisoners are Ignored**

It is not a new situation that the Turkish state does not pay the necessary attention to the health problems of the detainees and that it does not take into account even their most basic human rights. It is almost as if the state considers diseases as part of their punishment. The following sections of this report will detail these violations through some case studies. Here, we will outline a picture of official neglect, which has for long become systematic. Applications during the pandemic period will also be evaluated within this context.

Violation of the right to health also leads to the violation of the ban on ill-treatment. Turkey deprives prisoners of health services and treats them incompatible with human dignity. According to both the international agreements to which it is a party and the prevailing provisions of its domestic law, this behavior constitutes a very serious crime that can be considered as torture. Despite the risk of being accused of torture, the state does not show any will to take a step towards self-correction.

For instance, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment Article 2 states that “No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture. An order from a superior officer or a public authority may not be invoked as a justification of torture.”<sup>11</sup> Despite this clear provision in this international agreement, of which Turkey is a party,<sup>12</sup> the Erdoğan government is displaying an undisguised, brazen persecution against its political rivals that cannot even be tolerated in the law of war.

Likewise, the Nelson Mandela Rules, Rule Number 24 (1) makes it clear that ‘Prisoners should enjoy the same standards of health care that are available in the community, and should have access to necessary health-care services free of charge without discrimination on the grounds

---

11. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cat.aspx>

12. For a legal framework concerning Turkey's international commitments to fight against inhumane treatment and any kind of torture, please see <https://www.hrw.org/legacy/reports/1997/turkey/Turkey-10.htm>

of their legal status'. The Rule Number 27 also asserts that "all prisons shall ensure prompt access to medical attention in urgent cases. Prisoners who require specialized treatment or surgery shall be transferred to specialized institutions or to civil hospitals. Where a prison service has its own hospital facilities, they shall be adequately staffed and equipped to provide prisoners referred to them with appropriate treatment and care."<sup>13</sup> A more comprehensive and detailed content on the texts of international law concerning the treatment of prisoners will be presented in the second part of this report.

As for the domestic legal framework, Article 56 of the Constitution, which states that "Everyone has the right to live in a healthy and balanced environment", sets the most fundamental principle in this regard. In the same vein, the paragraph b of the Article 6 of the law number 5275 on Imprisonment and Security Measures states that "It shall be ensured that convicts maintain an orderly life in penal execution institutions. The lack of freedom that is made necessary by the prison sentence shall be suffered under material and moral conditions that ensure respect for human dignity. Other rights of convicts which are laid down in the Constitution may be restricted in accordance with the rules envisaged in this Law, subject to the fundamental goals of execution."<sup>14</sup> The paragraph f of the same law asserts: "In penal execution institutions, all measures must be taken to protect the convicts' right to life and their bodily and mental integrity."

Although laws, rules, reason and conscience state in unison that there can be no justification for preventing the treatment of sick prisoners, the practices in Turkish prisons do not comply with this universal principle in most cases. As will be shown in detail in the Part 4 of this report where some individual cases were reported, patients are sometimes banned from hospitals for purely arbitrary reasons. Although they can be examined in some way, the treatment of patients who are convicted, especially for political reasons, is prevented. Medicines are not given regularly. Their diet is not taken care of.

Öztürk Türkdoğan, Chairman of the İHD, which stands out among the non-governmental organizations that strive for the rights of prisoners, points out the attitude of the Forensic Medicine Institute as one of the main reasons why sick prisoners are not released.<sup>15</sup> Forensic Medicine is reportedly issuing a diagnosis of chronic disease for a person with a severe medical condition, which must mean immediate release under normal conditions. The chronic disease diagnostics, however, means that the convict in question can continue staying in prison. In some other cases, the release of those sentenced to aggravated life sentences is blocked by

---

13. United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), UN Doc A/RES/70/175 (17 December 2015), Rule 27

14. Law no 5275, Imprisonment and Security Measures, LawsTurkey, <http://www.lawsturkey.com/law/the-law-on-the-execution-of-penalties-and-security-measures-5275>

15. Cezaevindeki hasta mahpuslar için vakit daralıyor (Time is running out for sick prisoners in prison), Deutsche Welle, <https://www.dw.com/tr/cezaevindeki-hasta-mahpuslar-i%C3%A7in-vakit-daral%C4%B1yor/a-53638564>



the execution prosecutor's office on the grounds that the life sentences cannot be suspended, even if the convicts are terminally ill.

An inhumane point of view, especially towards the members of the Hizmet movement and the country's Kurdish population, stands out as an important reason. The report will elaborate numerous examples of people who have never been involved in violence or crime in their lives, but were incarcerated simply because they are close to the Gülen movement. Although these people struggle with serious illnesses in prison, they are especially deprived of treatment opportunities. Their eviction requests are denied, and in some cases they are deliberately sent to die. Cihan News Agency's Uşak Correspondent Mevlüt Öztaş, despite his terminal pancreatic cancer, was not released, his treatment was delayed, and finally he passed away shortly after he was released, is just one of the dozens of examples in this report. Sabri Kaya, 55, who has a severe heart disease, was recorded as another similar tragic case. Kaya has been taken to the emergency room many times. There were files full of medical reports about him, stating how serious his situation was. Applications were made to the ministries of health and justice many times. Despite this, he struggled to cling to life on the brink of death for years. The report was given that he "cannot stay in prison" in the hospital where he was urgently taken to due to intestinal bleeding. He was finally released, but died the day he was released from prison.

The treatment against 85-year-old Mehmet Emin Özkan was no different. Özkan was arrested in the Lice district of Diyarbakır in 1993, in line with the statements of two confessors, for the assassination of Brigadier General Bahtiyar Aydın. The confessors later retracted their statements. But Özkan was not left. He was sentenced to aggravated life imprisonment. Özkan's request for release in 2020 due to the coronavirus was rejected on the grounds that "there is a suspicion of escape."

These are just a few examples to demonstrate how hell-bent the Turkish authorities have become to ignore the sense of humanity completely when dealing with the followers of the political prisoners. Of course, such ill practices are not only against them. There are standard malpractices applied to almost every prisoner. A comprehensive list of common violations will be provided below. Still, we can count a few of the most common complaints here. Sick prisoners who are transferred to hospital are kept in the prison vehicle in the absence of a special ward in the hospital. These vehicles are not suitable for even a healthy person, let alone a sick one. Very sick prisoners are kept in handcuffs for hours in the back of prison trucks, in narrow, iron caged places with no windows, so small that they cannot even stretch their legs, in the heat of summer and cold of winter.<sup>16</sup>

This is so common a problem given that there are just a couple of hospitals across Turkey that

---

16. Kelepçeli ameliyat, tek kişilik hücrede ölüm, keyfi uygulamalar: Pandemide cezaevlerinin durumu (Handcuffed surgery, death in a solitary cell, arbitrary practices: The situation of prisons in the pandemic), Euronews, <https://tr.euronews.com/2020/10/26/turkiye-de-hasta-mahkumlar-cezaevlerinde-nas-il-muamele-goruyor>



embodies a sick prisoner ward. Even in the capital city of the country, Ankara, there is only one hospital that has such a ward. What is worse, these wards are located in the basements of hospitals. Access to the doctor and nurse is difficult because the rooms are stuffy and far from the relevant departments.

Another common issue is that even though a patient convict has a Forensic Medicine Institute report stating that they cannot stay in prison, courts may not issue a decision to postpone their execution. For example, staff colonel Mustafa Barış Avıalan from Sincan prison in Ankara was suffering from advanced heart disease. He had a heart attack, his heart muscles were severely deformed, and his heart was working only 15 percent. The Forensic Medicine Institute issued a report in favor of the postponement of the execution, but the court did not give the decision to postpone the execution. So even though the Forensic Medicine Report is the only way to be released, it is not binding.

In some prisons, patients can go to infirmary only once a month. Doctors usually come to prisons once a week and stay half a day. They have to solve a lot of people's problems in this short time. Naturally, they cannot show the necessary attention to everybody.

The infirmary doctor may refer the patient prisoner to a hospital if he deems necessary. If the prisoner has a life-threatening illness or a condition that seriously threatens his mental health, he must be referred to the Forensic Medicine Institute. The prisoner may also request it with a petition to the prison. In any case, referrals to the Forensic Medicine Institute are only possible through the approval of the prosecutor's office. If the Forensic Medicine Institute reports that he cannot stay in prison, only then the prisoner may be released. The reports obtained from health boards of full-fledged hospitals determined by the Ministry of Justice are also accepted, but these reports must still be approved by the Forensic Medicine Institute.

Nevertheless, if the hospitals or the Forensic Medicine issue a report that the disease "does not pose a vital risk", a release may still be possible. In that case, the prison administration must submit a "report of good behavior" to confirm that the person in question will not pose a serious danger to public security. However, prison administrations usually conduct subjective evaluations for convicts, rather than on clearly-defined objective criteria. In fact, an authority to make such a critical decision has been arbitrarily given to the prison administrations. If the person does not have a life-threatening disease but at the same time is unable to sustain his/her life on his own, the prison administration may still ignore the medical report although it clearly asks for a release.

These cases are not isolated instances. Negligence towards patients has become systematic. Complaints are constantly rising from all over the country. The number of complaints received only by İHD in 2020 alone was 1,182. Of these, 1,128 were directly submitted by the prisoner due to the violation of their rights. In 54 cases, prisoners applied to the association through their families, relatives or lawyers.

According to the data of the Civil Society Association on the Penal Execution System (CISST), applications from 140 different prisons came from the official recognition of the coronavirus epidemic in late-March until the end of June 2021. The capacity problem always has an important place in the regular reporting work of CISST. Prisoners report that their wards are crowded, the beds are lined next to each other, they have to sleep in this close proximity, they cannot maintain social distance, and the prisoners staying in different wards in open prisons have to come together in common areas and cafeterias.

## **The Situation during the Pandemic**

After the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the new type of coronavirus, called COVID-19, as a pandemic on March 30, 2020, various countries started taking measures to prevent its spread in prisons. Before we take a look at the measures Turkey has taken, it would be suitable to provide a few examples of the steps taken in some countries for the sake of comparison. In Italy, which is one of the countries most affected by the first wave of the epidemic, restrictions were imposed on family visits and open views within the scope of COVID-19 measures in various prisons. These obstacles led to riots. There were even prisoners who lost their lives during the riots.<sup>17</sup> Some countries such as Spain, France, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria have completely suspended open visitations. Some countries have compensated for missed visits with alternative communication channels, such as video conferencing or telephone conversations of increased duration.<sup>18</sup>

Norway abolished the use of double and multi-bed cells and reduced prison capacity.<sup>19</sup> 54,000 prisoners were temporarily released in Iran.<sup>20</sup> In Europe, temporary evacuations were limited. 20 out of 43 European countries released 118,000 detainees through alternative methods such as amnesty and conditional release.<sup>21</sup>

---

17. Death toll rises from Italy's coronavirus prison riots, Reuters, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-italy-prisons-idUSKBN20X2DG>, also see, Koronavirüs (Covid-19): İtalya'da virüse karşı alınan karantina önlemleri ülke çapında uygulanacak (Coronavirus (Covid-19): Quarantine measures taken against the virus in Italy will be implemented nationwide), BBC, <https://www.bbc.com/turkce/haberler-dunya-51809558>

18. Appeal by European NGOs involved in the field of prison health and in the defence of the right to health protection for prisoners, p. 3., European Prison Litigation Network, [http://www.prisonlitigation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-19-Prison-declaration\\_ENG\\_Updated\\_31.03.2020.pdf](http://www.prisonlitigation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-19-Prison-declaration_ENG_Updated_31.03.2020.pdf)

19. Prevention Measures in European Prisons against COVID-19, The European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services (EuroPris), <https://www.europris.org/directorate-of-norwegian-correctional-service-no>

20. Coronavirus: Iran temporarily frees 54,000 prisoners to combat spread, BBC, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-51723398>

21. Avrupa cezaevleri COVID-19 için boşaldı (European prisons emptied for COVID-19), Deutsche Welle, <https://www.dw.com/tr/avrupa-cezaevleri-covid-19-için-boşaldı/a-53853849>

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

**TABLE 2: NUMBER OF INMATES AND PRISON POPULATION RATES ON 1 JANUARY, 15 APRIL, 15 JUNE AND 15 SEPTEMBER 2022**

COUNTRY	TOTAL POPULATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF INMATES ON 01.01.2020	TOTAL NUMBER OF INMATES ON 15.04.2020	TOTAL NUMBER OF INMATES ON 15.06.2020	TOTAL NUMBER OF INMATES ON 15.09.2020	PRISON POPULATION RATE ON 01.01.2020	PRISON POPULATION RATE ON 15.04.2020	PRISON POPULATION RATE ON 15.06.2020	PRISON POPULATION RATE ON 15.09.2020
Russian Fed.	143,787,000	523,928	517,028	499,406	NA	364.4	359.6	347.3	NA
<b>Turkey</b>	<b>83,154,997</b>	<b>291,959</b>	<b>292,893</b>	<b>183,873</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>351.1</b>	<b>352.2</b>	<b>221.1</b>	<b>NA</b>
UK: England & Wales	59,160,490	82,868	81,454	79,713	79,185	140.1	137.7	134.7	133.8
Poland	37,958,138	74,130	71,836	69,894	69,065	195.3	189.3	184.1	182
France	67,098,824	70,651	62,387	59,359	61,174	105.3	93	88.5	91.2
Italy	60,244,639	60,769	55,030	53,530	54,176	100.9	91.3	88.9	89.9
Spain	47,329,981	58,520	57,680	55,574	55,433	123.6	121.9	117.4	117.1
Czech Republic	10,693,939	21,056	20,930	20,259	19,887	196.9	195.7	189.4	186
Azerbaijan	10,067,108	20,972	21,008	20,995	21,253	208.3	208.7	208.6	211.1
Romania	19,317,984	20,578	20,492	20,178	21,128	106.5	106.1	104.5	109.4
Hungary	9,769,526	16,308	16,551	16,493	16,708	166.9	169.4	168.8	171
Portugal	10,295,909	12,634	11,677	10,877	11,060	122.7	113.4	105.6	107.4
Serbia	6,926,705	11,044	10,900	10,717	10,598	159.4	157.4	154.7	153
Greece	10,709,739	10,891	11,296	11,448	11,457	101.7	105.5	106.9	107
Belgium	11,549,888	10,883	9,683	9,972	10,455	94.2	83.8	86.3	90.5
Slovak Republic	5,457,873	10,625	10,540	10,537	10,657	194.7	193.1	193.1	195.3
Netherlands	17,407,585	9,981	9,097	8,886	9,098	57.3	52.3	51	52.3
Georgia	3,716,858	9,745	9,471	9,266	NA	262.2	254.8	249.3	NA
Austria	8,901,064	9,060	8,897	8,548	NA	101.8	100	96	NA
UK: Scotland	5,500,000	8,142	7,359	6,907	7,437	148	133.8	125.6	135.2
Bulgaria	6,951,482	7,366	7,553	7,407	6,427	106	108.7	106.6	92.5

22. Aebi, Marcelo F. and Mélanie M. Tiago, Prisons and Prisoners in Europe in Pandemic Times: An evaluation of the medium-term impact of the COVID-19 on prison populations, available at [https://www.europris.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Prisons-and-the-COVID-19\\_2nd-Publication\\_201109.pdf](https://www.europris.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Prisons-and-the-COVID-19_2nd-Publication_201109.pdf)

## Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

Switzerland	8,606,033	6,906	NA	NA	NA	80.2	NA	NA	NA
Sweden	10,327,589	6,719	7,000	7,123	7,106	65.1	67.8	69	68.8
Moldova	4,018,000	6,716	6,583	6,551	6,508	167.1	163.8	163	162
Lithuania	2,794,090	6,138	6,018	5,676	5,523	219.7	215.4	203.1	197.7
Albania	2,845,955	5,312	4,885	4,781	4,648	186.7	171.6	168	163.3
Denmark	5,822,763	3,955	3,968	3,905	4,167	67.9	68.1	67.1	71.6
Ireland	4,963,839	3,950	3,847	NA	NA	79.6	77.5	NA	NA
Croatia	4,058,165	3,533	3,413	3,309	NA	87.1	84.1	81.5	NA
Latvia	1,907,675	3,414	3,319	3,116	3,171	179	174	163.3	166.2
Norway	5,367,580	3,026	2,653	2,637	3,080	56.4	49.4	49.1	57.4
Germany	83,166,711	NA	NA	59,487	NA	NA	NA	71.5	NA
Ukraine	41,732,779	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Others	20,212,205	16,691	15,785	12,458	9,927	1,303.20	1,202.90	943.8	818.1

With the provisional Article 9 added to the Law No. 5275 on the Execution of Penalties and Security Measures with the Law No. 7242, some of the prisoners were released on probation. The article was as follows: "Due to the COVID-19 epidemic in our country, those in open penitentiary institutions and convicts in closed penitentiary institutions who are entitled to be allocated to open penitentiary institutions, convicts who are sentenced to be executed by means of probation within the scope of Article 105/A, and convicts who benefit from probation in accordance with Article 106 or other laws are deemed to be on leave until 31/5/2020. In case the epidemic continues, this period may be extended three times by the Ministry of Justice upon the recommendation of the Ministry of Health, not exceeding two months each time. The provisions of Articles 95 and 97 shall apply to those deemed to be on leave pursuant to this paragraph." Although this is the case, the leave periods were extended for two months on January 31, 2021 and March 31, 2021, according to the announcements on the General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses (CTE) website. Finally, the COVID -19 leave periods given to convicts on 28 May 2021 were extended again until the end of July 2021. The number of inmates preventively released until 15.06.2020 was 114.460, lowering the prison density from 125.2 percent to 77.7 percent.

As of 14 March 2020, it was decided to stop open and closed visits, as well as special permissions, use of private rooms for spouses in institutions, activities carried out in conjunction with other wards, and transfers to other institutions. All these counted matters, excluding open and closed visits, were suspended until March 1, 2021. Meetings with lawyers were allowed to be held in a closed place in closed viewing areas by complying with the announcements recommended by the Scientific Committee. In order to ensure the continuity of the convicts and detainees' relations with the outside world and to be rehabilitated, they were given the right to make additional phone calls instead of the closed and open visits that could not be made in this process. The

duration of the phone call, which was 10 minutes before the pandemic, was determined as 20 minutes. In practice, it was limited to only one number calling condition.

Although Turkey is one of the top countries in terms of the number of prisoners released due to the pandemic compared to other countries,<sup>23</sup> those released were generally convicted of serious crimes including even homicide. While mafia members, thieves and even sexual offenders were released, no mercy was shown to political prisoners. Rights organizations, including Amnesty International, published a joint statement arguing that Law No. 7242 would block the release of political prisoners and called on the government not to discriminate in measures taken to mitigate the serious health risks posed by COVID-19.<sup>24</sup> Similarly, the Bar Human Rights Committee of England & Wales criticized the fact that political prisoners were not released from prison and called on the government not to discriminate.<sup>25</sup> The changes in prison populations in Turkey and some European countries before and during the epidemic are shown in Table 2.

United Nations (UN) officials called for the evacuation of pregnant women, the elderly and seriously ill, disabled, perpetrators of minor crimes and those deprived of their liberty for political reasons during the pandemic.<sup>26</sup> Amnesty International and 26 other rights groups and civil society organizations from Turkey and around the world released a joint statement in March calling for the release of Turkey's political prisoners, particularly those with a high risk of complications due to COVID-19.<sup>27</sup> "Overcrowding and unsanitary facilities already pose a serious health threat to Turkey's prison population of nearly 300,000 prisoners and about tens of thousands of prison staff," Amnesty's statement read. "That will only be exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. We remain concerned that journalists, human rights defenders, and others imprisoned for simply exercising their rights, and others who should be released, will remain behind bars in the package of measures as currently conceived by the government." Turkey did not comply with these calls.

---

23. F. Aebi Marcelo and Mélanie M. Tiago, Prisons and Prisoners in Europe in Pandemic Times: An evaluation of the medium-term impact of the COVID-19 on prison populations, [https://www.euopris.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Prisons-and-the-COVID-19\\_2nd-Publication\\_201109.pdf](https://www.euopris.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Prisons-and-the-COVID-19_2nd-Publication_201109.pdf)

24. Amnesty International, 'Joint Public Statement Turkey: Rights groups call for urgent release of imprisoned journalists, human rights defenders and others, now at risk of Covid-19', March 30, 2020; <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/EUR4420472020ENGLISH.pdf>

25. Bar Human Rights Committee of England & Wales, "Statement: Political prisoners in Turkey in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic," April 3, 2020, <https://www.barhumanrights.org.uk/political-prisoners-in-turkey-in-the-face-of-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

26. Political prisoners should be among first released in pandemic response, says UN rights chief, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/04/1061002>

27. Turkey: Imprisoned journalists, human rights defenders and others, now at risk of Covid-19, must be urgently released, Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/03/turkey-imprisoned-journalists-human-rights-defenders-and-others-now-at-risk-of-covid-19-must-be-urgently-released/>

Although the release of political criminals and the release of criminal prisoners was the most controversial issue, the problems in the epidemic period measures were not limited to this. Since the problems in Turkish prisons are structural, during the pandemic, these problems have not only been resolved, but rather worsened. For example, the pandemic was used as an excuse for extended durations of isolation of certain prisoners, especially in high-security prisons.

Answering Independent Turkish's questions about the coronavirus process in prisons, L. B. from Bolu Prison explains in his letter:<sup>28</sup> "According to the official definition, F-type prisons consist of rooms, which are called cells by prisoners. Single cells are 7 to 9 square meters. Those sentenced to aggravated life sentences are kept there. Three-person cells, on the other hand, consist of approximately 20 square meters of sleeping and sitting areas. Four people are kept in this cell designed for three people. Since there are only three bunk beds, the fourth prisoner lays his bed on the bare concrete and lies on the floor. There is also a courtyard of about 40 square meters, which we call ventilation, whose doors are opened around 8:15 in the morning and closed at 16:45. These structures make up all of our living spaces... It is wondrous how we could survive in prison under pandemic conditions. First of all, I must state that 2020 was the worst year for all of us after 1999 [when massive riots erupted across the country's prisons as inmates protested the launch of F-Type prisons]. Meeting even the requirements that seem so mundane to outsiders sometimes require extraordinary effort in prison. After all, the entire living space for four people, including the ventilation courtyard, which is open only 8-10 hours a day, is 70-80 square meters. Even if you try to imagine that for almost a year you have to share the same 30-40 square meter space with the same three people with no privacy and space of our own, you cannot imagine the conditions we were in."

Speaking to Deutsche Welle Turkish, Human Rights Association (İHD) Central Prisons Commission Spokesperson, Lawyer İlhan Öngör stated that they could not meet with their clients in prisons for about 2-3 months and said, "The families could not come together for months. Again, the basic rights of prisoners such as their socio-cultural rights such as doing sports or going to the library were taken away, and the reason for this was to prevent the spread of Covid-19. These measures could have been taken without hindering these fundamental rights."<sup>29</sup>

Children in prisons were particularly affected by the difficult conditions during the pandemic period. For the small children, who stay in prisons with their mothers, the prison conditions, which were already unsuitable for their healthy growth, got much worse.

There is no current official figure on the number of children aged 0-6 who are in prison with

---

28. Cezaevlerinden pandemi halleri: Hasta mahkûmlar 14 gün karantina koğuşunda kalmamak için tedavi olamıyor (Pandemic situations from prisons: Sick prisoners cannot be treated to stay in the quarantine ward for 14 days), Independent Türkçe, <https://www.indyturk.com/node/309681>

29. Cezaevlerinde Covid-19: Mahpuslar nasıl etkilendi? (Covid-19 in Prisons: How are prisoners affected?), Deutsche Welle, <https://www.dw.com/tr/cezaevlerinde-covid-19-mahpuslar-nas%C4%B1l-etkilendi/a-56818951>

their mothers in Turkey. According to the latest data of November 2019 announced by the Ministry of Justice, the number was 780. According to the İHD, there are currently around 600 children aged 0-6 staying in prisons with their mothers. Some children were taken away from their imprisoned mothers as a precaution and sent to places where they could be cared for outside of prison. However, the opportunities for these children to reunite or communicate with their mothers were neglected for a long time. Children in prison were prevented from going out to social areas. They were forbidden to go to kindergartens inside the prison. The children were imprisoned in the wards with their mothers.

Within the scope of the complaints received by CISST and İHD, the main problems related to the health of prisoners, which deteriorated in general, especially during the pandemic process, can be listed as follows:

- Prisons were not disinfected regularly.
- Fresh air flow cannot be provided because the wards are crowded or the windows are too small.
- In some prisons, the ventilations are arbitrarily opened late and closed early, which reduces the availability of fresh air.
- Prison guards do not follow social distancing and do not wear masks during the count.
- In some prisons, masks were not provided to prisoners despite their request. Prisoners over the age of 65 were given one mask per month.
- The bathrooms were dirty and the use and hours of the bathroom were restricted in crowded wards.
- In some prisons, water quotas were set as 50 liters of hot water and 150 liters of cold water per person. Therefore, regular ward and personal cleaning couldn't be done.
- In some prisons, the doctor does not come to the infirmary. Although the prisoners write petitions to the Provincial Health Directorate and the Ministry of Health for their requests for infirmary, they do not receive any response.
- Some prisoners have not seen the infirmary doctor for a long time.
- Even though some prisoners go to the infirmary, they cannot access all medicines, they cannot take their prescribed medicines.
- Prisoners showing symptoms of COVID-19 are not being tested.
- In some prisons, prisoners with COVID-19 are kept together with other inmates in overcrowded wards.
- Many prisons lack hospital referrals and regular treatment facilities.
- Some prisoners with COVID-19 are only given medicine and sent back to the prison without any control when they are transferred to the hospital.
- A limited number of hospital referrals are made in some prisons. In some, hospital appointments are cancelled. Appointments of prisoners whose surgery date is due are post-



poned due to lack of hospital referral.

- In cases where drugs that require a board report cannot be prescribed in the infirmary and district hospitals, prisoners cannot be taken to the hospital boards to replenish their medication and hence have problems accessing drugs because they have to be prescribed in larger hospitals with committees, and some hospitals are built as pandemic hospitals.
- Prisoners with multiple diseases are referred to the hospital for only one disease. They cannot be treated for their other illnesses and have to wait to be referred for their other complaints.
- In many prisons, dental units do not provide service, and dentists in prisons cannot receive service. tooth extraction, filling etc. There is no equipment required for interventions. Treatments are only with antibiotics and painkillers, and because the prisoners cannot be transferred to the hospital, dental complaints have soared.
- Even when the infirmary doctors state that it is necessary to transfer the prisoners to the hospital due to their health conditions, the prison administrations do not carry out the hospital referrals. There are sick prisoners who have not been transferred to the hospital for a long time, despite their worsening conditions.
- Diseases that must be monitored regularly and meticulously, especially cancer, are not followed up at all.
- The lack of hospital referral of chronically ill prisoners leads to an increase in health problems.
- In some prisons, there are complaints that social distancing is not observed and tying two inmates with a single handcuff is often applied to prisoners while they are transferred to hospitals.
- Prisoners with asthma are not given 3-ply masks sent by their families.
- Since the hospitals where the prisoners are taken are far from the prisons they are in, the time they stay in the rings and the risk of illness increase.
- Prisoners who are undergoing treatment in hospitals and staying in prison wards are not allowed to have companions.
- Due to the requirement to stay in quarantine for 14 days on returning from the hospital, as a special case of the epidemic period, prisoners were unwilling to be referred to the hospital because of the risk of contracting the virus from other people in the quarantine ward. In addition, elderly, disabled and prisoners with advanced health problems do not want to go to the hospital for fear that they will not be able to sustain their lives without help while in quarantine.
- Sick prisoners, who have doctor's reports that they should be kept under observation and that they cannot stay alone, continue to be kept alone in quarantine wards.
- In some prisons, the quarantine period of the prisoners staying in the quarantine ward has increased due to the newly admitted prisoners. Despite their negative tests, they were forced to stay in the quarantine ward for much longer than 14 days.



## PART 2

### International Law Provisions

Prisoners, like free people, have the right to benefit from health services without any obstacles or restrictions. A state that detains a person for any reason and deprives them of their freedom is obliged, in terms of international law, to take all the necessary measures for the protection of their right to life. In this section, we will try to list the measures that states are obliged to take for detainees and convicts within the framework of international agreements and conventions, and which are also accepted within the framework of human rights.

#### UN General Assembly resolution 45/111

Adopted and proclaimed by the UN General Assembly, resolution 45/111 of 14 December 1990 stipulates the basic principles for the treatment of prisoners.<sup>30</sup> Article 9 clearly expresses that the states must provide prisoners with health services available in the country without discrimination on the grounds of their legal situation. There are also implicit obligations in the first articles as well. The relevant principles are as follow:

1. All prisoners shall be treated with respect due to their inherent dignity and value as human beings.
2. There shall be no discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
5. Except for those limitations that are demonstrably necessitated by the fact of incarceration, all prisoners shall retain the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and, where the State concerned is a party, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto, as well as such other rights as are set out in other United Nations covenants.
7. Efforts addressed to the abolition of solitary confinement as a punishment, or to the restriction of its use, should be undertaken and encouraged.
9. Prisoners shall have access to the health services available in the country without discrimination on the grounds of their legal situation.

---

30. Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners, Adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 45/111 of 14 December 1990 at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/basicprinciplestreatmentofprisoners.aspx>

## **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**

In this covenant, it is not clearly stated that there can be no obstacles to the use of health services by the detainees and convicts, however, the following articles make it very clear that states must provide adequate or appropriate and timely medical care for all prisoners.<sup>31</sup>

- Article 6(1): Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.
- Article 7(1): No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.
- Article 10(1): All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.

## **Nelson Mandela Rules**

In its case-law, the United Nations Human Rights Committee (HR Committee) also often refers to the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules) to strengthen the obligation of states to provide medical care and treatment to sick prisoners. The following rules determine the responsibilities of states in a way that leaves no question mark in this regard:

- Rule 24:
  2. The provision of health care for prisoners is a State responsibility. Prisoners should enjoy the same standards of health care that are available in the community, and should have access to necessary health-care services free of charge without discrimination on the grounds of their legal status.
  3. Health-care services should be organized in close relationship to the general public health administration and in a way that ensures continuity of treatment and care, including for HIV, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, as well as for drug dependence.

---

31. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,  
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

- Rule 25:

1. Every prison shall have in place a health-care service tasked with evaluating, promoting, protecting and improving the physical and mental health of prisoners, paying particular attention to prisoners with special health-care needs or with health issues that hamper their rehabilitation.

2. The health-care service shall consist of an interdisciplinary team with sufficient qualified personnel acting in full clinical independence and shall encompass sufficient expertise in psychology and psychiatry. The services of a qualified dentist shall be available to everyone.

- Rule 26:

2. The health-care service shall prepare and maintain accurate, up-to-date and confidential individual medical files on all prisoners, and all prisoners should be granted access to their files upon request. A prisoner may appoint a third party to access his or her medical file.

3. Medical files shall be transferred to the health-care service of the receiving institution upon transfer of a prisoner and shall be subject to medical confidentiality.

- Rule 27:

1. All prisons shall ensure prompt access to medical attention in urgent cases. Prisoners who require specialized treatment or surgery shall be transferred to specialized institutions or to civil hospitals. Where a prison service has its own hospital facilities, they shall be adequately staffed and equipped to provide prisoners referred to them with appropriate treatment and care.

2. Clinical decisions may only be taken by the responsible health-care professionals and may not be overruled or ignored by non-medical prison staff.

- Rule 30:

A physician or other qualified health-care professionals, whether or not they are required to report to the physician, shall see, talk with and examine every prisoner as soon as possible following his or her admission and thereafter as necessary. Particular attention shall be paid to:

1. Identifying health-care needs and taking all necessary measures for treatment;
2. Identifying any ill-treatment that arriving prisoners may have been subjected to prior to admission;
3. Identifying any signs of psychological or other stress brought on by the fact of imprisonment, including, but not limited to, the risk of suicide or self-harm and withdrawal symptoms resulting from the use of drugs, medication or alcohol; and undertaking all appropriate

individualized measures or treatment;

4. In cases where prisoners are suspected of having contagious diseases, providing for the clinical isolation and adequate treatment of those prisoners during the infectious period;

5. Determining the fitness of prisoners to work, to exercise and to participate in other activities, as appropriate.

- Rule 31:

The physician or, where applicable, other qualified health-care professionals shall have daily access to all sick prisoners, all prisoners who complain of physical or mental health issues or injury and any prisoner to whom their attention is specially directed. All medical examinations shall be undertaken in full confidentiality.

## **European Convention on Human Rights**

The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) does not necessitate a right to healthcare for prisoners in clear terms. However, Article 2 on the right to life and Article 3 on the prohibition of inhuman treatment can be interpreted as a declaration of the responsibilities of states to provide adequate medical assistance. It also doesn't define any function for states to release a detainee on health grounds or place him in a civil hospital to obtain a specific treatment. Likewise, prisoners are not given any right to choose a particular medical treatment under the ECHR. States are allowed to transfer a prisoner to another facility that may be capable of providing the necessary treatment.<sup>32</sup>

## **Lantsova v. Russian Federation**

In the Views adopted by the Committee at its 109th session concerning the Lantsova v. Russian Federation (26 March 2002) case, The HR Committee has stated that "the State party by arresting and detaining individuals takes the responsibility to care for their life."<sup>33</sup> Further, the State has a duty to be proactive in providing adequate medical care. The HR Committee has stated that it is "incumbent on States to ensure the right of life of detainees, and not incumbent on the latter to request protection."

---

32. Cheung, Grace, updated by Temisan Boyo Fanou, Prisoners: The Right to Medical Treatment International Law Provisions, available at the Lawyers Rights Watch Canada's (LRWC) website <https://www.lrwc.org/prisoners-the-right-to-medical-treatment-international-law-provisions-report/>

33. UN Human Rights Committee Communication No. 1873/2009 - Views adopted by the Committee at its 109th session (14 October – 1 November 2013), available at <https://juris.ohchr.org/Search/Details/1686>

## **Salakhov and Islyamova vs. Ukraine case**

The provisions of the Salakhov and Islyamova vs. Ukraine case have reflections that define a clear precedent to adjudicate Turkey's ill treatment of its prisoners. The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that the right to life was violated for Salakhov, who was an HIV-positive convict.<sup>34</sup> He was suffering from a number of symptoms like a constant fever and weight loss, which were not enough to attract the attention of the authorities. He was finally admitted to a hospital but during his visit there, despite his pain and extremely fragile situation, he was handcuffed all the time. Eventually, the court decided to release the convict, but it was too late. He passed away in two weeks.

The court held that the prohibition on torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment indicates a responsibility for states to secure health of prisoners and that the failure by the detention center and hospital to provide Salakhov with necessary medical care was a clear violation of his basic rights. Also handcuffing a person who is clearly in a critical condition heathwise and has not been involved in any violence was also a clear breach of the ECHR Article 3 on the prohibition on cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. In a number of similar cases, the ECtHR has held that the following actions constitute a breach of this article:<sup>35</sup>

- failure to transfer prisoners to a civilian hospital for treatment when prison equipment and specialists are lacking;
- failure to provide meals compatible with the prescribed diet for a patient with type 2 diabetes and coronary artery disease;
- failure to provide adequate psychiatric treatment to prisoners with mental illnesses;
- failure to convert a prisoner's sentence to house arrest where his advanced age and state of health are incompatible with the prison regime;
- failure to provide physical rehabilitation treatment or to adapt the prison premises to accommodate a prisoner's severe disability;
- failure to protect a prisoner with chronic pulmonary disease from the harmful effects of passive smoking (e.g. detention in a cell with smokers).

---

34. Salakhov and Islyamova v. Ukraine, [2013] ECHR, Application No. 28005/08, at [https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-117134#{%22itemid%22:\[%22001-117134%22\]}](https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-117134#{%22itemid%22:[%22001-117134%22]})

35. Mozer v. the Republic of Moldova and Russia, [2016] ECHR, Application No. 11138/10 at <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-161055>

## **PART 3**

---

### **Moans that faded on the stone walls**

This part of the report is devoted to the stories of people in Turkish prisons who struggle with various diseases and even claw to death. We tried to compile these stories from reliable sources as much as possible. However, considering that the media in Turkey is under intense pressure by the government, it should be considered natural that inhumane practices in prisons do not find much place in the mainstream media. Even such national media organs that position themselves as critical of the government do not want to represent the problems of the prisoners who struggle to survive in prisons despite their diseases, as they see them from the perspective of ideological and political approaches rather than from the perspective of human rights.

Therefore, the main sources in this part of the report are the news sources, almost all of which can only find a place for themselves in online channels to reveal the violations of rights in Turkey, to be able to interpret the problems of the victims and to create public opinion despite their limited reach. In addition, some accounts appearing on social media platforms for the same purpose also helped us to access the information of the prisoners whose sufferings were not yet voiced even by the aforementioned online media outlets. We tried to cross check the reliability of information provided by such online accounts from alternative sources whenever possible.

Although we wanted to address the names and problems of all the prisoners struggling with diseases within the stone walls, this was not possible due to obstacles such as the impossibility of reaching everyone's information and the length limit that the report had to observe. Nevertheless, we hope that the dramas and tragedies that we can interpret within these constraints will be enough to reveal the inhumane practices and injustices experienced in Turkish prisons with striking nakedness.

Nevertheless, before moving on to these painful stories, we believe that by setting out a general framework of the oppression and persecution, which has turned into a genocide, against the members of the Hizmet movement, and of some major concepts and incidents that are frequently repeated in the examples below, will help readers understand the situation in Turkey better.

## **The anatomy of a crackdown**

The failed coup attempt on July 15, 2016 can be counted as the most dramatic event that constituted a turning point in Turkey's slide into an oppressive authoritarian state. Although the political Islamist Erdogan regime had been increasingly showing anti-democratization tendencies since 2011, long before this coup attempt, the country underwent a complete overhaul in the days that started right after the coup attempt. Even today, this radical transformation still continues without losing anything from its speed.

251 people lost their lives during the military uprising that started with a group of soldiers blocking the Bosphorus Bridge in Istanbul on the evening of July 15. When the first news of the uprising arrived, Erdogan declared it to be a coup staged by the Gülen movement. From the very beginning of the military uprising, the Hizmet movement condemned the insurrection of the junta that called itself the Council of Peace at Home. But this condemnation did not lessen the calamity that was awaiting the movement. The national media, which was under the control of Erdoğan, started a massive news bombardment from the very first minutes and started an intense propaganda activity based on presenting the Hizmet as a terrorist organization, which massacred hundreds of civilians to overtake the political power.

The military movements that emerged in various parts of the country in an apparent lack of coordination were suppressed in a short time. With the decrees issued hours later, the Erdoğan government launched a comprehensive purge in all areas from the military to the police, from education to the bureaucracy and the justice system. Tens of thousands of public servants, who were on lists that were apparently prepared by the country's intelligence agency long ago, were dismissed. Thousands were arrested. While the homes and workplaces of people who are known to be from the Gülen movement were looted by the public; the country's security forces encouraged, let alone prevented. Announcements and alerts sent to the private sector demanded immediate dismissal of anyone known or suspected to be associated with the movement. In fact, threats were made that serious sanctions would be imposed on these workplaces if they still insist on employing such people. A mass lynching happened in every corner of the country, in all areas of life, against the respected people of the society, including their spouses and children, who were pointed out until recently.

In the first place, due to their ties to the Hizmet movement, around 130,000 public employees were cut off from all relations with the state. Among them were 4,156 judges and prosecutors, as well as 20,571 military officers. They were accused of membership in a terrorist organization based only on intelligence reports, not a judicial decision. This mass hysteria, which manifested as a kind of cultural genocide, was encouraged by the government itself. What was done had no legal basis, and all kinds of unlawfulness were seen as legitimate under the State of Emergency (OHAL), which was declared hastily. On the contrary, the government would provide legal immunity for the crimes

committed by ordinary people against the members of the Hizmet. The presidential decree no 696 acquitted anyone who participated in the plunder and even those who beheaded the military cadets, who were there without knowing why as their commanders had moved them there in buses.<sup>36</sup>

Defense Minister Hulusi Akar recently announced that during the 5 years following the coup, 23,364 personnel from the Turkish Armed Forces have been expelled over Gülen links since the failed coup.<sup>37</sup> Pro-government Sabah daily added the number of people dismissed from the gendarmerie and the coast guard to find to 29,444<sup>38</sup>. The figure does not include 16,409 military cadets who were expelled after the coup attempt.

The Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu stated<sup>39</sup> on February 20, 2021 that investigations were launched against 622,646 people within the framework of the operations carried out against the service movement, among which 301,932 people were arrested. 96,000 people were imprisoned. He stated that the number of members of the Gülen movement who are still in detention and are serving their prison sentences within four walls is 25,467.

Erdoğan did not contain the massive purge exclusive only to the members of the Hizmet movement. At the same time, he did not hesitate to use the enormous powers given by the OHAL to remove those who were identified as having a critical stance to his government from state affairs. This massive overhaul in the structure of the state and the public sphere has paved the way for the emergence of a judiciary submissive to Erdoğan's will. Also, in line with the expansion of the definition of terrorism to include even those whose deeds may indirectly help groups designated by the government as terror organizations, an overbearing pressure has cast its shadow on the freedom of expression in general in Turkey. For example, a group of academics from various universities were dismissed from their posts, lawsuits were filed against them and even their passports were annulled only because they undersigned a petition criticizing the government's ultra nationalistic, hawkish political attitude against the Kurdish population in the country.<sup>40</sup> They faced individual and separate trial hearings for "spreading terrorist propaganda" on behalf of the

---

36. 15 Temmuz ve sonrasında eylemlere müdahale eden sivillere dokunulmazlık (Immunity to civilians who interfered with demonstrations on and after July 15),

<https://www.diken.com.tr/15-temmuz-ve-sonrasinda-eylemlere-mudahale-eden-sivillere-dokunulmazlik/>

37. 23,364 personnel expelled from military over Gülen links since coup attempt: minister, Stockholm Center for Freedom (SCF), <https://stockholmcf.org/23364-personnel-expelled-from-military-over-gulen-links-since-coup-attempt-minister>

38. TSK'da FETÖ temizliği! 29 bin 444 TSK personeli ihraç edildi (FETO cleaning in TAF! 29,444 TAF personnel were dismissed), Sabah,

<https://www.sabah.com.tr/gundem/2021/05/17/tskda-feto-temizligi-29-bin-444-tsk-personeli-ihrac-edildi>

39. İçişleri Bakanı Soylu, Gara'ya giden HDP'li vekili açıkladı (Interior Minister Soylu revealed the identity of the HDP deputy who visited Gara), Anatolian News Agency,

<https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/turkiye/icisleri-bakanisoylu-garaya-giden-hdpli-vekili-acikladi/2151784>

40. "Turkey: Academics on Trial for Signing Petition," Human Rights Watch, December 5, 2017, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/12/05/turkey-academics-trial-signing-petition>



armed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) because they said they wanted peace, not violence.

In case of the regime's crackdown against the Gülen movement, some of the actions that were regarded as evidence enough to label someone as a terrorist included depositing money in the Bank Asya; enrolling one's children in Hizmet-affiliated schools; possessing US \$1 bills; using the ByLock instant messaging app; working at or subscribing to newspapers such as Zaman or Sırtı; and sharing posts on social media critical of the government. None of these actions was a crime by the time the "terror suspects" did them. The schools were under the supervision of the National Education Ministry, the bank was operating under a very close surveillance of the nation's banking sector watchdog and its license was valid. The bank was the country's largest Islamic lender in terms of the size of the total assets and the amount of loans extended. Even long before the coup attempt in 2016, during 2014 and 2015, Erdoğan attempted to seize the bank by first trying to tarnish its financial strength, despite the fact that any speculation that may damage a bank's reputation constituted a very serious and heavily punishable crime. In order to achieve his heinous design of shaking the bank's finances, he first ordered public institutions and the companies and individuals loyal to him to withdraw their deposits from this bank. The members of the Hizmet rushed to save the bank from Erdoğan's attack by depositing money into their accounts to prop up its financial well-being. Erdoğan finally managed to lay his hands on the bank. The information of the customers who put money in their accounts during this turbulent era was collected by the country's intelligence and was provided to the courts as supplementary evidence to prove suspects' aiding to terrorism.

In most cases, even a slight suspicion was enough for a court to issue a decision of arrest and send the suspect to prison. This caused a sudden increase in the population of prisons, far surpassing their capacity. In principle, detention is a measure regulated under the title of "protective measures" in the Code of Criminal Procedure, rather than a punishment. However, the wide and ambiguous interpretation of the reasons for detention specified in the law, coupled with the state-orchestrated witch-hunt against the Hizmet, cause easy decisions of detention and the lengthy detention periods. This was a kind of a penalty given in advance.

The high number of detainees, the high rate of detention, and the prolonged detention periods show Turkey in a relatively negative position vis-à-vis developed countries. Decisions on detention and the continuation of detention, which should be exceptional in principle, are made very easily. It is particularly noteworthy that arrest warrants are almost always given for suspects who appear before a judge for political crimes, especially because of their affiliation with the Hizmet movement.

On the other hand, it is a fact seen in concrete cases that in emergency situations, deaths may occur due to the failure of timely referral of the sick prisoner to a suitable health institution. In the last paragraph of Article 19 of the Constitution, it is stated that the pecuniary and non-pecuniary damages suffered by the people who have been arrested unjustly and unnecessarily will be compensated.



## **1 / Mustafa Kabakçioğlu**

Mustafa Kabakçioğlu, a former police officer dismissed by a KHK, was found dead on a plastic chair in a solitary cell in Gümüşhane Prison on August 29, 2020. The heart-wrenching photos showing his lifeless body in a chair in a sitting position, his head drooping back and his nails turned blue caused a surprisingly wide indignation among the public, who generally remained silent about such incidents of negligence in prison.<sup>41</sup> In his Twitter post, Deputy Gergerlioğlu said, "Death alone! Alone, sick, finished... In a damp, dilapidated, single-person cell... This is how Mustafa Kabakçioğlu, a former police officer dismissed by the KHK, bid farewell to the world." He tagged the Minister of Justice Abdulhamit Gül in his post, raising a question to him: "His de-

ath was full of neglect, have you ever heard of it?"<sup>42</sup>

After the news and the photo spread on social media, the Gümüşhane Chief Public Prosecutor's Office had to make a statement. The statement said that when officers entered his cell at around 05:45, the convict was sitting motionless in a chair and they immediately called the 112 emergency service.

It was also claimed in the statement that Kabakçioğlu was staying in a single-person cell of "approximately 50 square meters with a garden where he could meet all his needs." The pro-government İhlas News Agency also rushed to the aid of the chief prosecutor, announcing that in 2016, when Mustafa Kabakçioğlu was the Giresun Deputy Commissioner, he was arrested as part of an investigation into the Gülen movement and was dismissed from the public duty by a decree law issued under the State of Emergency. This news was perceived as the normalization of Kabakçioğlu's death due to suspicions of his affiliation with the Gülen movement, and it provided the basis for campaigns by pro-Erdoğan media trolls that the prisoner's death was a good thing.

According to Gergerlioğlu, Kabakçioğlu's request to go to the hospital on 24 August was not heeded. He got worse on August 27 and wrote a petition to the prison doctor: "Dear Sir [the doctor]. I used the drugs you prescribed all the time, but I think the drugs had side effects. Especially in my left mouth [left side of his mouth] and on my left leg, I have swelling and have trouble speaking. And I have numbness in my arm. I have numbness in my lower back. My lower back doesn't work at all."

41. Photographs of deputy police inspector who died in prison quarantine show criminal neglect, SCF, <https://stockholmcf.org/photographs-of-deputy-police-inspector-who-died-in-prison-quarantine-show-criminal-neglect/>

42. Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu, Twitter, <https://twitter.com/gergerliogluof/status/1316438126919856129>

Gergerlioğlu said that the prison doctor immediately referred Kabakçioğlu to the hospital after this letter, however, Kabakçioğlu was not taken to the hospital. The Chief Prosecutor's Office argued that the now-dead convict did not go to the hospital of his own accord.<sup>43</sup>

Describing Kabakçioğlu's death as "a suspicious and vicious death", Gergerlioğlu argued that this incident was not singular: "This was not an ordinary death, it was the last example of rights violations experienced by tens of thousands of prisoners in prisons. If this photo had not been revealed, the public would not have reacted strongly. But as a deputy who closely monitors prisons, I have seen many times that prisoners die in solitary cells. I have brought this issue to the Ministry of Justice, and for years, the deaths in the cells have been covered up."

The Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into how the information and photos depicting the death of the inmate were leaked. A statement by the office said "It is considered that this type of news is deliberate and made by marginal groups in order to cause public indignation."



## 2 / Yusuf Özmen

A patient of stage four testicular cancer, Yusuf Özmen was arrested for the second time on March 5, 2021 and sent to Erzurum H Type High Security Prison. The court did not hesitate to send Özmen back to prison, ignoring the 80-percent-disability report and the fact that he was on the verge of death as his illness had spread to his lungs.<sup>44</sup>

Prosecuted by the Iğdır 2nd High Criminal Court within the scope of Gülen Community investigations, Özmen was sentenced to 8 years and 9 months in prison for using Bylock, a software that the members of the Gülen movement were allegedly using to communicate. Özmen was released by the 16th Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Appeals on 13 September 2019 after his months-long struggles. But the same court decided to send him once again

behind the bars despite his condition having worsened.

Özmen was sent to Istanbul Forensic Medicine for a report after his second arrest and he also

43. Mustafa Kabakçioğlu: KHK'lı eski polisin ölümü neden cezaevinde ihmal iddialarını gündeme getirdi? (Mustafa Kabakçioğlu: Why did the death of the former police officer [dismissed] with the Decree Law raise the allegations of negligence in prison?), BBC Türkçe, <https://www.bbc.com/turkce/haberler-turkiye-54561319>

44. 4. evre kanser hastası Yusuf Özmen'i ikinci kez tutukladılar (Stage Four cancer patient Yusuf Özmen arrested for second time), Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2021/06/09/4-evre-kanser-hastasi-yusuf-ozmeni-ikinci-kez-tutukladilar/>

had to go to the hospital many times in Erzurum during this time. At times when he was not in hospitals, he was being kept in the quarantine cell for 3 months. He was finally taken to a ward for 5 people in June 2021. Erzurum Atatürk University Research Hospital's report asserted that Özmen's medical conditions are definitely not suitable to stay in prison. However, İstanbul Forensic Medicine Institute said that he could stay in prison. Noting that the disease has progressed in the report it prepared on April 26, 2021, İstanbul ATK advised Özmen "to contact the Forensic Medicine again if your condition worsens".

Yusuf Özmen had stage 3 cancer by the time he was taken into custody on 16 February 2018 in Erzurum. He was kept in custody for 11 days in a detention center. His disease progressed to stage 4 within 20 months after he was imprisoned. The tumor has spread to her lungs and around his aorta. Özmen stayed in Ağrı Patnos and Erzurum H Type prisons and visited 4 cities and 6 hospitals during this 1.5-year period.

He secured reports from 5 hospitals undersigned by 40 doctors to prove his inability to stay in prison. They were all disregarded. Even when he had a serious surgery in Ankara İbni Sina Hospital in July 2018, he was handcuffed to the bed while under the effect of anesthesia. He was discharged 6 days later and sent back to prison.



### **3 / Meva Selimoğlu**

Meva Selimoğlu was born with moon blindness, which has no cure if hereditary but which can only be kept under control with continuous treatment and medication. She became one of the victims of the purge against the Gülen movement and was sentenced to serve in prison. The eye disease she had suffered her entire life became only worse as she was denied proper treatment and her inability to continue her periodic medical examinations. She has rapidly lost her eyesight. Currently, she has lost almost 80 percent blind and can only carry out even her basic needs with the help of her cellmates. Meva Selimoğlu, who graduated from the Department of Accounting at Karadeniz Technical University, was arrested in December 2018. She was sentenced to 6 years and 10 months in prison by the Erzurum 3rd High Criminal Court. Her file was approved by the Supreme Court. Her family applied to the Constitutional Court for their daughter on March 6, 2020, but they could not get a positive result.<sup>45</sup>

45. Meva Selimoğlu cezaevinde kör oldu: Bir an önce kızıma çare olun (Meva Selimoğlu went blind in prison: Be a cure for my daughter as soon as possible), TR724, <https://www.tr724.com/meva-selimoglu-cezaevinde-kor-oldu-bir-an-once-kizima-care-olun/>



## **4 / Merve Aydoğan**

When the pandemic started shaking the world in early 2020, Merve Aydoğan, who was already suffering from celiac disease, was already in the Kayseri Bünyan closed prison for women.

Aydoğan was complaining to her sister during one of their weekly periodic phone conversations that a prison doctor was not referring inmates to hospital despite severe symptoms of COVID 19. The physician had to turn

down their pleas citing a "Justice Ministry circular," which reportedly stated that no prisoner will be sent to hospitals. Her sister shared the details of their conversation with the Mezopotamya News Agency. "Our talk on the phone was interrupted three times by the prison officers," she said.

Aydoğan was unburdening her troubles to her sister: "I am already celiac and vomiting is a real problem for me yet I have been throwing out incessantly for the last 10 days. I was as bad as if I was comatose. I am taken to the infirmary and my arms are riddled with the holes due to serums. They have been no use for me. Last Saturday we went to the infirmary again and asked the person there to send us to a hospital ER. We were vomiting, we barely could see anything and we had diarrhea. They called a doctor. He examined us, failing to find out the cause of the loss of eyesight."

Repeating that the ministry decree banished sending any prisoner to hospital, the doctor called an eye doctor, who told the three women that they must either have a tumor in their brains or that they have sustained a huge blow from a shock or an accident. The warden then rebuked them, saying all they wanted was to enter quarantine by pretending to be sick. Aydoğan was saying: "We have been left to die here. They drew blood from us but didn't run a Corona test."<sup>46</sup>

---

46. Çölyak hastasına diyet yemek yok (No diet for celiac patient), Cumhuriyet, <https://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/haber/colyak-hastasina-diyet-yemek-yok-1030911>





## 5 / **Abdülazim Özdemir**

Abdulazim Özdemir, who caught lung cancer in prison and was not released until stage 4, died at the age of 50<sup>47</sup>. He was an industrial engineer and was working as an engineer at the Ministry of Development until he was dismissed with the Decree No. 672 issued in September 2016. He was later arrested as part of the investigations into the members of the Gülen movement. He was sent to Ankara Sincan Prison. Özdemir, who was imprisoned for 14 months, was sentenced to 6 years and 3 months and was released on probation as his case was brought to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court upheld his

sentence after 1.5 years and he was arrested again in March 2019 and put in Bandırma No. 1 T Type Prison.

He had no involvement in the coup like tens of thousands of others in a similar situation like him, but was still incarcerated for his connections with the Gülen movement. He got cancer there. The immedicable disease had hemmed in his liver. The diagnosis found out that it was at the terminal stage.

His wife, Emir, a math teacher of 20 years, was also dismissed from her job. Like her husband, she was also sent to prison over similar charges after receiving a jail sentence of six years and three months. Her abode became the Keskin Prison in Kırıkkale. She was the one who made public the news about Özdemir's disease in a letter from prison to deputy Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu. The letter was complaining about the callousness of the officers and their disdain of her husband's bad health conditions. His diagnosis as well as liver surgery was malevolently stalled and in the meantime, the cancer had already spread to other organs. She was accusing the prison administration of negligence and a violation of her husband's rights. Emir was unable to join the funeral to bid her husband farewell as she was struggling with the coronavirus in her jail.

---

47. Cezaevinde kanser olan KHK'lı mühendis Abdülazim Özdemir hayatını kaybetti (Abdulazim Özdemir, an engineer dismissed with Decree Law, who had cancer in prison, died), Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2021/04/17/cezaevinde-kanser-olan-khkli-muhendis-abdulazim-ozdemir-hayatini-kaybetti/>



## 6 / Tahsin Manav

Ridden with several serious health problems, Tahsin Manav, 71, who has been imprisoned in Kırşehir E Type Prison for three years, was not released even after his spine was broken in two locations after he fell in prison. Manav was sent to prison in September 2017 for his account in Bank Asya, a financial institution that was affiliated with the Gülen movement.<sup>48</sup>

His daughter was speaking to an online media outlet back in January 2020, a day after she visited her father. Her father was brought to the contact visitation on a wheelchair. He immediately started crying and was unable to give voice even a single word for 45 minutes as he was continuously sobbing.

Manav retired earlier than normal due to Behçet's disease. Afterwards, he had a cardiac valve surgery, which made it imperative to go through continuous and periodic blood tests and to regularly use a drug named Coumadin. In prison, he also got shingles, a very painful disease, poisoned from some food he ate and fell to break his spine in two places within the span of three weeks.

"We had already detailed our father's health problems in court and demanded house confinement. Nobody heeded us. He has now been behind the bars for 27 months. The last two calamities came one after another and when his spine was broken in two different places dealt a harsh blow to us. We have learned that he faces the risk of being paralyzed due to a dent on his spinal cord. We have no idea what to do now," she said.

Özdemir's condition requires intensive care in a hospital and immediate release. Yet the best the prison administration offered him as help was to move him to another ward that can be accessed without having to climb stairs. Two inmates were assigned as attendants. He was saying to his daughter: "I am not able to relieve myself. My friends opened a hole on a plastic chair [to use as a WC]. I could bathe with the help of another inmate. Someone else is putting my socks on. In the hospital, I was given serum for two days and the bed was good. The gendarmerie officer told the doctor to discharge me soon despite the doctor's insistence that I must stay."

---

48. Cezaevinde omurgası kırılan Tahsin Manav'ın kızı: Babamın felç geçirme riski var (Tahsin Manav's daughter, whose spine was broken in prison: My father is at risk of having a stroke), Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2020/01/10/cezaevinde-omurgasi-kirilan-tahsin-manavin-kizi-babamin-felc-gecirme-riski-var/>



## 7 / Ümit Gökhasan

Ümit Gökhasan was one of the hundreds of the victims of the Erdoğan regime's ruthless persecution against the members of the Hizmet movement. He got gastric cancer in the Afyon Prison and has been kept there despite insistent calls for his immediate release for a proper treatment. When he was finally released in August 2020, it was already too late for him.<sup>49</sup>

He couldn't survive. He passed away in hospital on November 23, 2020. His wife Şükran wrote in her Twitter account<sup>50</sup>: "Good friends, I have lost my breath, oxygen, my everything. My husband Ümit Gökhasan has passed away. Oh my Allah, please have mercy on my spouse. I witnessed that he lived a pure life. Welcome him with your compassion and make him a neighbor of our prophet in the highest paradise."

His name was in the list of a decree law in 2016 discarding thousands of civil servants for their alleged links with the Gülen movement. Gökhasan had served as a police officer for 21 years. On March 8, 2017, Gökhasan was arrested with the same charges and was later sentenced to 6 years and 11 months. Under the harsh and inhumane conditions there, he got cancer and everything became even worse. On February 13, 2020, his stomach was removed in a surgery and he was denied chemotherapy on the pretext of strict measures against the COVID 19 outbreak. He spent 6 months in the prison following the heavy surgery without proper care until he was conditionally released, only to be put behind the bars if he could survive the cancer.



## 8 / Büşra İnan

Büşra İnan was struggling with a number of illnesses when she was arrested on October 20, 2018 on charges of accommodating some wanted Gülen suspects at her home. Together with around 80 other women who were imprisoned with her a few months ago, she had to endure severe treatment by the police, who used her in various forms

49. Cezaevinde kanser olan KHK'lı Komiser Ümit Gökhasan hayatını kaybetti (Dismissed Police Captain Ümit Gökhasan, who had cancer in prison, passed away), Kronos, <https://kronos34.news/tr/cezaevinde-kanser-olan-khkli-komiser-umit-gokhasan-hayatini-kaybetti/>

50. Şükran Gökhasan on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/skrngkhsn/status/1330662296927039491?s=20>



of psychological violence, took off her headscarf and verbally abused her for 12 years and 6 months sentenced and taken to the closed Kayseri prison.

Her brother spoke to an online news portal about “İnan’s deteriorating health”.<sup>51</sup> Her psychological status was worsening rapidly. She has had anemia ever since she was only a small child and needed special treatment. Adding insult to injury, she had had closed eye surgery twice and she had to have a third for a complete recovery. She had problems in her stomach and was unable to digest quite a few foods.

The news portal quoted one of her inmates, who was released from the prison, describing Büşra’s situation in the prison: “She always had black bags under her eyes. The meals in the prison didn’t agree with her, inflicting continuous ache to her stomach. She was sleeping for only a couple of hours every night. She was psychologically devastated. They took her to the polyclinic in the campus once but nobody cared for her there. Even the doctor behaved really harshly and she no longer wanted to see any doctor afterwards. Her condition is getting worse there. She is losing a lot of weight. She was constantly dressing her eyes with hot water.”



## 9 / Emre Turan

An elementary school teacher, Emre Turan was a third stage ulcerative colitis patient by the time he was sent to the Denizli Kocabaş T-Type Prison on January 10, 2020. Due to heavy bleeding in his intestines, he was sent to the Denizli Public Hospital not long after he was put behind bars. Unable to prescribe the drug Turan urgently needed, the doctor, who treated him there, referred Turan to the Pamukkale University Research Hospital, also stating that his condition required more thorough care, which could only be provided in this hospital in the region. However, the prison stalled the procedures for months,

not allowing him to see a better treatment in this hospital.

A relative of Turan told an online news portal<sup>52</sup> that Turan bled in his intestines for 15 consecutive days before finally he was sent to the hospital. “In our latest meeting, he said the bleeding had alleviated a bit thanks to the cortisone he had been administered. But staying in

51. Üniversite öğrencisi Büşra İnan, Konya Emniyetinde zorla başörtüsünü aldılar, psikolojik işkenceye maruz kaldı (University student Büşra İnan, forcibly removed her headscarf in Konya Police Department, was subjected to psychological torture), Turkey’s Torture Report, <https://iskenceraporu.com/universite-ogrencisi-busra-inan-konya-emniyetinde-zorla-basortusunu-aldilar-2-kere-zorla-cioplak-arama-ve-psikolojik-iskence/>

52. Bağırsaklarından kan gelen hasta tutuklu sevk edildiği hastaneye götürülüyor (The patient with blood coming from his intestines is not taken to the hospital where he was transferred.), Bold Medya, <https://www.boldmedya.com/2020/03/09/bagirsaklarindan-kan-gelen-hasta-tutuklu-sevk-edildigi-hastaneye-goturulmuyor/>

prison under his current conditions is too risky. Ulcerative colitis may lead to cancer,” he said.

Due to his special condition, Turan was unable to intake food that contains fat. The prison food, however, usually contained an abundance of oil. He was usually rinsing the food to wash out oil and heat it again before being able to eat it, and this process is not only vexing, but also causing the loss of nutritional properties in these meals to diminish considerably, contrary to what he needed.

What made his tribulation multiple times more painful was the impact of his arrest on his 6.5-year-old son. The child was already under immense psychological stress since his mother, Turan's wife, had already been in prison for 42 months on her affiliations with the Hizmet and when his father was also snatched away from him, he became more depressed. A relative of the family, who was taking care of the child, was quoted as saying that the child believed that he would also be put in jail like his parents when he grew up.



## 10 / Bilal Sel

Bilal Sel was a Turkish teacher until he was arrested on July 29, 2020 on charges of being a member of a trade union affiliated with the Gülen movement, of having an account with Bank Asya and of sending his child to a school close to Hizmet. He was sentenced to 6 years and 8 months in prison and was put behind bars even though his health required special attention. He was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2013.

He was first held in Kırşehir Prison, but as his illness worsened he was finally transferred to Metris Prison, which had a rehabilitation center, in 2019. At his request, he had been sent to the Institute of Forensic Medicine five times because he was no longer able to walk, let alone meet his daily needs. The institute refused him each time, stating that Sel had no health impairments in order to save him from prison. According to his wife, one doctor was at a loss when he saw that he was still locked up while another scoffed at him and said that for him there was no difference between being “in” and “out”.

Speaking to an online media company in August, his wife said she hadn't seen him since February. “He's kept there all alone. He fell three times this year and his brain was damaged. This was already included in the doctor's reports. We made an official plea asking him to be transferred to Kırşehir Prison [where he could get help from inmates], but all were refused.”

Although he has been kept jailed for 4 years out of a 6 year and 8 month sentence, which should be enough to be released on probation, Sel has still not been released as his case is still under review by the appeals court.

Sel's wife describes his current situation: “He walks like a baby. He can't easily start walking

but when he finally takes his first step, he can't stop. His body precedes his steps. He walks, holding on to walls, swinging his right arm, shoulder and tongue as he does so. His speech is also distorted. His mouth spasms inwardly."

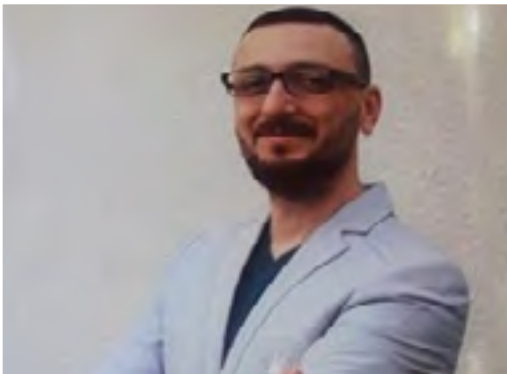


## 11 / Hatice Ögüt

Hatice Ögüt (55), who has been imprisoned in Gaziantep L Type Prison for 41 months, is a heart and blood pressure patient and has a herniated disc. Her back pain is so severe that she is not even able to take care of her most basic hygienic needs by herself. A retired teacher, who committed most of her life to education, is kept in prison only for her alleged affiliations with the Gülen movement.<sup>53</sup>

On January 28, 2019, Ögüt, had appendicitis surgery at Gaziantep Medical Faculty. Nobody was allowed to accompany her in her hospital room before and after the surgery. Her husband, Habiş Ögüt, said, "She was forced to wait sitting on a chair for 5 hours after her surgery. Then, she was handcuffed and sent back to prison. Lumbar hernia has reached an advanced level. She also has a heart problem. Her doctor said you need to have an angio."

Hatice Ögüt was arrested on 25 August 2016 and Gaziantep 8th High Criminal Court sentenced her to 15 years in prison for allegedly establishing and leading an armed terrorist organization. The Court of Appeal reduced the sentence to 8 years and 9 months. The decision was upheld by the Supreme Court on September 18, 2019.



## 12 / Osman Genç

Police officer Osman Genç, who has been imprisoned in Şanlıurfa T Type Prison for 55 months, has not been released even though he had heart spasms 3 times in prison. One of the heart valves of Genç, who was arrested after he was expelled by decree, lost its function because his medicines were not given regularly.<sup>54</sup>

53. 41 aydır tutuklu olan sınıf öğretmeni ileri derece bel fıtığı hastası oldu (Class teacher, who has been imprisoned for 41 months, suffers from an advanced disc herniation), Bold medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2020/01/12/41-aydir-tutuklu-olan-sinif-ogretmeni-ileri-derece-bel-fitigi-hastasi-oldu/>

54. KHK'lı polis memuru cezaevinde 3 kez kalp spazmı geçirdi (Dismissed police officer had heart spasm 3 times in prison), Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2020/02/16/khkli-polis-memuru-cezaevinde-3-kez-kalp-spazmi-gecirdi/>

Osman Genç was arrested within the scope of investigations into the Gülen movement. He and his wife were sentenced to 6 years and 3 months in prison. They have two children.



## 13 / Aslı Kişi

Aslı Kişi was working at a student dormitory, which was affiliated with the Gülen movement, in Manisa province like her husband Sedat. Sedat was put in prison in September 2016 after his detention in one of the investigations into the movement and Aslı kept living with her little son with Sedat's parents in Bitlis. However, she was also arrested on December 25, 2019 and was put in jail. Aslı was in the process of recovery after a serious surgery she went through a year ago due to a mass on the chest wall, which had the risk of turning into cancer.<sup>55</sup> Her parents in law continued to take care of the boy, who was 4 years

old at that time, but the child soon fell into a grave depression, rejecting eating and drinking. The boy was also sent to prison to accompany his mother.



## 14 / Adil Bera Işık

Five-year-old Adil Bera Işık has been in prison with her mother Raziye Koç Işık (34) for almost 2 years now. The little boy has the fatal Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Type 2 (Men2A) disease, a rare genetic disorder that may turn into cancer. Despite medical reports of both his mother and him, the court rejected their request to be released on probation. Adil Bera was first examined by the Sivas Cumhuriyet University Faculty of Medicine doctor on July 31, 2019, and was asked to come for a follow-up 3 months later.<sup>56</sup>

On October 13, 2019, he was prescribed medication and discharged. On November 14, 2019, it was revealed that Adil Bera, who was sent to Radiology, had Men2A and needs to be treated

55. Mağdur Sesi on Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/p/B6q-7VQAIJP/?igshid=iqzl8452aco2>

56. Cezaevindeki çocuk Adil Bera'ya ölümcül hastalık teşhisi konuldu (Adil Bera, a child in prison, was diagnosed with a terminal illness), Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2019/11/19/cezaevindeki-cocuk-adil-beraya-olumcul-hastalik-teshisi-konuldu/>

before the age of 5. Bera was the 6th person from the family to be diagnosed with the same disease. Raziye's father and her grandmother died from this disease and along with Raziye, her siblings Fatih and Zehra have also been struggling with this one-in-a-million disease for years. Raziye Koç Işık, who was arrested in a shopping mall in Sivas in June 2018 for allegedly being a member of the Gülen movement.



## 15 / Veysel Avunan

Veysel Avunan was a healthy, young man when he was first imprisoned. In just five months following his captivity, his life turned upside down. He first caught tuberculosis, and due to improper and belated treatment, his disease turned into meningitis. Deputy Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu was narrating Avunan's condition after a visit in his prison: "He was in a chair, sitting, unable to stand up. He first demanded to be referred to a hospital in March due to certain health complaints, however, the prison administration allowed him to see a doctor only in July."<sup>57</sup>

He was immediately taken into intensive care and stayed there for about a month. Once he felt a little better, Avunan was once more taken back to his prison ward, which was already overcrowded. Gergerlioğlu visited him during this recovery period again to find that his consciousness was in an altered state, causing him to forget many things. His both legs were out of action. His inmates cut out a hole in a chair instead of taking him everyday to the WC downstairs. One of his friends was cleaning him after his relief.

Avunan was arrested as part of one of the investigations into the Gülen movement and was sentenced to 6 years and 3 months in prison. The Supreme Court upheld his punishment. His application to the Constitutional Court to be released due to his terrible health conditions was rejected on the grounds that "he is being treated in prison". He was finally released in April 2020 and is currently undergoing treatment.

---

57. Veysel Avunan tahliye edildi (Veysel Avunan was released), Samanyolu Haber, <http://www.samanyoluhaber.com/veysel-avunan-tahliye-edildi-haberi/1343481/?fbclid=IwAR3T2-YbK4EVvRaT5mkCn-6N3N7Uam4x2COs4NshqF4uwfXPdd9DKUU783so>





## 16 / Fatma Aşkın

Fatma Aşkın contracted cancer in 2016, struck by grief when both her children were dismissed by the government for being members of the Gülen movement. She went through a mastectomy and started a long period of recovery with chemotherapy.

She was getting better until one day in February 2020 the police detained this 52-year old woman for a case, in which she was implicated also for being a member of the Gülen movement. The proof was a photo taken when she was hosting a group of friends in a fast-breaking meal.<sup>58</sup> She was arrested and put in the Gaziantep

Prison. There, her cancer recurred in a month, metastasized to her liver and bones, reaching the terminal stage by March 2020. She was hastily released but her frail body could only struggle for 6 months until she passed away on September 15, 2020.<sup>59</sup>



## 17 / Seynur Özdemir

Seynur Özdemir, a Turkish woman from Ankara, suffers from soft tissue sarcoma, a rare type of cancer that begins in the tissues that connect, support and surround other body structures. She however has been held in Ankara's Sincan prison since June 2019 on terror and coup charges.<sup>60</sup>

According to a Twitter account managed by her husband, Özdemir is at imminent risk of losing her leg due to advanced soft tissue sarcoma: "She has 3-litres of tumor in her leg. She underwent a biopsy at the Hacettepe hospital. Can you be our voice, @gergerliogluof," the husband tweeted.<sup>61</sup>

58. Kanser hastası kadın iftar verdi diye tutuklandı, hastalığı bir ayda 4. evreye geldi (Cancer patient was arrested because she gave fast-breaking fast, her disease reached stage 4 in a month), Bold Medya, <https://boldapp.de/2020/03/15/kanser-tedavisi-goren-kadin-tutuklandi-tumor-hapiste-cigerine-sicradi/>

59. Biten Hayatlar (Lives that ended), <https://bitenhayatlar.com/fatma-askin/>

60. Woman with soft tissue tumor held in Ankara prison for 8 months: report, Turkey Purge, <https://turkeypurge.com/woman-with-soft-tissue-tumor-held-in-ankara-prison-for-8-months-report>

61. Adem Özdemir on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/ADEMOZDEMIR5/status/1223677116149063686>



## 18 / Kadir Çeç

Kadir Çeç, a 53-year-old history teacher who was dismissed by decree law, has been in Uşak Prison since he was arrested two years ago. Kadir Çeç, who was hospitalized last January, had an angiography operation, three of his arteries were by-passed and his heart valve was replaced. As a final blow, his Covid test came positive too. His applications for release based on the relevant laws regarding the release of sick prisoners had all been rejected.<sup>62</sup>

Çeç's family announced his condition on Twitter: "My father, Kadir Çeç (53), has been in Uşak Prison for 2 years. On 03.02.2020, angiography was performed on 3 vessels

and the heart valve was replaced. Since then, we have not been able to make any progress, although we have submitted the necessary petitions. Today, we learned from the Ministry of Health that he was diagnosed with Covid-19 in the prison where he was detained. He has bronchitis as well as heart trouble and is in the current risk group. It is not possible to overcome this virus in prison conditions, with the psychology of detention."<sup>63</sup>

Çeç was arrested in September 2018 for alleged membership in the Gülen movement. He was sentenced to seven years, six months in prison and his case is currently with the Supreme Court of Appeals.



## 19 / Ayşe Özdoğan

Ayşe Özdoğan, 33, suffers from a rare form of cancer. She has been struggling with complications since the disease spread to her head because she was sent to prison around the time she was scheduled for surgery.

According to the Bold Medya news website, Özdoğan should have been treated with optimum care and priority.<sup>64</sup> She underwent an operation on November 12, 2019 but was arrested shortly after, so she was not able to have

62. KHK'li Hasta Tutsak Korona Olmasına Rağmen Tahliye Edilmiyor (Patient Prisoner dismissed by KHK, Is Not Released Despite Having Corona), Meydan, <https://meydan1.org/2020/11/04/khkli-hasta-tutsak-korona-olmasina-ragmen-tahliye-edilmiyor/>

63. Tutuklu Hastalar on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/tutukluhastalar/status/1244767032710770688>

64. Kanser ameliyatı olduktan sonra tutuklanan Ayşe Özdoğan'ın tek umudu kaldı (Ayşe Özdoğan, who was arrested after cancer surgery, has only one hope left), Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2021/04/23/kanser-ameliyati-olduktan-sonra-tutuklanan-ayse-ozdoganin-tek-umudu-kaldi/>



the second surgery. Özdoğan and her husband were detained on April 8, 2019 for alleged links to the Gülen movement. She was released due to her son's heart condition, but her husband was sent to prison in southern Antalya province. She faces the risk of being sent back to prison despite the fact that her condition got much worse now.

Özdoğan, who has an 8-year-old child, was sentenced to 9 years and 1 month in prison, and this sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court. The crimes charged against her are working as a manager in a private dormitory, having an account at Bank Asya, membership in an association, witness testimony and using the Bylock messaging program.<sup>65</sup>

Trying to make her voice heard on social media, Ayşe Özdoğan said<sup>66</sup>, "I was diagnosed with maxillary sinus a year ago. I had a bone and tissue transplant. At the moment, the disease has spread to my brain. I am 72 percent disabled. I do not want to live in prison like this. If I go to prison like this, I will die. Please be my voice." It was already too late for her second operation, however, as the cancer had spread. Özdoğan's teeth, palate, jugal bone and lymph nodes were removed in an emergency operation. Özdoğan lost her ability to see and hear after the operation due to the trauma her facial bones suffered. Despite the surgery, Özdoğan will have to undergo chemotherapy because the tumor in her head could not be removed. "The doctors said it was too risky to remove the tumor so they have to treat it with chemo, but they are not sure how effective the medicine will be without surgery," she said.<sup>67</sup>

Özdoğan said she suffers from excruciating pain out of worry for her 8-year-old son. "My husband is in prison, waiting for good news from us. My son has not spoken to anyone for 2 days. While talking to my lawyer, my son heard what was said. 'Mom, will the police come? Will they take you away? Will you go to my father? Who will take care of you there? What if you die there?' He started to cry. I'm so desperate, I'm calling out to the authorities. I can't deal with all this in prison conditions." she said.

---

65. Kanser hastası Ayşe Özdoğan, cezaevine girmemek için sesini duyurmaya çalışıyor (Cancer patient Ayşe Özdoğan tries to make her voice heard to avoid going to prison), Euronews, <https://tr.euronews.com/2021/06/16/kanser-hastas-ayse-ozdogan-cezaevine-girmemek-icin-sesini-duyurmaya-cal-s-yor>

66. Ayşe Özdoğan on Twitter, [https://twitter.com/ayse\\_ozdogan1/status/1404740340830117889](https://twitter.com/ayse_ozdogan1/status/1404740340830117889)

67. Cancer patient whose treatment was interrupted after arrest suffering from complications, Stockholm Center for Freedom, <https://stockholmcf.org/cancer-patient-whose-treatment-was-interrupted-after-arrest-suffering-from-complications>



## 20 / Sevgi Sezer

Sevgi Sezer was diagnosed with a vascular tumor during an elongated arrest period in prison, where she was taken on February, 26, 2018. When her complaints increased due to very severe pain, they took her to the hospital and as a result of the tests, a tumor was found. Under normal conditions, finding and ascertaining the location, size and characteristics of such a tumor takes about a week but in her case, the process had lasted a thorny period of nine months. During which time, her pain only exacerbated.

Despite her unendurable pains, her petition to be released for proper care and treatment has not been heeded. Due to the COVID pandemic, she wasn't even able to visit a hospital for nearly 8 months, augmenting the suffering she was passing through.

Her sister Özge was speaking to an online news outlet<sup>68</sup> about her sister's health on February 15, 2020: "We were told that the speed of the enlargement of the tumor had slowed down thanks to medicines, but she needs to have surgery. For this, she must be released. Today we had a contact visit. She said her pains acted up and the medicines are not helping any more."

Her mother Ayşe was also lamenting for her helplessness against her daughter's affliction. "What has my daughter done? She has not even held the hilt of a knife yet they sentenced her over terror. Fear from Allah. My daughter is sick, she can laboredly walk. She has been under arrest for 34 months now. Would the world end if you released her and so we could have her treated."

Sezer was an elementary school teacher in a village school in Rize province when she was found guilty of involvement in terror activities for her affiliations with the Hizmet movement.

Her sister Özge recounted how Sevgi was during her most recent visit in December. "She has been taking cancer drugs for months and her morale has sunk deeply. She wept, complaining about her pain. She said the drugs are no longer alleviating the pain any more. 'My friends were rubbing on olive oil to soothe the pain, even it doesn't help now.' she said."

---

68. Cezaevinde bir dram daha: Tümör büyüdü, acısı dinmiyor (Another drama in prison: The tumor has grown, the pain is not going away), TR724, <https://www.tr724.com/cezaevinde-bir-dram-daha-tumor-buyudu-acisi-dinmiyor>



## 21 / Hidayet Tosun

Dismissed from his job as teacher, Hidayet Tosun was arrested when he was still a convalescent after the second eye surgery. The conditions of the prison were far from helping him recuperate and an eudema was formed on the retina of his eye in January 2020.<sup>69</sup> Gergerlioğlu made Tosun's situation public with a Twitter message. "He had only 10 percent eyesight and needed an urgent surgery to save his eye," the deputy noted, adding that his recovery is difficult in the prison conditions and that he must be released before too long.<sup>70</sup>



## 22 / Hatice Erol

Hatice Erol was trying to make her weak and frail voice heard by sending Gergerlioğlu a letter in May 2019.<sup>71</sup> The 26 year-old woman had been in The Konya Ereğli Prison for a year by the time she sent the letter. She said her epileptic attacks became more and more frequent every passing day in prison and that her condition was very critical since every seizure had the risk of paralysis for her.

Erol was a graduate from the faculty of theology in the Süleyman Demirel University. Her epilepsy was congenital and she had been suffering from this disease since she was a six-month old baby.

In her letter, she was complaining that her epileptic attacks were not recorded by the prison officials. On the contrary, the prison officials were reporting to the court that there was nothing extraordinary concerning her health. As a result, her repeated petitions for release were all discounted on the grounds that there was no backing evidence for her claims. "Although I have insistently demanded from the court my release,

---

69. Turkish man sent to prison days after two consecutive eye surgeries: report, Turkey Purge, <https://turkeypurge.com/turkish-man-sent-to-prison-days-after-two-consecutive-eye-surgeries-report>

70. Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/gergerliogluof/status/1214546630978023425?s=20>

71. There is a letter from 26-year-old epilepsy patient Hatice Erol, Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/en/2019/06/09/there-is-a-letter-from-26-year-old-epilepsy-patient-hatice-erol>

I could not document my epilepsy attack in prison. Every attack I have carries a risk of paralysis. As I am desperate, I am sending this letter to you, hoping for support from you as a person who has already consumed all the ways," her letter stated.



## 23 / Ali İmran Ciritçi

Ali İmran Ciritçi was a university student when he was arrested and put in the İstanbul Silivri Prison in 2018, charged with involvement in terror activities on the grounds that he was affiliated with the Hizmet movement. He had a heart disease before and in the prison, he got complications in one of his eyes, which caused it to shut. He is not released, nor is he given proper treatment.<sup>72</sup>



## 24 / Yağız Gül

Derya Gül, a 33-year-old mother of three children, was complaining in a letter to certain deputies of the Parliament that her son, Yağız, is suffering from the croup disease (laryngotracheobronchitis) and his condition was rapidly exacerbating in the prison. She was demanding in her letter dated on January 7, 2020, to be released so that her kid may get better treatment and that she could help her old and sick mother, who was struggling to look after the other two children of Derya.<sup>73</sup>

A croup patient wakes up at night with violent coughs that sound like barking, and can barely breathe. Yağız was also suffering from these coughing spells once every two weeks on average and was being taken to the ER. In an interview with Bold Medya online news outlet, one of Derya's relatives was narrating what Yağız had to endure: "He becomes short of breath just when he is drifting back to sleep and he can no longer sleep again. He needs cold vapor. When they open the window of the ward, the kid gets cold and the seizures become more frequent during winters. Just recently, he was taken to the ER again and he didn't eat anything

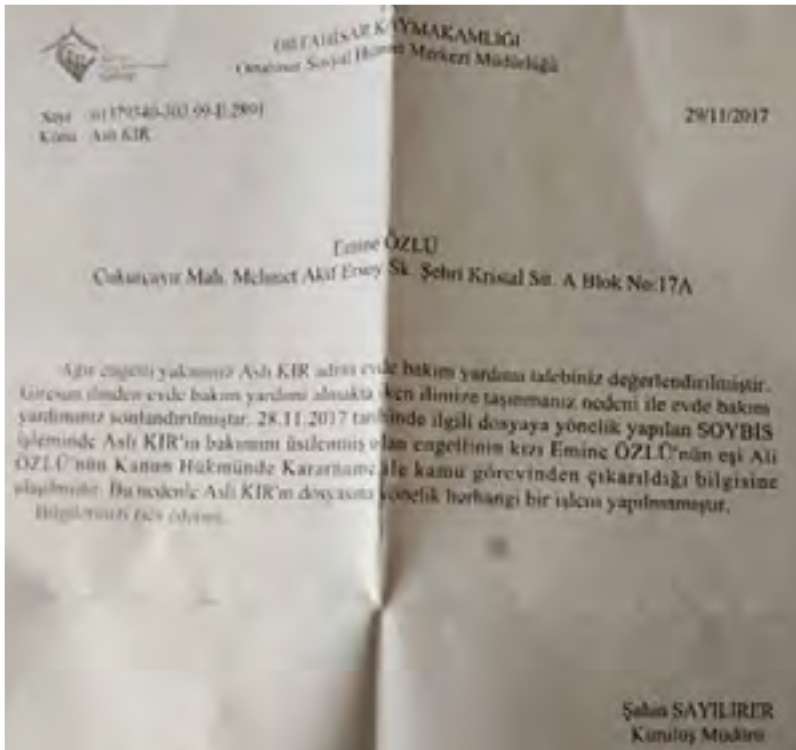
72. Ana Kuzularına Kıymayı Bırakın Artık; Kalp Ve Göz Hastası Öğrenciyi Tahliye Edin (Stop Sacrificing Mothers' Lambs; Release the Student with Heart and Eye Disease), Mağduriyetler, <http://magduriyetler2.blogspot.com/2019/11/ana-kuzularna-kymay-brakn-artk-kalp-ve.html>

73. 2,5 yaşındaki Yağız Sinan cezaevinde atak geçirdi (2,5-year-old Yağız Sinan had an attack in prison), Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2020/01/14/25-yasindaki-yagiz-sinan-cezaevinde-atak-gecirdi>

for three days. He said 'mum, can you make pasta for me' but unfortunately no pasta was made in the prison during these days. There, you can't feed a little child such a simple food like pasta."

In her letter, Derya recounts how the police had waited outside her hospital room to detain her the very day when she had given birth to Yağız. "When I went to the hospital on July 24, 2017 for the birth of my third child Yağız, a few police officers walked in my room and told me that there was an arrest warrant on me. I went into the delivery room with a police officer beside me. They took me to the court a day after the birth."

Derya Gül was arrested one more time on December 24, 2018 and a court sentenced her to 6 years and 3 months in prison for being a member of the Gülen movement.



## 25 / Ali Özlü

Ali Özlü was a 39/year-old teacher before he was dismissed with a KHK for being a member of the Gülen movement. He immediately started a legal battle against his dismissal while trying to survive at a time when all doors were closed against his face. He found a job as a janitor in a residential building. It took some time until a court acquitted him of charges and ordered that he may return to education. But he had already caught nazo-farenks cancer amidst the psychological destruction he had suffered during this turbulent period. Life didn't turn into hell for him and his

family alone. The people around him also had to face cruel treatment. The picture is a snapshot of an official document by the social security department of the Ortahisar District Governorate. The document addresses Ali's wife Emine: "Your request for the care-giver's support for your severely disabled mother Aslı Kır has been assessed. ...It has been found out that the husband of the disabled person's daughter Emine Özlü, Ali Özlü, was dismissed from public duty with a statutory decree [KHK]. For this reason, no action has been taken concerning the file of Aslı Kır."<sup>74</sup>

74. Kaymakamlıktan 'ağaç kökü yesinler' kararı: "Ağır engelli bakım yardımı alamazsın; çünkü damadın KHK'lı" (District governor's office rules 'let them eat tree roots': "You cannot receive care assistance for the severely disabled; because your groom was dismissed by a KHK), TR724, <https://www.tr724.com/kaymakamliktan-agac-koku-yesinler-kara-ri-agir-engelli-bakim-yardimi-alamazsin-cunku-damadin-khkli>



Gergerlioğlu raked this issue up in his Twitter account. “This is how unlawfulness, inhumaneness, remorselessness were carried out during the OHAL [the state of emergency the government had declared following the failed coup attempt]. The caregiver’s support was not given for a severely disabled person since her son-in-law was a [dismissed public officer by] the KHK. Now they are proposing a bill of law to provide a shield for such practices. We will not let these be forgotten and we will bring them to account before the court.”



## 26 / Mustafa Koray Mehirlı

Police officer Mustafa Koray Mehirlı was put in Adana Kozan prison on July 29, 2016, shortly after the failed coup attempt for his affiliation with the Gülen movement. He was diagnosed with thyroid cancer in 2009 and has been receiving regular monthly treatment ever since then in the Adana Balcalı Nuclear Medicine Center. In jail, he was deprived of this treatment, causing his condition to worsen.

His petitions to resume his due treatment have been all turned down. Instead, he is taken to a simple local medical center.

His wife applied to the prosecutor in charge of the prison, demanding her husband to be taken to the nuclear medical center. 20 days later, Mehirlı was sent there and went through some tests, to find out that his disease got worse. According to his doctors, he must have more medicine and must visit the nuclear medicine center at least once every two months. Mehirlı was allowed to visit there only once every three months.<sup>75</sup>

After spending 403 days behind bars, Mehirlı was finally released pending trial in October 2017 due to his disease and started receiving treatment. However, another arrest warrant was issued for him on June 8, 2018, as his name was mentioned in the testimony of another suspect. Mehirlı was in the middle of a cancer treatment and once it was over after 2.5 months, he was tried again and was sentenced for 7 years 3 months and 15 days in prison. He was sent to Mersin Tarsus Prison.

Mehirlı, in a letter he sent to his friend, described the ill-treatment they had in the prison car in the summer of Mersin, one of the hottest cities in Turkey, during his trip to the hospital in August 2019. “My friend had an operation, he came, I do his dressings as much as I can. We came together from the hospital on Wednesday, what a disgrace we suffered that day. Maybe we went with the worst of the prison vans. As if it wasn’t enough that we went with such a van, they made us wait in the van until we went to the hospital. While taking him to the doctor, they took him out of

75. 10 yıldır kanser hastası, 650 gündür cezaevinde (Cancer patient for 10 years, in prison for 650 days), Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2019/06/29/10-yildir-kanser-hastasi-650-gundur-cezaevinde>

the van and showed him to the doctor, and they put him back in the van on the way back. What did we suffer in that heat... May my Lord take our right and revenge from those who torture us like this. Thank God we endured for hours with our hands in handcuffs, in a narrow place, with no toilet or water, with the help of my Lord."<sup>76</sup>

Prison vehicles, which are in the form of single cells and called 'coffins', are a great torture especially for patients, pregnant women and the elderly. It is against the Penal Execution Law No. 5275 that a person with cancer is kept waiting at temperatures exceeding 40 degrees.

## **27 / Kadri Sancar**

When Kadri Sancar was arrested and put in jail in December 2015, he was only 17 years old. He was accused of involvement in an armed conflagration with the security forces along with three other children. The court gave all of them 25 years in prison. This verdict was objected

later by the court of appeals, which demanded a retrial as evidence was not strong enough to support the terror membership allegations for Sancar and his friends. This ruling was not heeded.

Sancar was already a Hepatitis B patient by the time he was confined, and in prison, he started suffering heavy pain in his gums. He was complaining to his family in phone conversations that the aches became unbearable, yet he was not allowed to see a doctor. He was not able to eat properly, causing him to rapidly lose weight. His brother İslam said Kadri was losing sight on his right eye, too. Evrensel<sup>77</sup> reported İslam saying that when Kadri was eventually taken to a hospital, he was scheduled an appointment only for a date after 4 years.



---

76. Tutuklu kanser hastası Mustafa Koray Mehirli'ye cezaevi aracında işkence (Detained cancer patient Mustafa Koray Mehirli tortured in prison vehicle), Turkey Torture Report, <https://iskenceraporu.com/tutuklu-kanser-hastasi-mustafa-koray-mehirliye-cezaevi-aracinda-iskence>

77. Hasta tutuklu Kadri Sancar'ın durumu ağır, tedavisi yapılmıyor (Sick prisoner Kadri Sancar is in serious condition, no treatment is given), Evrensel, <https://www.evrensel.net/haber/390207/hasta-tutuklu-kadri-sancarin-durumu-agir-tedavisi-yapilmiyor>





## 28 / Halil Küçüker

Halil Küçüker, who has a 73 percent disability, had a heart attack while in prison in 2018, when he was 72 years old. A pair of stents were placed in his arteries in a surgery following the stroke. Küçüker's case was brought to the Parliament's agenda by Gergerlioğlu, who also mentioned him in a Twitter message: "He has worked as a teacher and a school administrator for 30 years. He had a heart attack and two stents were placed. He also has slipped discs. He got prostate cancer. He has serious eyesight loss in his left eye. Such heavily ill people are in prisons."<sup>78</sup>



## 29 / Betül Aygün

After being locked up in the Ödemiş T Type prison when she was just a 25-year-old, newly wed Betül Aygün's life has turned upside down. She first had to lie on an operation table to get her gallbladder removed only four months after she was jailed. Not before too long, this time she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She was given medication, which she must have not used, to soothe her pain without prior tests essential for such drugs. Adding insult to injury, the prescribed medication was not given to her when she was directly sent back to prison following the surgery.<sup>79</sup>

Aygün's miseries were being voiced only by Gergerlioğlu, but his cries from the Parliamentary rostrum were hitting the deaf ears. Aygün started receiving proper treatment for her breast cancer 6 months after the diagnosis, despite the fact that even a single day matters a lot for such a fatal disease. Her only companion when she was taken to surgery and when she was put in intensive care was an armed soldier. Her hospital room had a window with iron bars, which was also curtained with shutters. She demanded her legal right to be released on the grounds of her extremely fragile health conditions and on the doctor's report, stating clearly that Aygün

78. Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/gergerliogluof/status/1183727967513579522>

79. Cezaevinde kanser oldu, iki kere ameliyat edildi, defalarca çıplak aramaya maruz bırakıldı (She got cancer in prison, underwent two surgeries, has been repeatedly strip searched), Aktif Haber, <https://www.aktifhaber.com/iskence/cezaevinde-kanser-oldu-iki-kere-ameliyat-edildi-defalarca-ciplak-aramaya-maruz-birakildi-h154498.html>

cannot stay in prison, but she was not released. Her condition got so worse that she was able to eat only wet food and only with the help of her inmates. Even then, she was not released.

Recalling these days later, Aygün recounted the conditions in her prison ward. "We were cleaning the sewage system, which was overflowing almost every day. It is not over by simply cleaning the flushed sewage water. Wards were being occupied by large mice due to canalization so bad that mice were jumping on us everywhere."

Sentenced to 7 years and 6 months, Aygün was released due to her cancer on February 2, 2020 after spending more than 4 years in prison. She managed to cross the border and took refuge in Germany, where she finally started receiving proper treatment for her illness. Speaking to .... there, she said: "I still can't believe that I have a new life. ... You resign yourself to things that happen to you. You say, 'I have fallen into prison and now I have to accept this reality' and even that acceptance takes time. It will end and there won't be any more problems in my life. This is something I have to live through. But the unjust treatment and aggrievements make that place unbearable. Besides, cancer was one of the diseases I fear the most. While in prison, you think that many things in your life will be unfinished. With the cancer, I thought it was over now. I would die in prison and you can do nothing to change this. You think that the life that you had been dreaming of will be no more." *(Aygün poses for one of the rare photo opportunities in prison, after the gallbladder surgery. She said she was 46 kilos (101 pounds) by that time.)*



## 30 / Ramazan Kuru

Ramazan Kuru had a heart attack in Dinar prison on September 29, 2019. He was 67 years old by that time. After having a brief moment of conversation with his father before he was taken to a serious heart surgery with a special permission from prosecution, his son Metin was telling about his father's situation to an online news outlet: "When he felt ill on a Thursday evening, he was directly taken to hospital with an ambulance. We learned about it on Friday. He felt swelling in his abdomen, coupled with excessive sweating. He also had some pain beforehand. He will be taken to a by-pass surgery since several of his veins didn't respond well to angio. We will

submit our legal application for his release. He will get a heart surgery and will need special treatment. He can't take care of himself in the prison conditions.<sup>80</sup>

Kuru was detained on July 27, 2016 and was sentenced by Afyon 2nd High Criminal Court

80. In prison for 3 years, 67-year-old man denied release despite heart attack, Turkey Purge, <https://turkeypurge.com/in-prison-for-3-years-67-year-old-man-denied-release-despite-heart-attack>

to 9 years and 9 months for his affiliations with the Gülen movement. Kuru was a merchant in Afyon, trading agricultural products and tools.



## 31 / Ahmet Ferah

Ahmet Ferah was 85 years old when he was arrested in August 2019 and was put in the Silivri Prison in İstanbul. He had serious problems in his hearing abilities, making it almost impossible to communicate with others, exacerbating the already-challenging prison conditions for him. His family was crying out to make their voices heard as they were questioning the reason behind arresting such an old and ailing person, despite the fact that throwing him into the merciless mill of prison was tantamount to killing him.<sup>81</sup>



## 32 / Adem Erdoğan

Adem Erdoğan was 50 years old when he was jailed on March 5, 2018. His pleas that confinement in prison may be fatal for him with his ailing heart, which was working at only 35 percent performance, a claim substantiated by a medical committee report issued after an angio in 2015. (*Erdoğan poses for a family photo.*)

Erdoğan's health deteriorated in the prison conditions, plummeting his heart's functional level by another 5 percentage points as the prison administrations denied him of his drugs for more than 2 weeks. Considering

that he is also a hypertension patient, as per the result of an examination in Sakarya Research Hospital, where he was taken after his complaints exacerbated, Erdoğan was hospitalized on October 19, 2019 for an operation to insert a cardiac pacemaker in his heart. However, he was allowed to stay under the hospital care only one day following the surgery and was sent directly to Sakarya Ferizli L type Prison where he was kept in.

As part of the measures taken against the COVID 19 pandemic, he was put in the quarantine

81. Mağdur Mesajı on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/magdurmesaji/status/1178261355205447685>

cell of the prison for 14 days. His wife Birsen was expressing her concerns to online news outlet Kronos<sup>82</sup>, asking how could a cardiac patient, who had just come out of a surgery, take care of himself in a solitary confinement cell, all alone. "We have been devastated as a family, thinking how he was suffering in prison conditions after surgery. Why are you rushing him back to prison as if kidnapping him from intensive care? Who will be responsible if something happens to him?" said Birsen.

But the bad scenario happened and Erdoğan was hospitalized in Sakarya University Research Hospital with an emergency diagnosis in April 2021, when he caught the coronavirus. His family learned from the e-government record that Erdoğan had contracted the coronavirus. Neither the hospital nor the prison felt the need to inform the family even the slightest.<sup>83</sup>



## 33 / Muaz Bahadır

Muaz was only 2 months old when he met the cruel environment of a prison along with his mother, Nurhal Erdal Bahadır, who is in the women's prison in Adana's Tarsus district on charges of being a member of the Gülen movement. Muaz was born with strabismus, or crossed eyes, and he also had a coarctation of aorta, a disease affecting the heart. The little baby's health conditions were only getting worse day in and day out, not only because the prison was not the best therapeutic place, but also due to the advertent malicious treatment of the prison administration for convicts charged with Hizmet membership. The drugs and the special glasses for his

eyes were delivered to him only after a month following the start of his captivity along with his mother Nurhal. Muaz's father was lucky to be free and he was trying to mobilize the public conscience with Twitter messages with a hope that his family may be freed as well.<sup>84</sup>

---

82. Kalp pili takılan Adem Erdoğan, bir gün sonra 14 günlük karantina hücreğine konuldu (Adem Erdoğan placed in cell for 14-day quarantine a day after pacemaker intalled in his heart), Kronos, <https://kronos34.news/tr/kalp-pili-takilan-adem-erdogdu-bir-gun-sonra-14-gunluk-karantina-hucresine-konuldu/>

83. Kalp hastası tutuklu Adem Erdoğan'nun koronavirüs tedavisi ağır ilerliyor (Corona virus treatment of heart patient prisoner Adem Erdoğan is progressing slowly), Kronos, <https://kronos34.news/tr/kronik-kalp-hastasi-tutuklu-adem-erdogdu-dort-gundur-koronavirus-tedavisi-altinda-enfeksiyon-degerleri-yukseldi/>

84. Kalp hastası Muaz bebek 6 aydır hapiste (Baby with heart disease has been in jail for 6 months), Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2019/06/20/kalp-hastasi-muaz-bebek-6-aydir-hapiste/>



## 34 / Özgür Doğan

The name of Özgür Doğan means born free in Turkish and this free man's life ended because of lung cancer he contracted in captivity. He was dismissed from his public duty in 2016 and was arrested not long after this, on September 22 for his Gülen movement connections and was sentenced to 8 years and 9 months. Doğan was somehow enduring the vicious treatment against the convicts like him but he couldn't make it. In March 2019, a series of tests revealed that the source of his complaints was actually cancer. On July 31 the same year he started receiving chemotherapy. The disease was spreading rapidly and the treatment was a far cry from really curing Doğan. (*Özgür Doğan, after his release.*)

Owing to his wife Seyra's struggles, he was eventually released on September 13, 2019. But it was already too late. His cancer was already in the fourth stage. Seyra was complaining that Özgür was denied proper access to diagnosis and treatment by the prison authorities and was pushed to his death. In one of her older statements with the Bold news website, she was saying: "He stayed in the hospital in a cell-like room. There his weight plummeted from 66 kilos to 53, yet he didn't complain about his situation even once. However, in his last letter, he wrote 'I am like a fish out of water'"

Doğan had been teaching literature in Manisa's Salihli district for 16 years until he was dismissed on September 1, 2016. He achieved his master's degree in literature in the Marmara University and was attending a doctorate program in Celal Bayar University. He passed away on April 6 2020, at the age of 43, leaving behind three small kids and a wife in pain.<sup>85</sup>

---

85. Cezaevinde kansere yakalandı, geç tahliye edildi: KHK'lı öğretmen hayatını kaybetti (Caught cancer in prison, released late: Teacher dismissed by KHK passed away), Kronos, <https://kronos34.news/tr/cezaevinde-kansere-yakalandi-gec-tahliye-edildi-khkli-ogretmen-ozgur-dogan-hayatini-kaybetti>





## **35 / Hüseyin Kara, 36 / Zübeyde Kara**

Hüseyin Kara was imposed with a heavy punishment of 18 years in prison for being a member of the Gülen movement. As his wife Zübeyde was also incarcerated with the same charges for 8 years at the same time, their three children, Rana (12), Erdem (10) and Sena (3) were left all alone now.<sup>86</sup>

A chronic patient of irritable bowel syndrome, Hüseyin Kara was afraid that he would die in prison and leave his children fatherless. He asked Gergerlioğlu's support to make his voice heard in a letter, where he wrote: "I am dying here. My father died when I was a child and I was raised as an orphan boy. So I know very well what it means to not have a father. Please don't let my three children grow without a father."

He also emphasized in the same letter that his kids were also deprived of their mothers, too. What makes things even worse was that even Zübeyde was ailing with a serious health issue and must not stay in prison: "My wife has mitral valve prolapsus in her heart and had already often been experiencing faints and she told me that she is frequently feeling faints now, too."

## **37 / Muhammet Koşar**

Muhammed Koşar, a disabled public servant who was dismissed with a statutory decree for his alleged ties with the Gülen movement, has been given 25 months in prison for depositing money in Bank Asya, a financial institution, which was seized by the Turkish government as part of its fight against the Hizmet.

Deputy Gergerlioğlu made public Koşar's situation in a tweet<sup>87</sup>, after receiving a letter from him. Aged 46, Koşar has been living with a pair of crutches to be able to stand and walk ever since he suffered polio when he was 2 years old.

The court issued the prison verdict against him even without listening to a defense from him. Koşar objected to this decision by bringing it to the court of appeals, stating that he has an ongoing legal dispute with the mentioned bank, let alone supporting it with an intentional

86. 18 yıla mahkum edilen hasta tutuklu Kara'nın kalp hastası eşine 8 yıl hapis! (Heart-patient wife of the sick prisoner Kara, who was sentenced to 18 years, was sentenced to 8 years!), Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2020/01/19/18-yila-mahkum-edilen-hasta-tutuklu-karanin-kalp-hastasi-esine-8-yil-hapis/>

87. Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/gergerliogluof/status/1129824821095948288?s=20>

## Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdoğan's Turkey

money deposit to save it. The Turkish government, headed by Erdoğan back then, claimed that a massive corruption probe on December 17 and 25 of 2013 was a heinous coup attempt, perpetrated by the prosecutors close to Hizmet. As a revenge, Erdoğan started a full-fledged war relying on state power to exterminate



the companies and institutions known to have affiliations with the movement. Turkey's largest Islamic lender, Bank Asya, was one of primary targets. Despite the banking law's clear rules that any act or speech undermining a financial institution's standing was a heavily punishable crime, he brazenly carried out a campaign to deter individuals and companies from depositing money there. Hizmet followers retaliated by transferring their savings elsewhere to Bank Asya, propping up the bank's financials with cash inflow in order to be able to counter this massive assault led by Erdoğan. Their efforts weren't enough though as finally Erdoğan ordered the Treasury to seize Bank Asya for its fragile financial standing and later declared that any person or company who put money in their Bank Asya accounts during his personal war against it will be held responsible for supporting terrorism.

Koşar was defending himself later in the court of appeals that the movements in his Bank Asya account during this time were a part of the money transfers due to an inheritance division. Although he is seriously disabled and will suffer greatly in the prison, his appeal to Gergerlioğlu was primarily concerned about his three children. "They are all attending schools and without me providing them, they will miserably be scattered," he wrote.



### **38 / Ömer Ertaş**

Ömer Ertaş, who was arrested for political reasons 3 years before the treatment process was completed after his traffic accident, was put in Van F-Type Closed Prison. A piece of platinum was installed in his leg after the accident. In the awful con-



ditions of his prison life, the spot of the surgery on his leg was contaminated with some kind of virus, causing and worsening of a wound. The doctor, who did not even examine him at the hospital where he was taken 4 months later, only prescribed some potion before sending him away. What is worse, many of the prescribed drugs were not given to him for many days. Ertaş, who was about 80 kilos (around 176 pounds), was dropped to 40 kilos in prison.<sup>88</sup>



## 39 / Oğuz Aslan Özen

Oğuz Aslan Özen was a successful scientist and academician with patented novelty in the treatment of cancer. He was the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Namık Kemal University. He was put in jail in 2016 for alleged ties with the Gülen movement. Özen, who has Obstructive Sleep Apnea Syndrome (OSAS), has to sleep with a Continuous Positive Airway Pressure machine every night since the OSAS blocks the upper respiratory tract during sleep, a fatal risk to his life.

Speaking to online media outlet Bold in 2019, his wife, Türkan, said Özen's medical condition was getting worse every passing day.<sup>89</sup> Due to the particularly bad air

inside the overcrowded prison wards, the filter of the machine needed to be cleaned every day and this was causing a dramatic decline in its effectiveness and condition. In addition to OSAS, Özen started to suffer from a stone in his gallbladder. She said Özen was sent to a hospital in the province of Edirne to be tested for his gallbladder without even informing the family. She said she was not even allowed to see him. After getting treatment in this hospital, he was taken to the High Security F-Type Prison in Edirne, where he was put in solitary confinement in a small cell. "He cannot speak to anyone there, staying all alone. Since nobody gave us any information concerning his situation, we couldn't provide him with money," said Türkan. She added that Özen couldn't even buy water since one needs to purchase a prison card first in order to be able to buy things from the prison canteen.

On June 18, 2019, Özen was sentenced to 9 years. His family rejected the decision and brought it to a court of appeals. Later, the case was also brought to the European Court of Human

---

88. Hasta tutuklu dilekçesinden 4 ay sonra hastaneye götürüldü (The patient was taken to the hospital 4 months after the detention petition), Evrensel,

<https://www.evrensel.net/haber/386449/hasta-tutuklu-dilekcesinden-4-ay-sonra-hastaneye-goturuldu>

89. Kanserli hücreleri onaran ilacı bulan Prof. Oğuz Aslan Özen cezaevinde ölüme sürükleniyor (Inventor of the drug that repairs cancer cells, Prof. Oğuz Aslan Özen is dragged to death in prison), Bold Medya, <https://www.boldmedya.com/2019/08/20/kanserli-hucreleri-onaran-ilaci-bulan-prof-oguz-aslan-ozen-cezaevinde-olumu-surukleniyor/>

Rights (ECHR). Türkan said her husband was taken to the prison infirmary 75 times in 3 years, a statistic which was not heeded by the court while assessing Özen's suitability to stay in prison. "He is taking way too many drugs. He has to use a machine for his sleep apnea, taking anti-depressants for his panic attack, a drug for high blood pressure, a separate medication for the reflux in his stomach, painkillers as well as antibiotics for gallstone. This shouldn't be done to a sick person. Laws must be implemented and he should be released pending trial."



## 40 / Tacettin Özer

Tacettin Özer was a teacher until dismissed by a governmental decree. He was arrested on January 9, 2017 and was sent to the Malatya prison. Beside problems in his heart. Özer also had diabetes and high blood pressure. His health problems were not limited to these serious illnesses. He was suffering from Hepatitis-B and nodules in his thyroid glands. The court sentenced him to 8 years and 9 months, without ameliorating the decision due to bad health conditions. He also started to suffer from ruptured intervertebral disks, which made even walking an extremely arduous activity. Despite his pain, he was not

able to secure an appointment for a simple MR scan as the prison officials were not considering his condition seriously.<sup>90</sup>



## 41 / Gülden Aşık

Gülden Aşık was a 40-year-old housewife. She was arrested for being a member of the Gülen movement and was sent to the Bandırma M-Type Prison, where she learnt that she was pregnant. But the heavy stress she passed through as well as the ill-treatment she suffered during the arrest and her three-month captivity in prison, the baby's heart stopped. On May 31, 2019, Aşık was taken to the ER of the Bandırma Public Hospital and her pregnancy was aborted. Shortly after this incident, she was released. She later recounted the tribulation she had to endure for

90. Mağdurların Sesi on Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/p/B0Oymriglqn/?igshid=zcyd1t8hbgng>

no reason in a 19-page letter.<sup>91</sup> Still unconscious under the influence of the anesthetics as she was awakening after the surgery, Aşık was repeatedly murmuring “I am not a terrorist. Please don’t handcuff me. They killed my baby. In her letter, she was remembering a conversation between a wardress and an officer, as the letter was taking over the shift. Scanning the notes, the officer said “her baby died.” The wardress responded saying “nothing important brother. It was only 7-8 weeks, I mean just a piece of garbage. You know just some garbage.” Aşık noted in her letter: “I was hearing all of it. My loss was only garbage for them. My heart was torn out and I could hard-

ly keep myself from crying. My baby, my blood, soul was garbage... The same wardress was complaining to others a couple of minutes later that she couldn’t leave for home as a nurse was late and that his child was waiting for her at home. And I sat there just like that, feeling empty, with a fire burning inside me and a garbage bag full of my belongings beside me.”



## 42 / Ayşe Kurt

Ayşe Kurt was a 56-year-old woman when she was sentenced to 25 months in prison in 2019 for being a member of the Gülen movement. In prison, she had to go through a surgery for her growing hernia. The doctors reported that

the patient must lay down on a special bed for two months avoiding movements as much as possible. She was also told not to use alaturca WCs during this time. This clearly required special care outside the prison but the prosecution turned down the official plea for the suspension of the execution. Kurt was sent to prison despite her extremely risky situation and pains. Deputy

Gergerlioğlu tried to draw attention to her misery and the merciless decision to put her back to prison, but his calls for justice fell on deaf ears.<sup>92</sup>



## 43 / Adem Kaçar

Diabetes patient Adem Kaçar was in the Kırıklar prison in İzmir’s Buca district when serious wounds formed

91. Cezaevinde bebeğini kaybeden Güliden Aşık tahliye oldu (Güliden Aşık, who lost her baby in prison, was released), Bold Medya, <https://www.boldmedya.com/2019/07/10/cezaevinde-bebegini-kaybeden-gulden-asik-tahliye-oldu/>

92. Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/gergerliogluof/status/1144660156954886144?s=20>

under his feet along with purulence due to the diabetes. He was taken to a hospital where a plastic surgeon lanced his feet to let the pus suppurate from his feet. However, he was denied medication for 12 days following the operation, according to a tweet by Gergerlioğlu. The MP was stating that the wound was not simple and had the risk of causing the amputation of the leg if not attended properly.<sup>93</sup>



## 44 / Engin Kara

Engin Kara had a liver transplantation operation after he developed cirrhosis in the prison in 2019. His recuperation process was not easy with a lot of restrictions and prohibitions by soldiers around him even in his hospital bed, yet he would be sent back to prison. After about 4 months of struggle, a court eventually decided to release him and suspended the execution of his imprisonment for six months. Speaking to Aktifhaber.com at a later date<sup>94</sup>Kara was expressing how wonderful it felt for him the first time when the wind touched his face.

Kara underwent liver transplantation in Malatya Turgut Özal Medical Center on April 2, 2019. He was grateful for the support he had received from different people and was particularly pointing out to a doctor, whose insistence that he may not survive in the prison was one of the fundamental reasons for his release.



## 45 / Şerif Agu

Şerif Agu was a 48-year-old teacher of mathematics when he was detained for terror charges on June 22, 2016. He was arrested two days later and sent to Antalya L Type Closed Prison.

He had been a Hepatitis B carrier for 18 years and in 2015, he had an operation after a malignant tumor was detected

---

93. Tutuklu Hastalar on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/TutukluHastalar/status/1137989293128015873?s=20>

94. Cezası ertelenen hasta tutuklu Engin Kara: Yüzüne rüzgar vurması ne büyük nimetmiş (Engin Kara, the sick prisoner whose sentence was postponed: What a blessing it was to have the wind blow on face) , Aktif Haber, <https://aktifhaber.com/15-temmuz/cezasi-ertelenen-hasta-tutuklu-engin-kara-yuzune-ruzgar-vurmasi-ne-buyuk-nimetmis-h135203.html>



in his liver.<sup>95</sup> He was counting the days for a liver transplant surgery when he was detained. The teacher had the liver transplant on March 30, 2019, but after receiving treatment in the hospital for about 1.5 months, he was sent back to prison on May 14, 2019 despite the Istanbul Forensic Medicine report's statement that "his sentence should be postponed".

The article 16/2 of the Law No. 5275 on Execution of Sentences and Security Measures stipulates that "in any other case of illness, the execution of the prison sentence shall be continued in those parts of official health institutions which are allocated for convicts. However, if the execution of the prison sentence even in this way presents an absolute danger for the life of the convict, its execution shall be postponed until he is cured."<sup>96</sup> The Istanbul Forensic Medicine Institute examined Agu's situation and sent its report to the Antalya Regional Court of Justice 2nd Criminal Chamber on 8 April 2019. The report referred to the above article and concluded that Agu's sentence must be postponed for at least 6 months. However, despite this report signed by 6 specialist physicians, the Antalya Regional Court of Justice didn't heed the hospital report and sent the patient back to the prison. This blatant ignorance of Agu's critical condition was brought to the European Court of Human Rights, which demanded urgent explanation from the Turkish government for the decision of Agu's compatibility for detention in a prison despite having gone through a serious surgery like liver transplantation.



## 46 / Yusuf Akkuş

Yusuf Akkuş, who was said to have got injured 5 years ago in Syria, where he went to carry out humanitarian aid work, is still kept in prison despite medical reports proving that he is mentally ill and his disability is 70 per cent. Akkuş was arrested and sent to Malatya E-type prison over terrorism charges. His family started a campaign on social media.<sup>97</sup> "He was sentenced to imprisonment in the court opened due to his presence in Syria, we could not appeal and appeal because we did not receive the notification of the decision from the court of

---

95. Karaciğer nakli yapılan tutukluya Adli Tıp'tan inanılmaz cevap (Unbelievable response from Forensic Medicine to prisoner who received liver transplant), Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2020/03/19/karaciger-nakilli-hasta-tutukluya-adli-tiptan-inanilmaz-cevap/>

96. Law Number 5275 on the Execution of Penalties and Security Measures, <http://www.lawsturkey.com/law/the-law-on-the-execution-of-penalties-and-security-measures-5275>

97. Yüzde 70 engelli 'yardım gönüllüsü' Yusuf Akkuş tutuklandı (Yusuf Akkuş, a 70 percent disabled 'aid volunteer', was arrested), Mepa News, <https://www.mepanews.com/yuzde-70-engelli-yardim-gonullusu-yusuf-akkus-tutuklandi-25724h.htm>

appeal. Although the other defendants sent the file to appeal because we could not make a request, the sentence of my brother Yusuf Akkuş was approved as closed to appeal and put in prison," the family wrote, adding that Akkuş is like a child now and in constant need of care. "If someone else does not feed Yusuf Akkuş, he cannot eat, drink, and if someone else does not wash him, he can clean himself. He is constantly infected and has a fever. He had surgery on his arm 10 days ago and his arm still hasn't healed... He forgets 5 minutes ago and does not know what to do, is left to die in Malatya Prison."



## 47 / Harun Karateke

Harun Karateke (29) was arrested in March 2017 and sentenced to 7.5 years imprisonment for being a member of the Gülen movement. 8 months after his incarceration in Konya Prison, Karateke's mental health started to precipitously deteriorate as he was first diagnosed with bipolar disorder and not long after this, with Schizophrenia. As he started to harm himself by hitting his head on the walls, the prison administrati-

on finally took him to the Bakırköy Psychiatric Hospital in Istanbul. But he was taken back to the prison the same day as the hospital was crowded.

His sister Sümeyra Karateke Çetin detailed her brother's condition in an online media outlet<sup>98</sup>: "The heavy conditions of the Konya prison were effective in the aggravation of his mental disorder. 45 people were living in his first ward, which had only one toilet and one bathroom. They had the right to go out for some fresh air to a little space like a little garden every two days and only for several minutes. They were taking showers in an order, according to a list and hot water was flowing only on certain days. Contact visitation was allowed once every two months and non-contact visitations were limited to only 15 minutes and we were able to talk only for a couple of minutes due to a lot of limitations. When I asked 'Harun have you eaten something?', he replied: 'Harun ate something', speaking like a 3-year-old child.

---

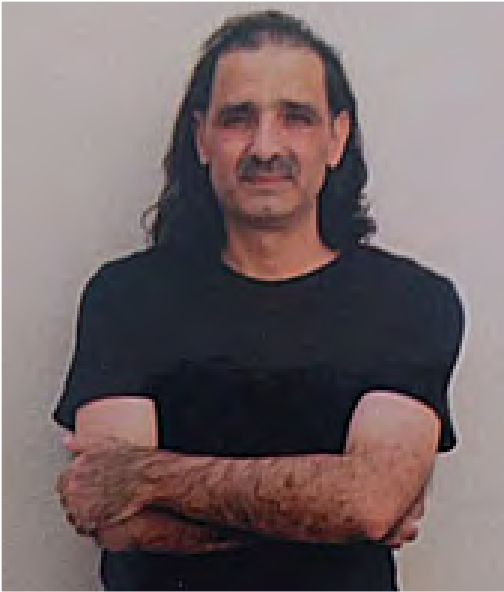
98. A young teacher who lost his sanity in prison, sent to his ward back as Bakırköy Hospital was dense, Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/en/2019/05/30/a-young-teacher-who-lost-his-sanity-in-prison-sent-to-his-ward-back-as-bakirkoy-hospital-was-dense/>



## 48 / Ahmet Akdoğan

Ahmet Akdoğan was 72 year old when he was arrested and put in prison after getting sentenced to 9 years for being a member of the Gülen movement. According to Gergerlioğlu, the old man had been kept in solitary confinement for 33 months as of July 2019 possibly for being a relative of Fethullah Gülen.<sup>99</sup> When in detention in his cell, he had a heart spasm. Due to his increasing age and declining health conditions, his eyesight dramatically weakened and because of being forced to stay alone without being allowed to have conversation with others, he grew oblivious. He also had high blood pressure.

Despite all these heavy health problems, the prosecution did not show any leniency to give him what the current laws bestow as a natural right.



## 49 / Sinan Büyükkoral

In December 2018, Sinan Büyükkoral was sent to Mene-men State Hospital due to a mass on his neck. Two separate biopsies were performed there and since the results were grave, he was transferred to İzmir Kâtip Çelebi University Atatürk Training and Research Hospital for more detailed inspections. A new biopsy in this hospital confirmed that the mass was indeed a "malignant tumor" and that Büyükkoral contracted nasopharyngeal cancer. He was referred to the Radiation Oncology service for treatment. The treatment required radiotherapy regularly every day for at least 1.5 months.

A report from the hospital medical board stated that he cannot stay in prison, yet the Court of Appeal has not given a release decision for months. In a petition, demanding release to receive his proper treatment, Büyükkoral was complaining how hard it

---

99. 75 yaşındaki Ahmet Amca 3 yıldır hücre hapsinde tutuluyor, tahliye edilmiyor (Uncle Ahmet, 75, has been kept in solitary confinement for 3 years, not released), TR724, <https://www.tr724.com/75-yasindaki-ahmet-amca-3-yildir-hucre-hapsinde-tutulmuyor-tahliye-edilmiyor/>



was to receive treatment in prison conditions<sup>100</sup>. According to this petition, he was staying in a ward, originally designed for 10 people with 20 people, 6 of whom have to sleep on the floor. The food distributed by the prison was far from sufficient for a patient receiving cancer treatment. The wards are not even close to the minimum hygienic conditions for a patient. He has to spend an average of 5 hours every day in the high security prison shuttle, which inmates call as the “coffin” back and forth the hospital to receive his radiotherapy. Despite all these valid arguments, however, Büyükoral’s demand was not heeded.



## 50 / Ahmet Karakuş

Detained on the charge of having a membership in a Hizmet-related labor union in 2017, Ahmet Karakuş was diagnosed with testicular cancer when in prison.<sup>101</sup> He started receiving chemotherapy treatment as a prisoner as his petition to be released was turned down. The court disregarded even the medical reports that Karakuş’s medical condition doesn’t allow him to stay behind the bars and that imprisonment poses a fatal risk for his health. The medical reports were clearly demanding an immediate release for Karakuş.



## 51 / Bekir Bıçakçı

Passed away at the age of 77 in prison, Bekir Bıçakçı is one of the victims of the prosecution against the Gülen movement. He had been in Isparta E Type Prison for 34 months when he fell in the prison bathroom on April 13, 2019 and suffered a brain hemorrhage. He was taken to a hospital in Antalya but couldn’t be saved.<sup>102</sup> Spending most of his life working for the improvement of education, Bıçakçı died

100. A letter by Büyükoral can be found on <http://medyayildirim1.blogspot.com/2019/04/sinan-buyukoral-izmir-menemen-t-tipi.html>

101. Kanser tedavisini cezaevinde görüyor: “Tabutta tahliye olmasın” (He is receiving cancer treatment in prison: “Don’t let him be released in the coffin”), TR724, <https://www.tr724.com/kanser-tedavisini-cezaevinde-goruyor-tabutta-tahliye-olmasin/>

102. İki haneye daha ateş düştü (Two more households were under fire), Samanyolu Haber, <http://www.samanyoluhaber.com/iki-haneye-daha-ates-dustu-haberi/1322739>

on April 13. His formal letters of application and petitions to be released due to his old age and aggravating health problems were not heeded. Despite all her efforts, his wife Gülten Bıçakçı was not allowed to see her husband at his last moments in the hospital room.



## 52 / Rukiye Koçak

Rukiye Koçak, under detention in the Van T-Type Prison since November 2018 has thyroid cancer and her thyroid glands were completely removed. She needs to receive lifelong treatment and use medication but is kept in prison. Gergerlioğlu brought her case to the public's attention in 2019 in his Twitter account. Reminding that her husband Mehmet is also imprisoned, both for the membership of the Hizmet movement, the human rights activist wrote that Rukiye has thyroid cancer and a mitral valve deficiency in her heart substantiated with a medical report stating that she has 42 percent disability. She had

two kids, one is 5 year old and the other is just 1.5, said Gergerlioğlu, asserting that at least the mother must be released.<sup>103</sup>



## 53 / Ahmet Polat Önel

Despite an official medical report asserting that his health condition is definitely not suitable for imprisonment, Ahmet Polat Önel has been kept behind the bars of the T-Type prison in Tekirdağ since December 2016. Önel's health problems are serious. He has skin cancer, accompanied by diabetes and high blood pressure. Adding insult to injury, he is 60 percent disabled and he also suffers from anxiety disorder.<sup>104</sup> There is no evidence of him involved in any kind of act of violence or at least encouraged or verbally supported any act of terror. He was given 15 years of pri-

103. Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/gergerliogluof/status/1114879480621932544>

104. 'Cezaevinde kalamaz raporu'na rağmen 2 yıl 2 aydır tutuklu (He has been held in prison for 2 years and 2 months despite his 'he cannot stay in prison report'), Kronos, <https://kronos34.news/tr/ahmet-polat-onel-cezaevinde-kalamaz-raporuna-ragmen-2-yil-2-aydir-tutuklu>

son time based on the allegations of a witness accusing him of having a managerial position in the Hizmet's provincial structure in Yalova.



## 54 / Ünal Üneş

Ünal Üneş was 60 years old when he was incarcerated over charges of being a member of the Gülen movement. He faced allegations of being the leader of the movement in the province of Erzurum, collecting charities from volunteers and distributing this money to certain Hizmet-related institutions and activities using the Bank Asya as the intermediary. Although none of these constituted a crime back then, nor were they crimes even at the time of his trial, he was still sentenced to 17 years and 6 months in prison in October 2018. He had been kept in a solitary confinement cell for nearly 2 years and was denied proper treatment despite the fact that he had a stent

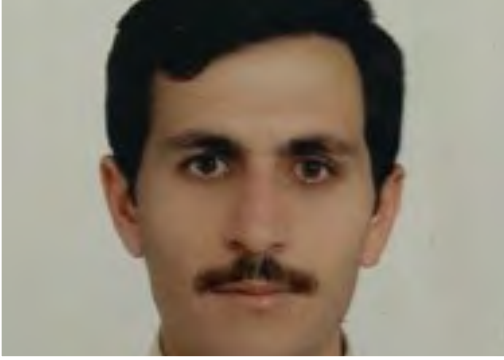
placed in his ailing heart, exacerbated by severe diabetes.<sup>105</sup> Let alone alleviating prison conditions in line with his broken health, quite the reverse, the prison administration aggravated things for him by forcibly cutting all ways that he can communicate with any visitor, denying him of phone calls, reading newspapers, sending or receiving letters, etc.

## 55 / Meryem Karateke

Meryem Karateke was a student at Gazi Osman Pasa University, from which she couldn't graduate for years due to her chronic diseases like MS and severe osteoporosis. She had recently suffered massive weight loss.<sup>106</sup> Osteoporosis made one of her legs grow weaker and shorter. Due to such permanent health problems, she was bound to regular medication and hospital visits. On March 13, 2019, the police searched the houses of her parents and her sister, who already informed them that Meryem was receiving treatment in a hospital at that time. They said Meryem was summoned by a prosecutor for her statement as part of an investigation, implicating her for having connections with the Gülen movement. Meryem went to the police station with her lawyer later on, but instead of recording her statement in the police station, she was taken to Tokat, having to endure a 17-hour drive in the backseat of a police car, a tormenting experience for her given her serious health problems.

105. Hücredekiler on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/hucredekkiler/status/1088508034928857100>

106. MağduriyetTR on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/magduriyettr1/status/1107551196011786240>



## 56 / Abdullah Aslan

Abdullah Aslan, a cancer patient, was arrested and put in the Şakran prison, where his disease relapsed. Aslan underwent surgery for a brain tumor and was subsequently arrested only to be sent back to prison. His treatment was interrupted and the tumor started to spread again.<sup>107</sup>

## 57 / Fadime Coşar

Fadime Coşar was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in March 2018 when she was being kept in the Gebze prison. She received a medical report from The Institution of Forensic Medicine asserting the urgency of a surgery. Despite her applications and the report, she was denied having treatment and undergoing the necessary operation. When Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu brought up this case to the public opinion in January 2018, Coşar was still waiting for the mercy of the authorities.<sup>108</sup>



## 58 / Turgay Doğan

Turgay Doğan was a prosecutor before he was dismissed from his public duty with a statutory decree on charges of having affiliations with the Gülen movement. He was detained on September 12, 2018, released after 4 days on probation, but upon objection by a prosecutor, he was arrested once again on October 9 and was sent to Ankara Sincan Prison. He was a cancer patient, undergoing treatment by the time he was sent to prison. The cancer cells had not been completely cleaned from his body. Sending a person, who was in a fierce battle with the most lethal disease was no different from putting his neck on the line.<sup>109</sup>

107. "Ameliyatlı bir insanın tutuklanıp hapse atılması ahlaka, vicdana sığar mı?" ("Is it moral and conscientious to arrest and imprison a person who had a surgery?"), Aktif Haber, <https://aktifhaber.com/15-temmuz/ameliyatli-bir-insanin-tutuklanip-hapse-atil-masi-ahlaka-vicdana-sigar-mi-h116233.html>

108. Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/gergerliogluof/status/1095323954837966848>

109. Ölümle pençelesen iki tutuklu hasta (Two imprisoned patients struggling with death), Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2019/04/01/olumle-pencelesen-iki-tutuklu-hasta/>





## 59 / Sevim Demirdelen

Sevim Demirdelen was incarcerated on January 7, 2019 on charges of being a member of a terror organization for her connections with the Gülen movement. She was 90-percent visually impaired and was already struggling to raise her three-year-old daughter alone, as her husband had been confined behind bars on the same allegations for 30 months.<sup>110</sup>

With her disability, Sevim was barely able to help herself in the familiar environment of her home. Without even the slightest evidence of her involvement in any kind of criminal activity or any sort violence, she was still

mercilessly sent inside stone walls that allowed at best only a whiff of sunlight. Her daughter, who had been growing without cherishing the confidence under her father's shadow, was now deprived of her mother's soft affection, too.



## 60 / Uğur Başbuğa

Uğur Başbuğa was only an accountant when he was arrested on July 14, 2017, within the scope of an investigation into the failed coup attempt. The police officers used force and pounded him up while pulling him in. He already had a heart disease and aortic insufficiency, which caused his heart to constrict due to the ill-treatment.<sup>111</sup>

## 61 / Bilal Karakurt

An inmate in the İzmir F-Type prison, Bilal Karakurt, had retinal rupture and was taken to a research hospital in Bursa. This hospital refused him stating that there was no special ward for prisoners inside the premises of the hospital. He was then transferred to another research hospital in İzmir, which also rejected treating the prisoner on the same grounds. Karakurt was finally taken back to his prison, with his eye still unfixed. Gergerlioğlu was protesting the

110. Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/gergerliogluof/status/1083102310950227972?lang=da>

111. Mağdur Sesi on Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/p/BpHovpcFqrC/?igshid=wi90t1bif8rk>

animosity against this patient from his Twitter account, crying “will he be taken to a surgery after he completely lost his eyes. Have a heart!”<sup>112</sup>



## 62 / Ömer Şamlı

Ömer Şamlı, who was a teacher before he was dismissed from the public service with a KHK for his associations with the Gülen movement, was arrested in January 2018 and was sent behind bars. Ailing under serious health issues, it was easy for him to get a medical report, saying that he cannot stay in prison. He had been suffering for 18 years from a rare disease, which caused his fingertips and toes to swell, burst and melt. Due to another problem in his lungs, he could hardly swallow and whenever his body temperature fell below a certain degree, he was having seizures. While in the İzmir prison, he had to be taken to the infirmary several times, in 2 incidents, he

was taken to an ER of a nearby hospital, which couldn't do anything as they failed even to diagnose what his disease was. All they could do was to relieve his pain with some kind of serum and send him back.

Before his trial, MP Sezgin Tanrikulu from the main opposition CHP was saying: “He has almost all diseases in his body. His toes are already amputated. He was given medical reports by boards of doctors. I would like to raise a question to the President, the Prime Minister and the Justice Minister. He is not convicted. He is not a suicide bomber. He has not killed anyone. He doesn't carry a gun. It is possible to keep him in house arrest. Then why are not keeping him in detention in his house. Why aren't you not releasing him with some other measure? Let him spend the last days of his life with his family. Let him have proper treatment.”<sup>113</sup>

---

112. Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/gergerlioluof/status/1055086872509198338>

113. Öğretmen Ömer Şamlı cezaevinde yaşayamaz raporuna rağmen hala tutuklu (Teacher Ömer Şamlı is still under arrest despite the report that he cannot live in prison), Aktif Haber, <http://aktifhaber.com/iskence/ogretmen-omer-samli-cezaevinde-yasayamaz-raporuna-ragmen-hala-tutuklu-h113651.html>





## 63 / Canan Utangaç

Detained in Sincan Women's Closed Prison since June 2018, Canan Utangaç experienced food poisoning in the prison in the first months. Not long after, as her body was wrapped with itches, she was diagnosed with shingles. In October 2018, a bag of hot water, which she bought from the prison canteen burst, causing second-degree burns on her legs. She went to the infirmary a couple of times but was sent back to her ward instead of a hospital. She could only feel relief thanks to the help of an inmate nurse in her ward, who constantly dressed the wounds for her. The prison administration showed almost no concern despite her worsening conditions, as she was even hardly able to stand unassisted. Only a month after

the incident was she finally taken to a hospital. Before the burns were fully healed, another accident brought even more ominous calamities in her life, almost turning her old miseries into blessings. On 4 December 2018, at 08:00 am, she hurriedly threw herself off her bunk bed in a panic that she would be late for the morning roll-call, which may cause her to lose the right of contact visitation. She fell on her back on the concrete floor. She was taken to the infirmary of the prison on a portable iron-barred stretcher, carelessly, without heeding the risk that inattentive treatment may cause her to be paralyzed. From infirmary, she was taken to the hospital in the campus and then to the Sincan State Hospital. By the time she was finally taken to the Numune Hospital, it was already at around 17.00-18.00 towards the evening. Despite her painful cries and obvious inability to move, she was kept handcuffed to the bed that night. Although she was constantly begging them to notify her family, nobody granted her this favor. Before she was taken to the operation, doctors coldly warned her that she may get paralyzed from the neck down and hence she must sign a form that she knows all the risks and admits all the responsibility. She said under her current condition, she can't make such a decision and so she needs her family's assistance. She was denied once again. The operation lasted around 8 hours. Two rods were attached to the waist, 8 screws and 2 sinkers were attached to fix those rods. The surgery wound was closed with about 70 stitches. Her family could learn about the incident only the next day, when she wanted to use her weekly phone call right. She was told that she would be discharged in 3 days, without letting her recuperate. But owing to her lawyer's insistent objections, she was allowed to stay 14 more days. When she was discharged, despite her unabated pain and her inability to even sit, she was transferred with a bus instead of an ambulance. 2 months following the operation, she was supposed to start receiving physiotherapy but when she was taken to the hospital to see a board of doctors for this reason, the doctors sneered at her, telling her to do it herself in prison by checking online videos.<sup>114</sup>

114. 'Cezaevlerinde ölümlere rağmen, devlet kalıcı bir çözüm üretmekten uzak' ('Despite deaths in prisons, the state is far from producing a permanent solution'), Pir News Agency, <https://www.pirha.net/cezaevlerinde-olumlere-ragmen-devlet-kalici-bir-cozum-uretmekten-uzak-201408.html/04/01/2020/>



## 64 / Yüksel Kızılkaya

Yüksel Kızılkaya was a police officer before he was sentenced to 7 years and 6 months and sent to the İskenderun T-Type Prison on charges of being a member of the Gülen movement. He was fighting prostate cancer and had a medical report, upholding that Kızılkaya's health conditions certainly do not allow him to be incarcerated. His petitions to be released on the grounds professed by the medical report were all turned down.<sup>115</sup>



## 65 / Süleyman Said

Süleyman Said was only 2 years old when he was locked down with his mother Ayşe Seyrek in June 2018. Ayşe was accused of having affiliated with the Gülen movement and this was the only allegation. She had no previous criminal record and there was not a shred of evidence attaching her to any kind of criminal activity. Süleyman Said had a thyroid goiter. Ayşe's daughter Arife Betül also had a ventricular septal defect (VSD) - sometimes referred to as a hole in the heart. But she would be unable to see her mother for months.<sup>116</sup>



## 66 / Rabia Erbay

Rabia Erbay was arrested on October 28, 2016 over terror allegations due to her affiliations with the Gülen movement. She had to endure the terrible conditions of custody for 18 days during the extraordinary measures of the state of emergency. Erbay had been suffering from a number of chronic diseases like rheumatism, psoriasis and severe anemia. She was sentenced to 9 years and 3 months depending on the statements of a witness, which said "I haven't seen her and I haven't personally known her. I only heard her name."<sup>117</sup>

115. Mağdur Sesi on Instagram,  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/BpPq2DSAzDZ/?igshid=yr2n17iz2zk9>

116. Mağdur Sesi on Instagram,  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/BpmkO6zhsSg/?igshid=az9gskwd4wjb>

117. Mağdur Sesi on Instagram,  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/BnW6MDpFcOI/?igshid=18bnae45mxap4>



## 67 / Uğur Yeloğlu

Uğur Yeloğlu, 30, was arrested in January 2018 in İstanbul as part of an investigation carried out by the Mardin Public Prosecutor's Office on charges of "knowingly and willingly aiding a terror organization". Yeloğlu was kept in a solitary confinement cell in Mardin E Type Closed Prison where he was tortured for 2 months, after which he collapsed psychologically. Yeloğlu was then transferred to the Urfa No. 2 Type T Closed Prison and was again placed in a cell. Due to constant agonizing treatments, he started having seizures randomly and lost his memory. He started to believe he was a baby. Only after his

health deteriorated to the extent that he was no longer able to take care of his even most basic needs, the prison administration ended his solitary confinement and locked him in a ward where other inmates could help him keep his life. After 7 months of his detention, his lawyer Abdülkadir Aslan was reported by Mezopotamia News Agency as saying that he doesn't even know what crimes Yeloğlu is charged with as the indictment has yet to be prepared.<sup>118</sup>



## 68 / Arin Yılmaz

Arin was only one-year-old when she was sent to a stone-cold ward of the Urfa Prison No. 2 in 2016 with her mother Esma Yılmaz, who was convicted for her ties with the Kurdish political activities. The Kurdish opposition believes the Turkish state deliberately ignores the ethnic identity of the country's large Kurdish population and carries out extensive assimilation policies based on an orthodox Turkish nationalism.

Arin was an asthma patient and a prison ward was one of the last places that she should live in. Considering that the prison conditions were intentionally aggravated for Kurds, the baby's life was getting particularly harder. Her mother's insistent requests to be transferred to the Mardin E Type Closed Prison, where she believed her daughter could have

118. İşkence ve hücre cezası sonrası 27 yaşındaki Yeloğlu, cezaevinde hafızasını yitirdi (After torture and solitary confinement, 27-year-old Yeloğlu lost his memory in prison), <https://sendika.org/2018/08/iskence-ve-hucre-cezasi-sonrasi-27-yasindaki-yeloglu-cezaevinde-hafizasini-yitirdi-507124/>

better chances to go to a hospital, was accepted in August 2018. One month after that, Esma was finally released on probation. After the release, Esma spoke to the Kurdish news outlet Jin<sup>119</sup>: “We had a very difficult time there. When Arin got sick, it was hard to recover. Once, they [the prison administrators] did not give Arin diapers for 20 days. We were making diapers for her by tearing pieces from our clothes. When she got sick, we couldn’t find medicine to heal her. On one occasion, her fever was 39.5 degrees Celsius and we managed to take her to hos-



pital, where doctors didn’t even pay attention. They did nothing but said ‘be careful with this kid. She shouldn’t get sick [since she is so fragile].’ Whenever we were visiting doctors in a hospital, they were sending us back, doing nothing. Yet her health was so weak that we were going to the prison infirmary almost every day.”

## **69 / Celal Afşar**

Celal Afşar was 86 years old when he was arrested in July 2018 along with his daughter, son-in-law and two others in Niğde province as part of the government’s crackdown on the members of the Gülen movement. Known as a philanthropist in his hometown, with public broadcaster TRT in 2011 depicting his life as an example of dedication to charity, Afşar was later accused of providing financial support to a “terrorist organization.” He defended himself in his first hearing held at the Niğde 2nd High Criminal Court in August that “I did not try to hide from the law. I had to take care of my sick and bedridden wife.” Struggling with numerous diseases as well as the impediments of his old age, Celal Afşar requested his release from prison after giving his defense to take care of his wife. The court rejected his request. His bedridden wife Feride died a few weeks after his husband, wife and son-in-law were sent to jail.<sup>120</sup>

---

119. Arin bebek artık özgür (Baby Arin is now free), Ekmek ve Gül, <https://ekmekvegul.net/gundem/arin-bebek-artik-ozgur>

120. 86 yaşında tutuklanan Niğdeli Hayırsever Hacı Celal Afşar’ın eşi Feride Afşar Hakka Yürüdü (Feride Afşar, the wife of Philanthropist Celal Afşar, who was arrested at the age of 86, passed away), TR724, <https://www.tr724.com/86-yasinda-tutuklanan-nigdeli-hayirsever-haci-celal-afsar-in-esi-feride-avsar-hakka-yurudu/>





## 70 / Abdülkadir Turan

Abdulkadir Turan, 40, has been locked behind iron bars in the Tekirdağ Prison since July 2018 for his alleged ties with the Gülen movement. Worse, he has been kept in a solitary confinement cell for some disciplinary punishment, which even he doesn't know for which action he deserved. Turan suffers from severe kidney disease, which is exacerbated with malnutrition, maltreatment and a particularly vicious environment of a cell. His wife Hatice is convicted with the same charges and she is in Kırklareli prison. The couple is not allowed to communicate even through letter correspondence and Hatice was reported to have been going through some psychological problems.<sup>121</sup>



## 71 / Doğan Olcabay

Doğan Olcabay, 42, was a journalist in Artvin province working for the Cihan News Agency and Zaman newspaper, both of which were closed by the Turkish government in 2016 as part of a crackdown on the Gülen movement. Olcabay was seized by the police on August 4 and was sent to jail after 2 days. He was diagnosed with gastrointestinal fistula, also known as Crohn disease, on July 7, during the Ramadan feast of 2016 and was in the treatment process when he was arrested. His wife narrates what happened back then: "The doctor who saw him wanted an MRI and then ordered a surgery after a week. We rented a house in his hometown, Manisa Akhisar. The doctor said Doğan is not allowed to move anything heavy during the three months following the surgery so he

gave us 15 days to complete moving. When we went to Artvin to pack our things in our home in Artvin on August 4, he was taken and was arrested on August 6. While being in prison he went to the doctor in Artvin, yet, the prison administration did not allow the surgery. He was kept in prison for nearly 2 years with bleeding. Then he was transferred to Erzurum. When his problem got much worse there, he was finally taken to a hospital in a hurry and he underwent

121. Mağdur Mesajı on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/magdurmesaji/status/966254127675269120>

a surgery. He was taken back to prison within an hour following the operation, although he was supposed to be kept under observation for 3 days. He received a check-up two months later. Now he is being held in very unhygienic conditions in prison.”<sup>122</sup>



## **72 / Hasan Gemi**

Hasan Gemi, who had committed 30 years of his life to education as a teacher, was arrested during the first waves of the crackdown on the Hizmet members following the July 15 coup attempt. He was sentenced to 8 years and 9 months and has been kept in Manisa T-Type prison since then. Gemi has severe asthma and breathing indoors was already difficult for him. Prison environment made his health only worse. His applications to go to a hospital were rejected. Instead of sending him to a hos-

pital, medical workers at the prison infirmary sent him back to his ward after a single shot cortisone injection. In the following days, Gemi also contracted high eye pressure and also started suffering from panic attacks.<sup>123</sup>



## **73 / Yahya Özdemir**

Locked up in the Manisa E-Type Prison, Yahya Özdemir had surgery on both legs for soft tissue cancer. Although he needs special treatment for his recovery from this ominous disease, he is forcefully kept in packed wards in inhumane conditions. What rubs salt in his wounds is that even his basic treatment is disrupted arbitrarily, making a metastasis more likely.<sup>124</sup>

---

122. Erzurum Cezaevindeki Tutuklu Ölümüne Terk Ediliyor (Prisoner in Erzurum Prison is Left to Die), Mağduriyetler, <http://magduriyetler2.blogspot.com/2018/09/erzurum-cezaevindeki-tutuklu-olume-terk.html>

123. Mağdur Sesi on Instagram, [https://www.instagram.com/p/BkvGKI\\_AuMJ/?igshid=4h1Ich7wl06f](https://www.instagram.com/p/BkvGKI_AuMJ/?igshid=4h1Ich7wl06f)

124. Tutuklu Hastalar on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/tutukluhastalar/status/1018572514874789889>





## **74 / Ömer Faruk**

Ömer Faruk was yet to reach his 2 years of age when he met with the merciless coldness of prison when his mother Mehtap Baysal was incarcerated over the charges of having affiliations with the Gülen movement. He had cyanosis, a disease that causes the skin to turn to blue or purple due to the tissues near the skin surface having low oxygen saturation. He needed special treatment in a place where oxygen is abundant and in an environment where he wouldn't feel like crying, since discoloration of his skin was mostly triggered when he was crying. His

mother had no real crime, like his father, who was also deprived of his freedom and forced to stay behind the bars despite suffering from a serious stomach cancer.<sup>125</sup>



## **75 / Ayhan Gencay**

Ayhan Gencay was under arrest for years without even knowing the charges against him. Due to cerebrovascular occlusive disease, he was constantly fainting in prison and needed treatment as his condition was only getting worse. Gencay was also psychologically distressed as his wife and his 2-year-old daughter were also being kept in another prison.<sup>126</sup>



## **76 / Birsen Hasırcı**

When Birsen Hasırcı was arrested on August 27, 2016 due to her alleged ties with the Gülen movement, she was already pregnant. She was released in December of the same year under probation. On September 20, 2017, she was arrested again during one of her regular visits to a police station to declare her whereabouts. She was sent to jail with her 4-month newborn baby despite the bin-

125. Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/gergerliogluof/status/1114084655907659777?lang=ca>

126. Mağdur Sesi on Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/p/BkfORuigF4X/?igshid=6ixzyr0hgqy4>

ding rule of the law that clearly bans jailing a woman within 6 months after she gives birth. In addition, she was a thyroid patient and must have received regular treatment. Her husband was also in jail for the same reason as hers. When both Birsen and her husband were locked up in prisons, their other child, a 5-year-old daughter, was left to the grandparents.<sup>127</sup>



## 77 / Emrah Meydan

Emrah Meydan was arrested in February 2016 over the charges that he was involved in the Gülen movement's activities in Tokat. He had serious problems in his heart as he had gone through two angioplasties and a coronary bypass surgery. He was also in need of a heart valve replacement. After waiting 26 months for his trial, he was sentenced to 11 years and 6 months. He still waits for the mercy of the prison authorities to be able to have his heart fixed.<sup>128</sup>



## 78 / Fatma Zehra Babacan

Fatma Zehra Babacan, held captive in Denizli Kocabaş T-type Prison convicted for being a member of the Gülen movement and sentenced to 9 years, had thyroid cancer. Far from proper treatment in a hospital, she was not even allowed to continue her treatment even in prison, as MP Gergerlioğlu discussed during one of his addresses at a Parliamentary session, the prison administration refused to give her medication to her, saying the drugs have already expired. Her two little kids, separated from their mothers, were in a deep sorrow of bereavement.<sup>129</sup>

127. Mağdur Mesajı on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/magdurmesaji/status/910766224623247360>

128. Cezaevinde hasta tutukluya işkence (Sick prisoner tortured in prison), Samanyolu Haber, <http://www.samanyolu-haber.com/web-tv/cezaevinde-hasta-tutukluya-iskence-22897-video-haberi/>

129. Verda Hanzade on Twitter, [https://twitter.com/verda\\_hanzade\\_/status/1013003755816718336](https://twitter.com/verda_hanzade_/status/1013003755816718336)



## 79 / Bahattin Türkaslan

Bahattin Türkaslan was arrested in July 2016 over the allegations that he was managing the Gülen movement's activities in the Province of Muş. He has been kept in a solitary confinement cell for at least 24 months, the last time when information about him was shared in online news sources. His current conditions are not certain. Türkaslan was suffering from high cholesterol and the solitary confinement was only aggravating his health problem.<sup>130</sup>



## 80 / Ahmet Makal

Ahmet Makal, 50, has been kept in solitary confinement in Şanlıurfa Hilvan Prison since November 2017 on charges of being affiliated with the Gülen movement. He has diabetes and needs a healthy diet and regular medical controls, which he is denied.<sup>131</sup>



## 81 / Emrah Çelik

Emrah Çelik had to give up a managerial position at a religious school due to some complications she contracted after giving birth to her son. After the coup attempt in 2016, she was arrested for holding at this religious school, which had alleged ties with the Gülen movement. She demanded her release from the prison given that there was no evidence of her involvement in any kind of violence and that she was facing a high risk of complete loss of vision, but she was rejected. Emrah Çelik was taking heavy medication and had already lost 86 percent of her vision. Her current condition is unknown.<sup>132</sup>

130. Hucredekiler on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/hucredekiler/status/1088506711881719808>

131. Hucredekiler on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/Hucredekiler/status/1088507577405714432>

132. Ağır ilaçlar alan Emrah Hanım kör olmak üzere ama tahliye edilmiyor (Miss Emrah, who relies on heavy drugs, is about to go blind but is not released), Aktif Haber, <https://aktifhaber.com/iskence/agir-ilacler-alan-emrah-hanim-kor-olmak-uzere-ama-tahliye-edilmiyor-h113412.html>

Her husband Halil was also arrested not long after her and the couple's three sons, aged 16, 12 and three-and-a-half years, were placed under state protection until the children's uncle and uncle's wife moved to Balıkesir to take care of them.



## **82 / Mustafa Aydın**

Lawyer Mustafa Aydın was taken into custody on August 16, 2016 and was arrested on August 9. The first hearing of his case took place nearly 2 years after this time, in the İstanbul 34th Assize Court on 27 June 2018. He was a lawyer and the reason for his arrest was defending the members of the Gülen movement. He was diagnosed with prostate cancer and a hernia, resulting in him being unable to walk. He was denied treatment for these diseases, thou-

gh. The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE)<sup>133</sup> sent a letter to President Erdoğan on 20 April, 2018, demanding immediate release of Aydın. The CCBE expressed its concern regarding the arbitrary arrest and denial of medical treatment of Aydın. Reminding of the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, the CCBE asserted that Aydın was arrested solely due to his activity as a lawyer. Aydın was released from hospital after 4 years of his detention, on 16 September, 2020.



## **83 / Malik Cula**

A small business owner in Denizli, Malik Cula was arrested as part of the crackdown on Hizmet members in July 2016 following the botched coup attempt along with a couple dozens of other businessmen in the province. He had a physical disability that barred him from even using a restroom alone. He was kept in prison for about 28 months until he was released pending trial with a ban on leaving the country.<sup>134</sup>

133. A letter by the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) on the arbitrary arrest and denial of medical treatment of lawyer Mustafa Aydın, [https://www.ccbe.eu/fileadmin/speciality\\_distribution/public/documents/HUMAN\\_RIGHTS\\_LETTERS/Turkey\\_-\\_Turquie/2018/EN\\_HRL\\_20180420\\_Turkey\\_Arbitrary-arrest-and-denial-of-medical-treatment-of-lawyer-Mustafa-Aydin.pdf](https://www.ccbe.eu/fileadmin/speciality_distribution/public/documents/HUMAN_RIGHTS_LETTERS/Turkey_-_Turquie/2018/EN_HRL_20180420_Turkey_Arbitrary-arrest-and-denial-of-medical-treatment-of-lawyer-Mustafa-Aydin.pdf)

134. Mağdur Sesi on Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/p/BeqOZ1xA1Gh/?igshid=qtsxauy4e4b9>





## 84 / Deniz Hakan Şen

Deniz Hakan Şen was detained on 1 October 2017 and was arrested and sent to Silivri Prison after three days over charges of being a member of the Gülen movement. Soon he felt some serious ailments in his body, and, having worked as a medical representative for about 10 years, he suspected that he might have cancer. Starting from January 2018, he wrote dozens of petitions to the prison administration stating that he needs to see a doctor. He told the prison doctor who examined him that he might have cancer and the doctor's response was "if you know too much, cure yourself". Despite all his insistence, Şen was not sent to an internal medicine outpatient clinic. He was referred to the neurosurgery clinic even though it had nothing to do with his disease.

In one of his petitions he was saying "I've been hungry for a month, I can't eat," but his cries for help were only reaching deaf ears. Soon his pains escalated so much that when he was sitting he was trying to lie down and when he lied down he was attempting to sit. No matter what he did, his pain wouldn't wear off. When he fainted in the ward one day, the prison administration eventually transferred him to first Silivri State Hospital, then to Kanuni Sultan Süleyman Training and Research Hospital, and then to Okmeydanı State Hospital. He was diagnosed with terminal stage stomach cancer. It was too late and he was not responding to treatment. Şen, who was released only 15 days before his death, was immediately taken to intensive care.

Hakan Şen's wife Hüsna later filed a criminal complaint against the staff of the Silivri Penal Institution No. 3 and Silivri State Hospital, who had negligence in the treatment of her husband. However, Silivri Chief Public Prosecutor's Office rejected the criminal complaint saying there was no negligence at all, since even if Şen was released, nothing would change for him.<sup>135</sup>



## 85 / Savaş Uyar

Savaş Uyar was a financial advisor when he was detained on July 27, 2016, in the days following the failed coup attempt. He was accused of aiding and abetting a terrorist organization and was kept in prison for nearly 2 years without an indictment. There was no concrete evidence attaching him to any kind of violence or terrorist activity and accusations about his affiliation with the Gülen movement were

135. Tedavisi engellenen Deniz Hakan Şen için savcılıktan skandal savunma: Zaten ölecekti! (Scandalous defense from the prosecutor's office for Deniz Hakan Şen, whose treatment was blocked: He would eventually die!), Samanyolu Haber, <http://www.samanyoluhaber.com/tedavisi-engellenen-deniz-hakan-sen-icin-savciliktan-skandal-savunma-zaten-olecekti-haberi/1365472/>

based only on the statements of a secret witness. He had serious health problems, including goiter, hypertension, reflux and vitamin B deficiency. He was rapidly losing weight and due to severe shaking of his hands, he was not able to even take care of his daily activities without the help of other inmates.<sup>136</sup> During the trials, the secret witness's statement was proven wrong and he acquitted himself from other charges as well. However, the court decided the continuation of detention, disregarding even his serious illnesses and later sentenced him to 8 years.



## **86 / Erdal Dengiz**

Erdal Dengiz, former director of Denizli Police Department Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime (KOM) Branch, was arrested in October 2016 on the allegation of being a member of the Gülen movement. He was locked in a cell for more than 8 months completely banned from communicating with anyone.<sup>137</sup>

Dengiz, who is not able to even walk because of a cyst in his waist, cannot meet his personal needs, yet he was kept in solitary confinement. Despite the risk that this mass in his waist may be cancer, he was not allowed to see a doctor. Only after he was transferred to a normal

ward, his relatives learned about the severity of his problem. The pain and suffering was unbearable and he was constantly moaning and crying all night and all day. His painful cries were not also letting his wardmates to sleep. until the morning because of his pain. He was hardly eating and by early 2018, he had already lost about 40 pounds. The prosecutor in Denizli reportedly did not take any action despite being aware of the issue.

---

136. Cezaevinde vücudunda tümör oluştu; ölüm riskine rağmen tahliye edilmiyor (He had a tumor in his body in prison; not released despite risk of death), Haber Özetim, <http://www.haberozetim.com/haber-cezaevinde-vucudunda-tumor-olustu-olum-riskine-ragmen-tahliye-edilmiyor-4996.html>

137. Emniyet müdürü Erdal Dengiz 8 aydır cezaevinde işkence altında (Chief of Police Erdal Dengiz has been tortured in prison for 8 months), Aktif Haber, <http://aktifhaber.com/iskence/emniyet-muduru-erdal-dengiz-8-aydir-cezaevinde-iskence-altinda-h111338.html>





## 87 / Yahya Karadeniz

Yahya Karadeniz was a 50-year-old teacher when he was arrested during the first wave of detentions following the failed coup attempt in 2016. He was thrown into a cell in Eskişehir Closed Prison.<sup>138</sup> According to Law No. 5275, the penalty of solitary confinement can only be applied upto 20 days. But Karadeniz's compulsory confinement has already reached 60 months as of July 2021.

Having been forced to live in a dark and

small concrete cell for 5 years has exacerbated his already serious health problems like diabetes and high blood pressure.

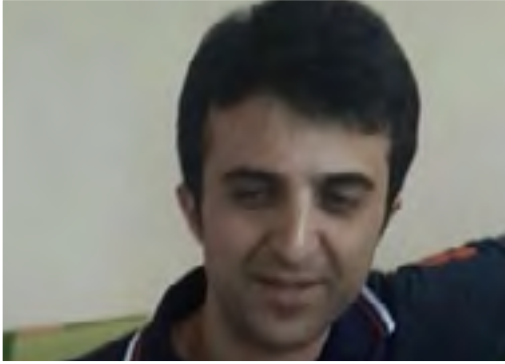


## 88 / Songül Yanak

Songül Yanak, a 32-year-old housewife, was incarcerated for her affiliations with the Gülen movement. She had asthma and vertigo, along with claustrophobia but her health problems that make it an unbearable torment for the young woman to stay in prison was sent behind the bars instead of at least having been allowed to wait trial with house arrest. Worse, her two children, Fatih (6) and Zeynep (8) were also locked inside the Samsung E-Type closed prison with their mother.<sup>139</sup>

138. Öğretmen Yahya Karadeniz 47 aydır tek kişilik hücrede! (Teacher Yahya Karadeniz has been in a solitary cell for 47 months!), Aktif Haber, <https://aktifhaber.com/15-temmuz/ogretmen-yahya-karadeniz-47-aydir-tek-kisilik-hucrede-h147407.html>

139. Mağdur Sesi on Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/p/BduNC6zgDDp/?igshid=9fplx0mqhjx8>



## 89 / Mustafa Demirtaş

Mustafa Demirtaş, 41, was a civil servant when he was arrested on the charges of being a member of the Gülen movement in July 2016. He was put in an isolation room with the diagnosis of tuberculosis in late 2017 instead of a transfer to a hospital facility for a more comprehensive treatment that a serious disease like tuberculosis requires.<sup>140</sup>



## 90 / Kazım Avcı

Kazım Avcı is the son of Fethullah Gülen's aunt and he was arrested in 2016 as part of the massive witch hunt against the members of the Gülen movement and was put in Sincan prison in Ankara. 66-years-old Kazım has 68 percent walking disability, which prevents him to take care of even his own needs by himself. Yet again, the prison administration arbitrarily decided to lock him in a solitary confinement cell claiming the disabled man was an extremely dangerous criminal.<sup>141</sup>



## 91 / Mehmet Emin Ulutaş

Mehmet Emin Ulutaş, 78, who continued to preach after retiring from the Presidency of Religious Affairs in Batman, was arrested by the police after a Friday sermon in January 2018. In his statement he said, after retiring in 2008, he occasionally wrote articles for newspapers and made translations and didn't hesitate visiting non-governmental organizations from time to time. One of the reasons for

his detention was that he visited an association, which the government believed was working for Kurdish separatists under the cloak of a civil society organization. Ulutaş defended himself

140. Mağdur Sesi on Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/p/BeYnqZVgtUa/?igshid=1p0suek94ej5q>

141. Mağdur Sesi on Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/p/BdqZ1JuAuoE/?igshid=1k72a4ewc7z9y>

on the grounds that this institution was legally founded and periodically supervised and visiting it by itself constituted no crime. After a three-day detention, he was released. The court process, however, continued until 2013. However, in 2018, the court decided for the arrest of the old man because he had the 'Mizgîn Magazine' along with a book titled 'The Kurds: Orphans of the Islamic Ummah' in his house. The court also said Ulutaş visited Toplum-Der to pay condolences during a funeral and that he had the phone numbers of two people from this organization.<sup>142</sup> Eventually, this old man who had spent more than 30 years of his life to represent religion with a badge vested by the state, was sent to prison at his old age over ridiculous charges.



## 92 / Aziz Bağlan

69-year-old Aziz Bağlan was arrested after being detained on January 16, 2016 during house raids in Doğubayazıt district of Ağrı province. He was transferred to Oltu T Type Closed Prison after five months. Bağlan was suffering from a couple of serious health problems. He had a heart disease as well as an 87 percent loss of vision in his right eye and 40 percent loss of vision in the left eye. Both his heart and eye problems were documented through medical reports and required close attention. He

was not even brought before a court for trial for more than 2 years, without an indictment, without even knowing against which allegations he is supposed to defend himself.<sup>143</sup>



## 93 / Abdulkerim Camkurt

Abdulkerim Camkurt was a teacher in Mersin province when he was arrested in July 2016 for his affiliations with the Gülen movement. He had 90 percent vision loss in his eyes and was receiving treatment for his worsening disability by the time when he was sent to prison, where he soon became practically blind due to scarce illumination

---

142. Molla Emin Ulutaş tutuklandı (Mullah Emin Ulutaş was arrested), İlke Haber Ajansı, <https://ilkha.com/guncel/molla-emin-ulutas-tutuklandi-68898>

143. Batmanlı 78 yaşındaki Seyda Emin Ulutaş Botikî, Cuma hutbesinden sonra tutuklandı! (Seyda Emin Ulutaş Batiki, 78, from Batman, was arrested after the Friday Sermon!), Rupela Nu, <http://www.rupelanu.org/batmanli-78-yasindaki-seyda-emin-ulutas-botiki-cuma-hutbesiden-sonra-tutuklandi-1940h.htm>

of the wards.<sup>144</sup> Despite medical reports that he cannot stay in prison, the court rejected his petition for release on probation saying “get over with it.” Set aside being released, he was tortured in prison. He was wrapped into a nylon sheet and made to lie in summer, when the outside temperature was scorching 100 degrees Fahrenheit. He was water-boarded and then beaten and when he begged his interrogators not to hit his head, fearing this would aggravate his vision problem, they smashed his feet. Psychological torture, like threatening him with his wife and children, continued. He lost 18 pounds in 15 days.<sup>145</sup>



## 94 / Fatma Bektaş

Fatma Bektaş, who was arrested in 2016 with the operations launched after the July-15 coup attempt, had Alzheimer's disease so advanced that she even forgot her defense in court. In addition, she had several more serious health problems such as a heart disease and lumbar hernia. Despite all these significant problems, Bektaş was kept inside the stone walls for exactly 19 months. Bektaş, who was sentenced to 6 years and 3 months by the court, was released after a newspaper headline stirred public reaction.<sup>146</sup>



## 95 / Mehmet Emin Özkan

Mehmet Emin Özkan, 83, who has been in prison for 26 years, was hospitalized 7 times in 10 days from Diyarbakır D-Type Prison due to serious health problems in June 2021. This marked the culmination of his miseries, though. During the quarter century he was barred from freedom, he had had a heart attack 5 times. In addition to chronic diseases such as blood pressure and goiter, Özkan, who has serious disorders in his kidneys and intestines, has also lost his hearing and vision to a large extent. All these problems have become only worse due to the natural hardships of old age.

144. İnsan hakları haftasını kutlamaya yüzü olan var mı? (Does anyone have a face to celebrate human rights week?), Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu Press Release, <https://www.omerfarukgergerlioglu.com/basin/kose-yazilari/insan-haklari-haftasini-kutlamaya-yuzu-olan-var-mi/1798/>

145. Tuna in Twitter, [https://twitter.com/HelminMezid\\_/status/938833238033911814](https://twitter.com/HelminMezid_/status/938833238033911814)

146. 'Vicdanları Sızlatan Tutukluluk' sona erdi ('Detention That Hurts Conscience' Has Ended), Yeni Asya, [https://www.yeniasya.com.tr/gundem/vicdanlari-sizlatan-tutukluluk-sona-erdi\\_458317](https://www.yeniasya.com.tr/gundem/vicdanlari-sizlatan-tutukluluk-sona-erdi_458317)



A video footage shot during one of transfers to hospital in June 2021, in which Özkan was seen handcuffed, slouching among a group of armed soldiers, caused a harsh public reaction on the social media and many posts were made with the hashtag #mehmeteminozkanatahliye. Özkan was treated at Diyarbakır Gazi Yaşargil Research Hospital for 3 days and was sent back to Diyarbakır Type D Prison.

Özkan has repeatedly asked for a release given the rigors of his implacable diseases. He was submitting official medical reports underlying the necessity of his immediate release, but all these reports have always been rejected.

Speaking to BBC Turkish, his son Nevzat Özkan, who was sentenced to 12 years in prison and spent 11 years in the same ward with his father, said that prison conditions make it very difficult for even young people.<sup>147</sup> Nevzat said, "Especially if you are old and sick, everything seems so difficult..." and called for his father to spend his last days in peace with his family: "My father cannot meet his personal needs on his own. He can't communicate because he has no eyesight, no ears to hear. He has edema in his brain and cannot be operated on because of his advanced age, so he cannot stand up. Thanks to this, doctors were able to perform the necessary examinations."



## 96 / Hakkı Saraç

36-year-old Hakkı Saraç was detained after the coup attempt in July 2016 and was sentenced to 15 years in December 2018 over the charges for actively engaging in the activities of the Gülen movement. He spent about 2 years in a cell waiting for his trial, despite a very serious health problem in his kidneys. His requests to see the prison doctor due to an unrelenting pain in his kidneys were approved only after 5 months of his first petition.<sup>148</sup>

147. 83 yaşındaki ağır hasta hükümlü Mehmet Emin Özkan'ın ailesi: Son günlerini huzur içinde geçirsin (Family of 83-year-old seriously ill convict Mehmet Emin Özkan: May he spend his last days in peace), BBC Türkçe, <https://www.bbc.com/turkce/haberler-turkiye-57358341>

148. Mağdur sesi on Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/p/BdQRNyTA6kC/?igshid=7kz7ecvsswwe>



## 97 / Fuat Özkan

Fuat Özkan, who was arrested in November 2016 and has been kept in Antalya L Type Closed Prison since then, is suffering from severe Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF) and Erythema Multiforme. Due to the Erythema, wounds have spread all over his body, making life extremely hard for him. His demands to be released due to his deteriorating health conditions were not heeded. Worse, according to his relatives, his medicines were not delivered to him properly. Problems have also occurred in their kidneys as he was given only a dose of a drug instead of two.

The family notes that Özkan, who had attacks from time to time due to his illness, was not taken to the hospital. Because of erythema, all of Özkan's stuff needs to be private and hygienic.<sup>149</sup>



## 98 / Erdem Kızılkaya

Erdem Kızılkaya, who has been behind the bars since July 2016, spent most of this time in a solitary confinement cell. Kızılkaya, who has been trying to continue his life in a narrow space for a long time, is no longer able to walk due to swellings in his feet. It is stated that practices such as torture are continued in order for Kızılkaya to become a confessor.<sup>150</sup>

---

149. Fuat Özkan cezaevinde zulümden dolayı ölümlle burun buruna (Fuat Özkan is face to face with death due to persecution in prison), Aktif Haber, <https://aktifhaber.com/iskence/fuat-ozkan-cezaevinde-zulumden-dolayi-olumle-burun-buruna-h109450.html>

150. 10 aydır hücrede tutulan Erdem Kızılkaya artık yürüyemiyor (Erdem Kızılkaya, who has been in a cell for 10 months, can no longer walk.), Aktif Haber, <https://aktifhaber.com/iskence/10-aydir-hucrede-tutulan-erdem-kizilkaya-artik-yuruyemiyor-h99640.html>





## 99 / Ali Orhan

56-year-old mechanical engineer Ali Orhan was arrested in mid-2016 during the first wave of the massive crackdown on the Gülen movement and was sentenced to 7 years and 6 months in prison. He was already struggling to survive amid serious health problems and everything became even harder for him when he contracted Covid 19 on 24 March 2021. Three days later, Orhan was taken to

the pandemic clinic of Bolvadin State Hospital and he was transferred to Afyonkarahisar State Hospital on 30 March as his condition worsened. He started receiving high-pressure oxygen therapy in the intensive care unit and was hardly able to breathe even with the device. On May 9, he passed away.<sup>151</sup>

He had no known health issues by the time he was incarcerated but he contracted asthma mainly due to lying on the floor during his 7-month stay in Kocaeli Kandıra Prison. He was transferred to Bolvadin Prison in February 2021 and was kept in a quarantine cell with Covid-19 patients, where he caught the virus.<sup>152</sup>



## 100 / Sadi Şakacı

Sadi Şakacı was a pharmacist when he was arrested and thrown into jail in mid-2016 for allegedly being a member of the Gülen movement. He once suffered from pneumonia and had asthma and sleep apnea, all of which are enough to turn the prison life a hell. His wife was saying that Şakacı was bound to machines most of the time while inside the prison. He was released in March 2021 in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>153</sup>

151. Biten Hayatlar on Twitter, [https://twitter.com/biten\\_hayatlar/status/1391328084658425857](https://twitter.com/biten_hayatlar/status/1391328084658425857)

152. Tutuklu makine mühendisi Ali Orhan yoğun bakımda (Imprisoned mechanical engineer Ali Orhan in intensive care), Aktif Haber, <https://aktifhaber.com/gundem/tutuklu-makine-muhendisi-ali-orhan-yogun-bakimda-h159191.html>

153. Sevinç Özarslan on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/sevincozarslan/status/1383047313120243717>



## 101 / Ali Osman Karahan

Ali Osman Karahan was 84 years old when he was put in jail for his affiliations with the Gülen movement. He had only 10 percent vision. He was suffering from cardiac arrhythmia, kidney failure and was currently receiving chemotherapy for prostate cancer. In addition, one of his legs is about 4 inches shorter than the other. Despite all of these conditions, he was arrested and kept in prison for 18 months.<sup>154</sup>



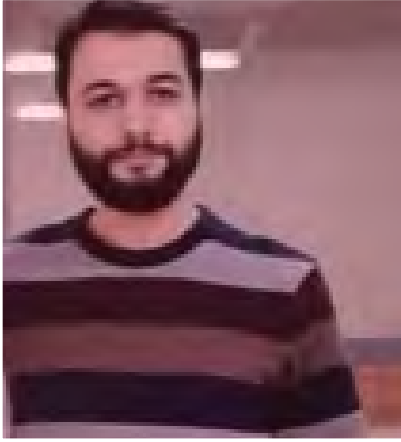
## 102 / Mustafa Türk

82-year-old Mustafa Türk, who was arrested as part of the operations following the declaration of the state of emergency was forced to stay in prison for 15 months before he was finally released in December 2017. The court issued a ban to leave the country for Türk and cancelled his passport. Struggling with many illnesses, Türk had not been released in many hearings. The justification was given as "continuation of his detention is appropriate in order to prevent him from committing

a crime again by escaping". Not long after his release, the old man had cerebral hemorrhage and was hospitalized.<sup>155</sup>

154. Topal Hafız Ali Osman Karahan hapishane günlerini anlattı (Lame Hafız Ali Osman Karahan narrates about his prison days), Aktif Haber, <https://aktifhaber.com/iskence/topal-hafiz-ali-osman-karahan-hapishane-gunlerini-anlatti-h119608.html>

155. 15 aydır cezaevinde olan 81 yaşındaki Hacı Mustafa Türk'e tahliye (81-year-old Hacı Mustafa Türk, who has been in prison for 15 months, released), Kronos, <https://kronos34.news/tr/15-aydir-cezaevinde-olan-81-yasindaki-haci-mustafa-turke-tahliye/>



## 103 / Mehmet Gelen

35-year-old Mehmet Gelen is an asthma patient. He developed groin hernia, diabetes and cholesterol after he was sent to prison.

Speaking on a video message, his wife was complaining how the prison conditions had aggravated his health problems.<sup>156</sup> According to her, Gelen had to sleep on a sponge bed, which was always wet due to the dampness in the ward and this triggered his asthma, causing him to constantly choke with coughing.



## 104 / Sabahattin Akbaş

Amputee football player Sabahattin Akbaş has been imprisoned in Şanlıurfa Prison for 2 years as of July 2021 on the charges of being a volunteer of the Gülen movement. In 2020, he was trying to make his voice heard in a letter to Gergerlioğlu.

Akbaş, whose account at Bank Asya was shown as evidence of "membership in a terrorist organization", wrote in his letter, "those who cut the ribbon [at the opening ceremony of the bank] are outside, while anyone who just walked past the bank is in prison".<sup>157</sup> Noting that he could not use his prosthetic legs for 8 months due to calluses and wounds on his feet, Akbaş said that he could only walk with crutches.

He has a physical disability of 45 percent. The 6 years and 3 months sentence he received on charges of membership in an organization was upheld by the Court of Appeal; The Office of the Chief Prosecutor of the Supreme Court also gave an opinion in the direction of approval.

Sabahattin Akbaş asked for his release based on the articles of law regarding the postponement of the execution of the sentence for the disabled. Nevertheless, the Şanlıurfa Training and Research Hospital Health Board reported that "he can stay in prison despite his disability". Thereupon, Akbaş applied to Forensic Medicine and has not heard back any response for months.

---

156. Tutsak Bebekler on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/TutsakBebekler/status/1249794486307299329>

157. Tutuklanan yüzde 45 engelli futbolcu, 8 aydır hastaneye gidemiyor (The arrested 45-percent-disabled football player has not been able to go to the hospital for 8 months), Kronos, <https://kronos34.news/tr/tutuklanan-yuzde-45-engelli-futbolcu-8-aydir-hastaneye-gidemiyor/>



## **105 / Melih Gasgar**

Melih Gasgar was sentenced for 6 years, 10 months and 15 days and is being locked in Balıkesir Kepsut Prison. He was convicted for being a member of the Gülen movement since he was working as a journalist at a local branch of the Cihan News Agency, once the largest news agency of the country with a presence all across the world until the government confiscated it in 2015. Gasgar is suffering from high blood pressure and he has serious heart disease, which causes him to faint from time to time. The ward he stays in has a capacity of 27 inmates whereas 45 people are packed in there, making life extremely harder for such people like him who are particularly vulnerable healthwise.<sup>158</sup>



## **106 / Ferhan Demir**

Ferhan Demir, who was sentenced to 6 years in 2017 due to his affiliations with the Gülen movement, has polyps in his gallbladder as well as masses and stones in his kidneys.<sup>159</sup> He was only a teacher, teaching high school students physics, and a family man with 2 daughters. Despite the fact that he wasn't involved in any crime that was described in laws and his diseases, he was still locked in prison.

---

158. Cezaevindeki gazeteci Melih Gasgar, ölüm riskiyle karşı karşıya! (Journalist Melih Gasgar in prison is at risk of death!), Jailed Journos, <https://jailedjournos.com/cezaevindeki-gazeteci-melih-gasgar-olum-riskiyle-karsi-karsiya/>

159. Tutuklu Hastalar on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/tutukluhastalar/status/1316804412069863424>





## 107 / Mevlüt Öztaş

Mevlüt Öztaş, who worked as a journalist for 8 years for the Cihan News Agency's local branch in the province of Uşak, was arrested in February 2018 on charges of being a member of the Gülen movement. He was first put in Uşak Prison and was later transferred to Afyon. Sentenced to 9 years and 3 months in prison by the Uşak 2nd High Criminal Court in February 2019, Öztaş was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in prison in April 2020.

Öztaş first had a hernia and then gallbladder surgery while he was in prison. Kidney and liver failure, hypertension appeared due to prison conditions. His asthma has progressed. Citing his health problems, Öztaş insistently demanded his release on probation. All were rejected. When he was diagnosed with cancer in April 2020, he was taken to Ankara Dışkapı Training and Research Hospital, where he was imprisoned in a barred room in the basement of the hospital, handcuffed in a bed. His family were informed about his disease and his whereabouts only after 3 weeks.

While he was receiving chemotherapy, he was not allowed to meet with his family even once. Despite a medical report that he cannot stay in prison, a person with stage 4 cancer was discharged on 1 June 2020 and sent back to prison.

The Öztaş family objected to the continuation of his detention, but their request for release was rejected by the İzmir Regional Court of Justice. The decision was appealed again. The forensic report, which was required for his release, came out too late due to the Corona pandemic that was wreaking havoc at that time. When Öztaş was finally released on June 23, 2020, the cancer had already spread to his intestines, liver and lymph nodes. Öztaş, who received outpatient chemotherapy at Afyon State Hospital for about 2 months, was hospitalized when his kidneys completely collapsed. Doctors decided to stop chemotherapy because the body could not lift it. Not long after, he died.<sup>160</sup>

---

160. "Bakmaya doyamadığım, canım babamı elbirliği ile öldürdüler" ("They killed my dear father, whom I can't get enough of), Kronos, <https://kronos34.news/tr/tahliye-edilen-kanser-hastasi-gazeteci-mevlut-oztas-hayatini-kaybetti/>



## 108 / Vehbi Yıldız

The 72-year-old writer, religious scholar and teacher Vehbi Yıldız, was arrested in October 2016 for his connections with the Gülen movement. He had suffered from severe tuberculosis 25 years ago and his family is on tenterhooks about his health, fearing that the old man may catch a deadly disease on his fragile lungs, especially given how risky the prisons have become due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Yıldız also lost 40 pounds since he went to prison and he suffers from high blood pressure. He has great difficulty walking because of severe pain in his knees. His wife Tayyibe said that they presented her husband's health condition to the court but it was not taken into account. "There are 24

people staying in a ward for 8 people. They are rotting, that is, they are slowly left to rot there. The prison doctor says 'you are old, your complaints are normal' about his ailments, but we are worried. He comes to see us during contact visits bent, writhing with pain. His facial expression of pain made us cry for days going bent double," she said.<sup>161</sup>



## 109 / Zülküf Tekin

Zülküf Tekin has been in Bandırma T-type prison since August 2018 and was sentenced to 12 years for his connections with the Gülen movement. He caught hypertension and high cholesterol disease in prison and is under medication.<sup>162</sup>

161. 71 yaşındaki yazar Vehbi Yıldız ve oğlu 4 yıldır hapiste: Suçlama Kur'an öğretmek (71-year-old writer Vehbi Yıldız and his son have been in prison for 4 years: The accusation is to teach the Qur'an), TR724,

<https://www.tr724.com/71-yasindaki-vehbi-yildiz-ve-oglu-4-yildir-hapiste-suclama-kuran-ogretmek/>

162. Mağdurların Sesi on Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/p/B-pWujOgaGn/?igshid=1772onlj3cgk>





## 110 / Gürbüz Dönmez

80-year-old Gürbüz Dönmez, known with his nickname Pasha Uncle for his benevolence and gallantry, was arrested in April 2017 and was sentenced to 10 years and 6 months in prison by the İzmir 2nd High Criminal Court in June 2018 for his affiliations with the Gülen movement. His health problems due to old age were not taken into account. Another blow came in 2019 when his

75-year-old wife, Ayniyet Dönmez, was forced out of their home by the Governorate of İzmir that said the home will be turned into a police station.<sup>163</sup>



## 111 / Yavuz Selim Burgu

Yavuz Selim Burgu was a mathematics teacher when he was put in Kayseri Bünyan Prison in April 2017 for being a member of the Gülen movement. Burgu is disabled due to polio when he was 2 years old and he has been forced to live in prison for three years despite his health problems. He cannot use his left leg due to loss of feeling. He has surgery on his right leg. He has hearing loss in one ear. He had to have surgery in prison last year because the stone in his kidneys had grown. He was discharged and sent back to prison a few days after the operation.<sup>164</sup> According to the Penal Execution Law No. 5276, the sentence of detainees who cannot maintain their life alone in prison must be postponed until the patient recovers, regardless of what is. His 8 years and 9 months prison sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court. Lastly, Kayseri City Hospital said in its report on August 21, 2020, that he could “stay in prison”.

Due to this report, Burgu will not be released, although he has the right. Speaking to Bold Medya, Rukiye Burgu said, “Normally, the execution of my wife’s sentence ends in November 2023. According to the provision of the law, if he is disabled, he has been given the right to probation

163. Kaymakam, kocası cezaevinde olan 75 yaşındaki kadını zorla evinden çıkartıyor (Kaymakam, kocası cezaevinde olan 75 yaşındaki kadını zorla evinden çıkartıyor), Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2019/07/29/kaymakam-kocasi-cezaevinde-olan-75-yasindaki-kadini-zorla-evinden-cikartiyor/>

164. Sevinç Özarslan on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/sevincozarslan/status/1249084171693293568>

for the last 3 years. The hospital was supposed to report that he could not stay in prison, but they did not.” she said.<sup>165</sup>

Rukiye Burgu, who said that the physical conditions of the wards made her husband's life very difficult, said, “My wife doesn't tell me, but I learn from the relatives of her ward friends. His condition is pretty bad. Dorms upstairs, kitchen and sink downstairs. My wife is having a hard time getting up and down. He cannot meet his personal needs alone. It fell three times.” he said.



## 112 / Tubanur Ayçiçek

Ömer Ayçiçek, who has been imprisoned in Manisa E Type Prison for three months, sent a letter<sup>166</sup> to Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu about the health status of his 3-year-old daughter Zeynep and his wife Tubanur, who has rheumatoid arthritis.

Tubanur is also in the same prison as him. She contracted chronic hypertension and psoriasis-related inflammatory joint rheumatism diseases a year after she lost their first child, who was 7 months old. They postponed having a child for many years due to cortisone drugs. When Tubanur's health finally improved in 2016, they decided to have a child. The letter went on: “When my wife was 3 months pregnant, there was the goddamn

July 15 coup. My wife and I were first suspended. Afterwards, we were expelled [from their teaching positions] and became unemployed. My wife and I have experienced the worst and most difficult times a pregnant woman can go through. After a difficult process, our daughter Zeynep was born in January 2017. I was turned away from every door I knocked on for business because I was a [civil servant dismissed by a] statutory decree.”

The police came to their house on November 19, 2019, after which their life has become even more difficult. “My wife and I were detained. We were separated from our daughter who was born after 10 years of longing. We tried to reassure ourselves because we knew it was not our fault.” he wrote. They were arrested two days later.

Ayçiçek continued: “Our daughter is 3 years old and is currently with her grandfather who has stage 4 cancer and her partially bedridden grandmother (stepmother). My daughter is cur-

165. Felçli öğretmene yine ‘cezaevinde kalabilir’ raporu verildi (Paralyzed teacher was given a report to ‘stay in prison’ again), Bold Medya, <https://www.boldmedya.com/2020/08/25/felcli-ogretmene-yine-cezaevinde-kalabilir-raporu-verildi/>

166. Tutuklu bir annenin yürek parçalayan hikayesini tutuklu eşi yazdı (Detained husband wrote the heartbreaking story of a detained mother), Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2020/03/03/tutuklu-bir-annenin-yurek-parcalayan-hikayesini-tutuklu-esi-yazdi/>

rently experiencing psychological trauma. My wife, on the other hand, is barely able to stand on medication. The prison administration does not allow my daughter to stay with my wife for a short time because she will either be with her or stand outside."



## 113 / Kerem Sabri Kütükçü

Semanur Kütükçü (33), who was staying in Kırıkkale Keskin Prison with her 3-year-old son Kerem Sabri, wrote a letter<sup>167</sup> to Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu in January 2020, describing the hardships she went through in prison.

She was detained on September 26, 2016 when she was 8 months pregnant and was sent to Uşak, where she stayed under detention for 9 days. She was freed on the conditions that she would come reporting her whereabouts twice a week. She wrote, "I honored my signature for 19 months, with my little baby. I raised him on the roads of the police station (police employees are witnesses). Now I am trying to raise him in prison corners."

Kütükçü was arrested again on May 17, 2018, when Kerem Sabri was 16 months old. During the trial, she asked the court to not put her in jail since she was not involved in any criminal activity and that there was no one to look after her child. But the judge decided to send her behind the iron bars, saying "a lot of women are already in prison. You can go there as well". Kütükçü was sent to Uşak Prison with her baby.

Semanur Kütükçü, who was arrested within the scope of Gülen movement investigations because she worked in a dormitory running under the supervision of the Ministry of National Education, was sentenced to 7 years and 11 months in prison for allegedly being a member of the organization.

Saying that she lives in a 20-person ward with damp walls, Kütükçü explained his son's health problems in his letter as follows: "His eyes are constantly infected with dust, it keeps recurring even though I use medicine many times. And in these cold winter days, we have a constant cold, stomachache, and we constantly use antibiotics because of chronic bronchitis. At this time when I am trying to toilet train him, I have a hard time because of the crowd and cold. Therefore, more laundry gets dirty and it is very difficult to wash and dry the laundry in this environment."

She wrote petitions to the authorities for her release on probation, all rejected. Kütükçü listed in her letter what it means to be a 3-year-old kid in prison in 14 items.

167. Bebeği ile tutuklu Semanur Kütükçü: "Oğlumla psikolojik şiddete karşı savaşıyoruz" (Semanur Kütükçü, imprisoned with her baby: "We are fighting against psychological violence with my son") <https://www.omerfarukgergerlioglu.com/basin/basindan/bebegiyle-tutuklu-semanur-kutukcu-oglumla-psikolojik-siddete-karsi-savasiyoruz/13907/>

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

- A child who witnessed all the negative situations of the prison.
- A child fed with adult food.
- A child who cannot step on the carpet and cannot take off his slippers.
- A child who has been sleeping with his mother for 21 months in a single bunk bed, trying not to fall.
- A child who cannot go to kindergarten and can only leave the ward with clear views and on the way to the infirmary.
- A child trying to learn everything (animals, plants) with the books we provide with our own means.
- A child who constantly tries to play with a small number of toys.
- A child sliding down an imaginary slide, trying to get on the seesaw with his pen, sitting on pictures of cars in the newspaper, getting into an imaginary elevator.
- He is a child who considers his aunts here as his friends and runs after them saying “play with me” because he cannot see his peers.
- A child who realizes that everything is done with permission, and when he sees children choosing books on TV, he says, “Mom, they touch the books without permission”.
- When he wants something, it is not “Mom, buy me this” instead of “Mom, can you write me a receipt for this?” a boy says.
- He is a child who constantly says, “Mom, I am so bored here, when will we go home.
- A child comforting his mother by saying, “Mom, don’t cry for us to go home,” while his mother was crying.
- And an innocent child who should not experience any of this, who does not know anything.



## 114 / Devrim Ayık

Devrim Ayık has Crohn's and needs constant regular treatment as his intestines are rotten. Ayık had one operation and 40 centimeters of his intestines were removed before he was arrested on charges of “membership in a terrorist organization” in 2015. He was operated for the second time due to the disruption of his treatment in prison and another 60 centimeters of his intestine was removed.

He was released after 3 years of detention, but was arrested again on January 12, 2021, within the scope of the same file. Speaking to the Mezopotamya Agency, his

mother Hülya<sup>168</sup> said that her son was first transferred to Şakran Prison in İzmir, then to Edirne F Type Prison, and then to Eskişehir H Type Closed Prison. She stated that prisons avoided taking responsibility because of her son's serious illness.

Hülya also added that her son lost his right eye completely as a result of an accident in 2006, and that his left eye was nearsighted. She noted that although her son's last health check-ups reported that his intestines had rotted again and that he needed urgent treatment, he was not treated in prison. "They clearly left my son to die," said Ayık and emphasized that the condition of hundreds of seriously ill detainees, as well as his son, is at a critical stage: "Let's be a voice for all sick prisoners. Let no more coffins come out of prisons. A sick person is already suffering a torture from their bodies. Is there any need for another torture due to prison conditions? If we don't give a voice to our sick prisoners, there will be a funeral everyday. Prisoners are in isolation within isolation, torture within torture. The only thing the detainees can do against the unlawfulness in prison is banging doors and shouting slogans. They cannot make their voices heard outside. They can only raise their voices through hunger strikes."



## 115 / Elif Şahin

Elif Şahin (33), who has been imprisoned in Manisa Prison since September 2019, is struggling with many diseases. Her father, Şit Dürmüş, who wanted her to be released on parole, lists her daughter's diseases as follows: "She has kidney failure. She has hypertension and panic attacks. She survived the danger of death in both deliveries by cesarean section due to polycysticovary syndrome (ovarian cyst)."<sup>169</sup>

Stating that his son-in-law Muhammed Şahin has been imprisoned in the same prison since August 2016, Dürmüş added that they look after his two grandchildren with his wife. "I am 90 percent disabled, I am on dialysis 3 days a week. I have now had surgery on two broken hips in Manisa Yenışehir Hospital," he said.

According to the diagnosis of Celal Bayar University Hospital, Elif Şahin's kidneys were working only at a capacity of 65 percent and if the treatment is delayed, she will have to be connected to dialysis

168. Hasta tutuklu Devrim Ayık'ın annesi: Ses vermezsek her gün bir cenaze çıkar (Mother of sick prisoner Devrim Ayık: If we do not speak out, there will be a funeral every day), Gazete Karınca, <https://gazetekarinca.com/2021/04/hasta-tutuklu-devrim-ayikin-annesi-ses-vermezsek-her-gun-bir-cenaze-cikar/>

169. Böbrek hastası Elif Şahin'in babasından yarınki mahkeme öncesi çağrı (Call from the father of kidney patient Elif Şahin before the trial tomorrow), Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2020/03/19/bobrek-hastasi-elif-sahinin-babasindan-yarinki-mahkeme-oncesi-cagri/>



like her father in a couple of years. Şahin, who had fainted while her statement was being taken, has a disease-prone body. She is constantly transferred from prison to hospital. Since her heart functions deteriorated due to kidney failure, a meter was placed on her heart. In addition, the same hospital diagnosed Elif with goiter.

Elif Şahin, who was the administrator of student dormitories in Manisa and its surrounding districts, was detained on 13 September 2019 as part of the investigations against the Gülen movement. She was arrested on September 18 and sent to Manisa E Type Prison. Her husband Muhammed Şahin, who was arrested in August 2016, was sentenced to 8 years and 9 months in prison.



## 116 / Mukadder Alakuş

Mukadder Alakuş has been detained in Eskişehir H Type Prison since July 2018. Alakuş, who has lumbar hernia and gallbladder disease, also has inflammatory joint rheumatism that affects the whole body, including the eyes. In the mornings, she can get out of bed with the help of her ward friends. According to the information Gergerlioğlu provided in a press conference in March 2019, she was not provided enough description about how to use the drugs and therefore stomach pain occurred while using the drugs.<sup>170</sup>



## 117 / Ekrem Öğdem

Dismissed from public service with the Statutory Decree number 679, Ekrem Öğdem has been locked in Karaman Prison for more than 3 years. He has Multiple Sclerosis and has lost 70 percent of his eyesight. Due to the bad conditions of the prison coupled with his illnesses, he has lost more than 50 kilograms. He needs to take cortisone therapy, but he can't. He's crawling to trials but the court still keeps him in prison.<sup>171</sup>

170. Minutes of Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu's press conference on March 21, 2019 can be found at <https://www.omerfarukgergerlioglu.com/basin/haberler/21-mart-basin-toplantisi/7830/>

171. Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/gergerliogluof/status/1146535333418414081>



## 118 / Yasemin Aladağ

Yasemin Aladağ, who has been imprisoned in Kütahya Prison since May 2019, has suffered serious psychological traumas due to the difficulties she has experienced, besides her severe shingles. She was saying to her mother Pervin Kaçar: "There is always a voice inside my brain, muttering 'throw yourself down, throw yourself down, die and get rid of it'. I can't take it anymore."

Working as a caregiver in the intensive care unit of a private hospital in Bursa, Pervin Kaçar had to quit her job when her daughter and son-in-law were arrested. She has been taking care of her grandson Yavuz Mahir ever since his parents were both sent to prison.

Baby Yavuz stopped talking in the first days of separation from his mother and did not want anyone to touch him. He was constantly kissing the picture of his parents.

Pervin narrated the tribulation they went through to online media outlet Bold: "They were newly married. Yavuz Mahir was born. The father was taken when he was 15 months old and his mother when he was 2.5 years old. Think how long their marriage lasted. There was a ward-like room for the visitation, a depressed place. We are waiting for the mother and father. There is no glass. The kid doesn't want to be there at all. He hits the iron doors, throws himself on the ground. He cries out 'I won't go in here'. He says 'let's go upstairs.' First they brought his mother. As soon as he saw her, he stopped crying and sank himself in her chest. He fell asleep while moaning 'mom, mom'. The people behind us saw Yavuz Mahir in that state and they cried a lot. Old men cried. Then his father came. ...There are parents, they are alive, but the children are treated as orphans and orphans. They made my daughter, who was afraid of harming even flies and chickens, a terrorist."<sup>172</sup>

## 119 / Aytaç Abalı

He is in Gaziantep L-Type Prison. Aytaç Abalı is a severe MS (Multiple sclerosis) patient. The prison administration does not take Abalı to the hospital and does not give him his medication. They have been ignoring his requests for medical care.<sup>173</sup>

172. Artık dayanamıyorum anne! (I can't take it anymore mom!), Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2020/03/24/artik-dayanamiyorum-anne/>

173. Mağdurların Sesi on Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/p/B35CNThgXlq/?igshid=wb1icbn35pa>



## 120 / Damla Akçakaya

Arzu Akçakaya, who has been in prison with her daughter Damla since July 2019, told the difficulties of raising a child inside the stone walls of prison, in a 9-page letter to her husband. "One day she [Damla] got very sick, her condition was not good, we did not know why and we took her to the emergency room. The doctor diagnosed dysentery and prescribed medication. But my baby's medication was not given on time and we went to the emergency room with my child for the second time. The doctor said the child needs to take her medicine as soon as possible. My baby's body was so weak that he could only take the drugs for 1 day, and on the same day her condition worsened even more and we

had to go to the emergency room again," she said.

Baby Damla stayed in the hospital for four days and got better only after getting supplemented with serum. The doctor prescribed medication again, but they were handed over to her 6 days after her husband called the prison administration.

In her letter, Arzu also told about the problems that two other kids her ward have. Explaining that there are 25 people left in the 16-person ward, Akçakaya states that the babies often fall from the bunk beds and often bumping into the iron frames of the bunk beds: "One day, baby Tarık fell while sleeping on the bunk bed, we were so scared that day... First the pillow fell, then Tarık fell on the pillow. What would have happened if he had fallen on the concrete or something had happened to the child!"<sup>174</sup>



## 121 / Yusuf Pekmezci

Yusuf Pekmezci was in hiding for three years to avoid being caught as he was wanted for his connections with the Gülen movement but he was caught by the police in January 2020. He was detained and sent to prison. According to his daughter, in addition to Alzheimer's, 83-year-old Pekmezci also suffers from high blood pres-

---

174. Kızım koğuştta dizanteri oldu, 3 kez acile götürdüm, ilaçları verilmedi (My daughter had dysentery in the ward, I took her to the ED 3 times, her medications were not given), Bold Medya, <https://www.boldmedya.com/2020/01/27/kizim-kogusta-dizanteri-oldu-3-kez-acile-goturdu-ilaclari-verilmedi>

sure and osteoporosis.<sup>175</sup> Pekmezci, who worked as a merchant in İzmir for years, is known for his philanthropy, which included giving scholarships to students in need and opening dormitories for students. In March 2021, his daughter wrote on social media: “My father uses more than 10 drugs. In this state, my father has been in İzmir Buca Prison for 14 months. My father’s condition is getting worse day by day. All his diseases are progressing rapidly. In order for my father to be brought back to life, he must be with his family and treated under hospital conditions. Please hear our voice, support us.”



## 122 / Yeliz Kurtok

Yeliz Kurtok, who has been imprisoned in İzmir Şakran Prison since October 10, 2019, is struggling with a number of diseases in prison. Her husband Nizamettin Kurtok said the health of Yeliz, who has a severe neck hernia and chronic bronchitis, got much worse as she also caught coronavirus.

Nizamettin was quoted by Bold Medya: “My wife has an advanced cervical hernia. Operative level. She can meet her personal needs with the help of her ward friends. The doctor said she needed to have an operation, but this is not possible in prison. After entering the prison, she started to have gall and stomach discomfort.”<sup>176</sup>

According to Nizamettin, Yeliz Kurtok’s gall and stomach complaints are largely due to the stressful trials as well as her separation from her 7.5-year-old daughter. The couple had a late child after going through extensive treatments.

“She fainted in the 4th trial held on January 30, 2020 from hunger and fatigue. After a 2-hour-commute inside prison vans with handcuffs at 7 am, she has to wait until evening in a detention room until the trial. That day, even the prosecutor waited for half an hour, he was interested, but they did not give up on the decision. Hunger stress further aggravated her illness. They even shot 3 cortisone injections for her pain. The court requested a report from the hospital. In the next trial, without waiting for the report, the court sentenced her to 7.5 years and decided to continue her detention.” Yeliz Kurtok was working as a civil servant in a student dormitory affiliated with the Gülen movement.

175. Cezaevinde tutulan 82 yaşındaki Yusuf Pekmezci’nin kızı: ‘Lütfen sesimizi duyun, destek olun’ (Daughter of 82-year-old prisoner Yusuf Pekmezci: ‘Please hear our voices and support’), TR724, <https://www.tr724.com/cezaevinde-tutulan-82-yasindaki-yusuf-pekmecinin-kizi-lutfen-sesimizi-duyun-destek-olun/>

176. Eşim duruşmada bayıldı, savcı bile başında durdu, karardan vazgeçmediler (My wife fainted at the hearing, even the prosecutor stood by him, yet they did not give up on the decision), Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2020/03/26/esim-durusmada-bayildi-savci-bile-basinda-durdu-karardan-vazgecmeydiler/>





## 123 / Engin Erol

Engin Erol (41), who had cancer in prison and was not released until it was too late, was taken to Erzurum Regional Training and Research Hospital when his condition worsened. Erol was released on 10 December 2019. He died 9 days later in Samsun, where he was treated.<sup>177</sup>

Erol, who was arrested as part of the investigations into the Gülen movement, was imprisoned in Artvin Prison for 2 years and in Erzurum H Type Prison for 1 year and 3 months. Erol, who was diagnosed with cancer while in prison, was kept waiting for 3 months to go to the doctor. His treatment was delayed and disrupted, as in many other patients.

He submitted more than 20 petitions regarding his disease, but they were not considered. Due to clear reports about his illness, the court's decision to release him was overturned upon the objection of the prosecutor's office.

The first thing Erol said to his relatives after he was released was "They are killing friends inside, there are two more people in my situation. Pray for them". He willed to continue the legal fight against those responsible. "A few months ago, the manager changed in the Erzurum H prison. The new manager doesn't turn on the heaters. Conditions got worse after he came," he said.

Erol, who was abroad for work, returned to Turkey due to the upcoming birth of his wife, who suffers from vertigo, and was arrested there.



## 124 / Yakup Duran

He has been under arrest for 35 months in Burhaniye Prison. Suffering from swelling in his leg, he was finally given an MRI after months of waiting. However, he wasn't referred to a doctor to evaluate the results and start his treatment.<sup>178</sup>

177. Kanserden ölen tutuklu Engin Erol'un son sözleri: İçeride insanları öldürüyorlar, benim gibi iki kişi daha vardı (The last words of the prisoner Engin Erol, who died of cancer: They are killing people inside, there were two more people like me), Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2019/12/20/kanserden-olen-tutuklu-engin-erolun-son-sozleri-iceride-insanlari-olduruyorlar-benim-gibi-iki-kisi-daha-vardi/>

178. Mağdurların Sesi on Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/p/B11n1VdgJOs/?igshid=1bn46macdwb3y>





## 125 / Celal Bülbul

Celal Bülbul was 70 years old when he was imprisoned for his links to the Gülen movement. He was battling many diseases. In prison, his health problems got much worse. Bülbul's vertigo treatment had to be interrupted due to detention and while in prison, in early 2020, he fell from the stairs due to this illness. He has severe reflux disease. He needs frequent endoscopy on his stomach. There is a possibility that he may be blind. He has been using different drugs for 20 years because he has blood pressure disease. On top of that, since there is no room in the ward, he is forced to sleep under the stairs. In his

own words, "as soon as you enter the ward, on the left, at the foot of the door, in a place where people come and go and make noise." He was complaining about his problems during a phone conversation with his wife:<sup>179</sup> "Here you can't take pills whenever you want, you can't go to the hospital. They put you in quarantine for 14 days both before and after. I said I will die. I can't stand to be alone, to be in the dark, to be in a tight place. These are my ailments. I'm afraid to be alone even in the elevator, but I can't do anything.

"I need eye drops. I have dry eyes. I have a yellow spot behind my eye. Sometimes there is a fog screen in front of my eyes. The doctor in Ankara said there is no treatment, it will result in blindness, God forbid. He was sending me vitamin pills. I don't have those opportunities here, I have nothing."



## 126 / Nurcan Biçer Öner

Author of "Kırmızı Toka", one of 100 works recommended by the Ministry of Education, was summarily dismissed from her job by a statutory decree. She was put in the Adıyaman prison. She suffers from rectal bleeding and is at risk of colon cancer. The prison administration does not refer her to a hospital, Her appointments with a doctor are constantly postponed.<sup>180</sup>

179. Almanya'da maden işçiliğinden memleket zindanlarına Celal amcanın hayatı (The life of Uncle Celal: from mining in Germany to the dungeons of his country), Bold Medya,

<https://boldmedya.com/2020/05/25/almanyada-maden-isciliginden-memleket-zindanlarina-celal-amcanin-hayati/>

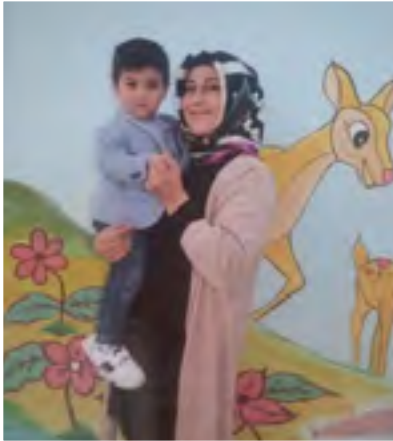
180. Mağdurların Sesi on Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/p/B2Mc3dTgXUk/?igshid=1wu09af78voev>



## 127-128 / Ebru & Tunahan babies

5-year-old Ebru, who is held with her mother Bahar Altun and 4-year-old Tunahan, who is held with his mother Rabia Tay in Trabzon Prison, have conditions that require special care and therapy.

UpSendrom's founder, Burak Acerakis, wrote on his Twitter account @Acerakis in 2019 that Ebru with Down Syndrome, who was only 3 at the time, and Tunahan, then 2 years old, autistic patient, are "impossible to develop in prison conditions". Acerakis called on the Ministry of Justice, asking for a formula for the release of children in this situation. There was no positive response to this call, which received a limited response from the public. Acerakis wrote: "No child should grow up in a prison atmosphere, but the situation is even worse for children with special needs. If they do not receive the necessary therapies in the first 5 years, their future is on fire. You need to deal with this outdated case as soon as possible and provide the necessary humane conditions."<sup>181</sup>



## 129 / Mehmet Ali Durman

Mehmet Ali Duman, a purge-victim businessman, has been held in prison since mid-2016 on terror and coup charges despite severe cardiac disease.<sup>182</sup> The claim has neither been confirmed nor denied by the Turkish authorities. Durman, father of three, is accused of having links to the Gülen group.

181. 3 yaşındaki down sendromlu Ebru ile 2 yaşındaki otizmli Tunahan da cezaevinde (3-year-old Ebru with Down syndrome and 2-year-old Tunahan with autism are also in prison), Kronos, <https://kronos34.news/tr/3-yasindaki-down-sendromlu-ebru-ile-2-yasindaki-otizmli-tunahan-cezaevinde/>

182. Tutuklu Hastalar on Instagram, <https://twitter.com/TutukluHastalar/status/1173502860216217600>



## 130 / Levent Yaşar

Levent Yaşar has been in prison since late 2017 after being arrested as part of an investigation into the members of the Gülen movement in Denizli province. Some anonymous Twitter accounts defending the rights of the silenced critics of the Erdoğan regime, claimed that Yaşar was put in a solitary confinement cell and was kept there for at least three years. He had high blood pressure, which got worse in prison, and he lost about 50 kilos in a weakened condition.<sup>183</sup>



## 131 / İsmet Özçelik

İsmet Özçelik, who was kidnapped from Malaysia in early 2017 by the National Intelligence Organization (MIT), and brought to Turkey, is struggling with serious health problems in prison. Özçelik was arrested as part of the operations against the Hizmet movement members. With the suspension of open and closed views due to the coronavirus, Özçelik had no opportunity to communicate with his family. Özçelik's family, who had a heart attack in prison before, is worried about him, whom they could not hear.

His daughter Fatma Rana complained about the situation in her social media account and said: "He has a heavy heart and diabetes. He suffered a heart attack in prison in August. At the first moment, it was not intervened by saying that something did not exist. Two

weeks later they took him to the hospital. Currently, he has a heart condition, but he is not taken to the hospital under the pretext of 'Corona'. My father is not a terrorist. My father is an educator."<sup>184</sup>

183. MağduriyetTR on Instagram, <https://twitter.com/magduriyettr1/status/1163493818781581312?lang=eu>

184. Malezya'da kaçırılan İsmet Özçelik'e BM kararına rağmen 9 yıl 11 ay hapis (İsmet Özçelik, kidnapped in Malaysia, sentenced to 9 years and 11 months in prison despite the UN resolution), TR724, <https://www.tr724.com/malezyada-kacirilan-ismet-ozcelike-bm-kararina-ragmen-9-yil-11-ay-hapis/>



## 132 / Esra Çepik

Esra Çepik (27) was a 2nd year student at Eskişehir Anadolu University Open Education Faculty of Theology. She was detained on July 27, 2017 on the grounds that she had installed the Bylock application on her phone and was a volunteer for the Gülen movement.

She was released on probation after an 8-day detention period. A year later, a new arrest warrant was issued for Çepik. Şanlıurfa 6th High Criminal Court first sentenced Çepik to 6 years and 3 months in prison in July 2018.

Suffering from a slipped disc, Esra wrote dozens of petitions demanding to be referred to a doctor. She was eventually taken to the doctor, who said Çepik needed an MRI. However, the prison administration did not allow MRI. Her

elder sister Fikriye Yaşamer told Bold Medya news outlet that her lower back condition, which occurred the year when Çepik started university, got worse under prison conditions.<sup>185</sup> "We took her medicines, they did not let them in. They said the doctors would take care of it inside. But doctors weren't interested either," she said. During the interview, she said that her sister can move very slowly.

Yaşamer went on: "Her wards are 27-28 people. They combined the two wards. You can't stand it in the heat of Şanlıurfa. They do the laundry by hand, but my sister can't do it as she can't sit still; her friends help. When we go to the open visit, if she has a bag, her friends take her bag from her and then she walks slowly. She also can't sleep (because of her pain), her friends are massaging her but she still can't sleep."



## 133 / Birgül Bulut

Chemistry teacher Birgül Bulut (47), who has been in prison since December 2017, has been struggling with a number of serious diseases. In May 2020, her kidney was bleeding for which the prison doctor said to Bulut, who did not want to go to the hospital because of the obligation to stay in quarantine alone for at least 2 weeks, "You may lose your kidneys, if there is bleeding again or if it

185. "Kardeşim cezaevinde sakat kalmak üzere!" ("My sister is about to be crippled in prison!") Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2019/07/18/kardesim-cezaevinde-sakat-kalmak-uzere/>



continues, we will have to take you to the hospital.”<sup>186</sup>

She suffered two asthma attacks while in custody when she was arrested in 2017 for her alleged affiliations with the Gülen movement. She has medical reports for her hypertension, asthma, blood coagulation disorder, severe anemia and hemorrhoids, and heart rhythm disorder. Her petitions to be released on probation due to her documented diseases have not been taken into consideration in the court. The Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court also ignored the reports. Birgül Bulut, who sent a letter to HDP Deputy and human rights defender Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu on October 15, 2019, said, “I am a 47-year-old mother. My husband is also in prison. We were left without income with 3 children. Our home is devastated. I use heavy psychiatric drugs. If I continue to stay in prison, I will end up in a mental hospital!” she said.



## 134 / Güzin Mızrak

Güzin Mızrak, a 4-month pregnant woman from Bartın province, has been sent to prison over her alleged links to the Gülen movement. Mızrak has been suffering from diabetes since 2014 and learned she was pregnant in prison two weeks after she was arrested. She described her first joy of motherhood and the troubles she had to endure in a prison environment in a letter she wrote to a friend.

Mızrak was frequently taken to the emergency room due to the problems of the pregnancy process and taken to Karabük State Hospital in handcuffs.

“The day I sent you the first letter on Monday, the 20th, I went to the infirmary, the nurse said there is a test, let’s do it. There was excitement and stress. I was doing the first test in my life, accompanied by a guard and a nurse. Imagine being in such an environment... At this time, my nausea and vomiting increased.”<sup>187</sup>

---

186. Sağlık durumu kötü: Tutuklu öğretmenin böbreğinde kanama başladı (Her health is bad: Bleeding started in the kidney of the imprisoned teacher) Bold Medya, <https://www.boldmedya.com/2020/05/26/tutuklu-ogretmenin-bobreginde-kanama-basladi-saglik-durumu-kotu/>

187. 2,5 aylık hamile kadın 2 aydır cezaevinde (2.5 months pregnant woman has been in prison for 2 months), Bold Medya, <https://www.boldapp.de/2019/06/27/25-aylik-hamile-kadin-2-aydir-cezaevinde/>





## 135 / Serdin Cengiz

Literature teacher Serdin Cengiz (42), who has been imprisoned in Gaziantep H Type Closed Prison since 12 December 2018, described the difficulties he suffered in a letter he wrote in July 2019 to the 2nd High Criminal Court of Muş, where his case was heard.<sup>188</sup> “As a result of an accident I had a while ago, I had a five-part fracture on my kneecap. I had two surgeries, in which many screws and 12 platinum plates were placed in my leg. I still cannot step on my foot and

use my knee. I was arrested while lying at home. Because of my arrest in this way, I suffered many hardships inside.”

Cengiz said that his treatment was severely interrupted in prison, and that because he was deprived of physical therapy, his muscles melted, his capillaries narrowed and he was faced with the inability to walk.

“Last month, I was examined in the neurosurgery outpatient clinic. I had an MRI. It was stated that there were four hernias. For seven months, I have been living my life with the help of my friends inside. I am still dependent on them. I can’t even carry a glass of water because I walk with two canes. Believe me, sometimes I forget my own troubles and feel sorry for the troubles I caused them. You can appreciate how many months a person endures or can endure the distress of a person he doesn’t know well.”

Cengiz, who was arrested and sent to prison for membership in the Gülen movement because his name was mentioned in the testimony of a witness. Cengiz could not defend himself because of a problem in connection with the court’s Sound and Video Information System (SEGBİS) in his first trial on May 21, 2019, which was postponed to October 16.

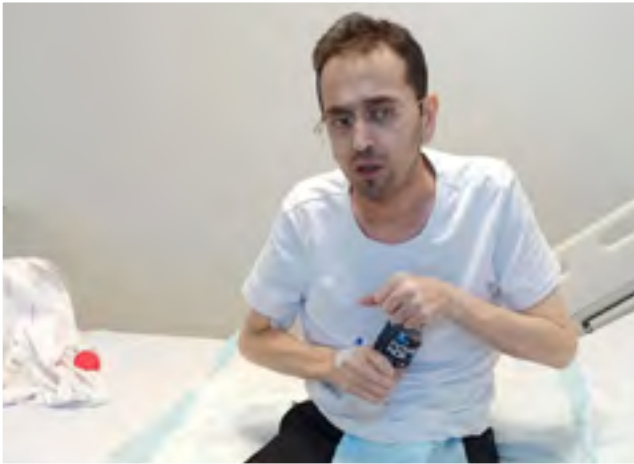
---

188. Ayağında 12 platinle cezaevinde kalan Serdin Cengiz’den mektup var (There is a letter from Serdin Cengiz, who was in prison with 12 platinum on his foot), Bold Medya, <https://boldmedya.com/2019/07/19/ayagindaki-12-platinle-cezaevinde-yasayan-serdin-cengizden-mektup-var/>



## **136 / Hayati Kaytan**

Held in Bolu F-Type prison, Hayati Kaytan had surgery for a tumor in his brain. His right hand is crippled and has lingering problems due to a bullet wound on his left shoulder. His left-right toes were amputated due to snow burn. There is a hernia of the waist and neck. He has periodic epileptic seizures. There is digestive weakness in his stomach. Despite a medical report demonstrating that he has 60 percent disability and that he can't stay in prison, Kaytan is not released.<sup>189</sup>



## **137 / Fatih Terzioğlu**

TV director Fatih Terzioğlu, 40, who was diagnosed with stomach cancer during his 21-month incarceration on terrorism charges, died on August 24, 2020 following his release from prison in mid-July.<sup>190</sup> His wife, Esra, had conducted a campaign on social media for the release of her husband, who was sentenced to six years, three months for membership in the Gülen movement. He had worked for the now-closed Samanyolu TV, a Gülen-affiliated television network in Turkey. His health dete-

riorated significantly due to poor prison conditions, especially difficulty in accessing medical treatment and unhygienic and crowded facilities.

---

189. Progressive Lawyer's Association, Covid-19 Hapishane İzleme Haftalık Bülten-4 11.05.2020 (Covid-19 Prison Monitoring Weekly Bulletin-4 11.05.2020)  
<https://cagdashukukcular.org/genel/covid-19-hapishane-izleme-haftalik-bulten-4-hasta-mahpuslar/>

190. Stockholm Center for Freedom, TV director jailed over Gülen links dies of cancer after belated release from prison,  
<https://stockholmcf.org/tv-director-jailed-over-gulen-links-dies-of-cancer-after-belated-release-from-prison/>

## CONCLUSION

---

This report was written in order to provide a modest contribution to the efforts to represent the silent screams in Turkish prisons. Unfortunately, the names included here are just the tip of the iceberg. It is not possible to fully obtain the details of the situation in Turkish prisons due to the non-transparency barriers of the current regime. We would like to be able to address the problems of the sick, the elderly, children and women who have been deprived of their freedom and held captive in the claws of the oppressive tyranny, one by one, by name in this report. This was not possible. However, we tried to compile an incomplete list of all sick and elderly prisoners about whom we could obtain information in Table 4.

The Kurds have traditionally ranked first on Turkey's list of internal enemies. Members of the separatist Kurdish movement, the nemesis chosen by the nationalist state to legitimize its existence, also comprised a large portion of the political prisoners. However, the state's total annihilation campaign against the Gülen movement in the last 7-8 years, has reached the point where it overshadows even the enmity against the Kurds.

The breaking point was in late 2013. After two consecutive investigations into some shady jobs of a clandestine network of businessmen and politicians -- known to be acting under Erdoğan's orders, instead of helping to reveal the truth, Erdoğan accused the movement of plotting to topple his government in line with the conspiracies of the international circles of evil. Erdoğan launched a "witch hunt" against anyone who had any contact with the movement, summarily dismissing or demoting tens of thousands of public servants. Linking the 2016 coup attempt to the followers of Gülen, he ratcheted the pressure up on the Gülen followers, this time with a massive public support behind him.

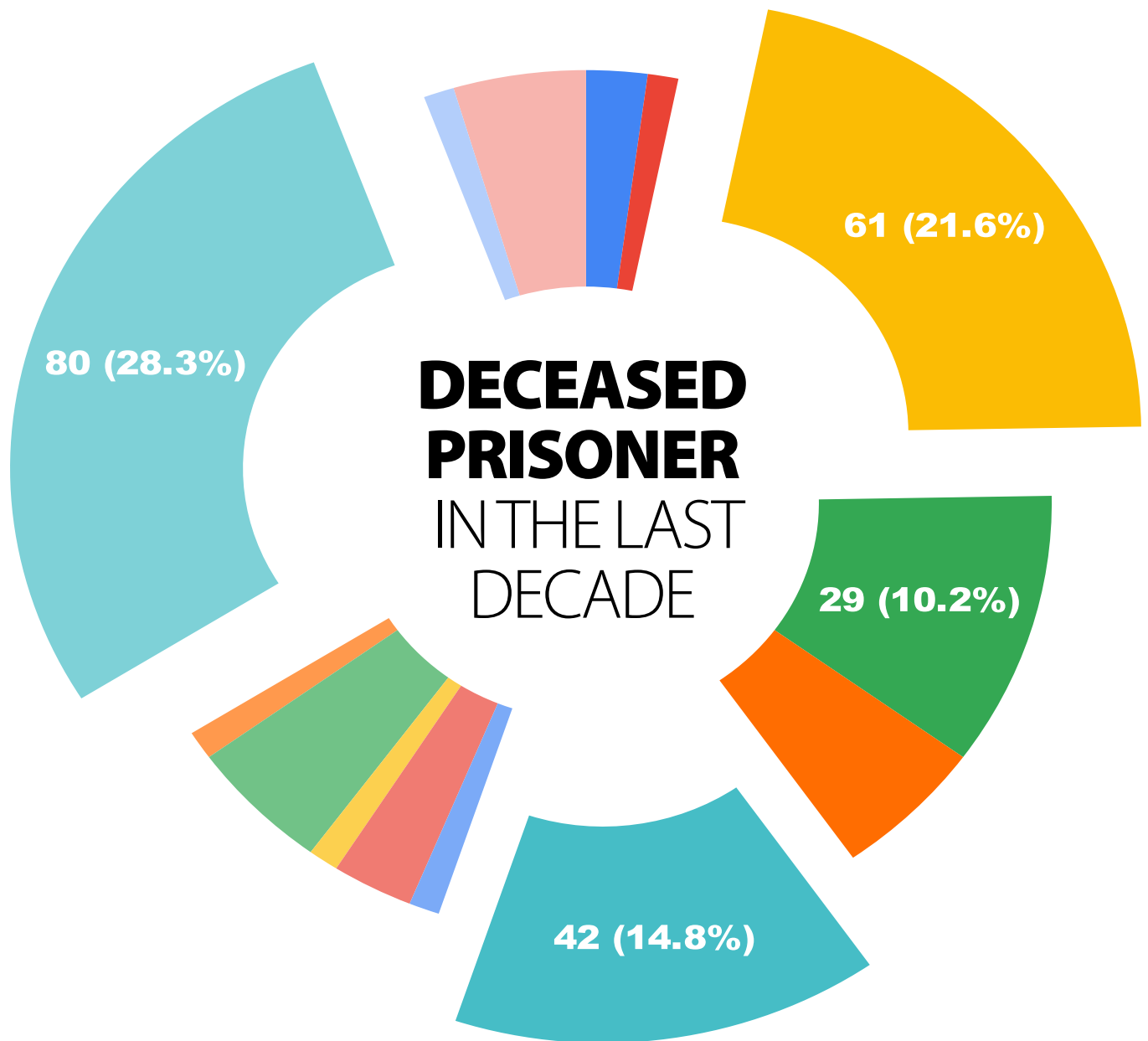
With the help of a massive propaganda machinery spinned by Erdoğan's loyal media, the movement was demonized in no time and was declared as the source of all evil in the country. People were sent to jail in masses through waves of operations, regardless of whether they were involved in violence or not. Although years have passed, operations continue unabated. As a result of this atrocity, the number of inmates in Turkey's prisons reached an unprecedented level. So much so that the construction of new prisons are almost among the biggest investments of the Erdoğan government.

In the Corona epidemic that swept the whole world, even the calls from the national and international circles did not curb the regime's appetite for annihilation against innocent people with a vengeance motive. Erdoğan released common criminals, yet he did not take the slightest positive step in favor of political prisoners. The deaths of some of these prisoners were not even heard of. The mentally ill, those struggling with serious illnesses, the elderly, children and women suffer the agony of oblivion behind the iron doors closed on them.

## Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

Among these people who are crammed into the dark cells of the overcrowded prisons, there are old people whose only crime is to give scholarships to students, housewives guilty of organizing charity sales, children who don't know how it feels to step on grass and mere students. None of them has a shred of evidence in their files to show that they were involved in, or even indirectly supported, even an insignificant act of violence, a simple fight, let alone the evidence supporting their membership in a terrorist organization. For these people, who do not even dream of violence, even being tried without detention was cruelty, but the judges, who act under Erdoğan's orders, who are afraid of being sacked and investigated at any moment, or who deliberately violate the law and ignore conscience, sent them to the cold cells of the prisons. The screams overflowing from the lines of this report are the silent groans of these people.

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey



● Brain Hemorrhage - 6 ● Brain Tumor - 3 ● Cancer - 61 ● Other - 29 ● Covid 19 - 15 ● Heart Attack - 42  
● Heart Failure - 3 ● Hunger Strike - 8 ● Multiple Diseases - 3 ● Murder - 14 ● Stomach Bleeding - 3  
● Suicide - 80 ● Suspicious Death - 3 ● Unknown - 13



# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

**TABLE 3: DECEASED PRISONERS IN THE LAST DECADE\***

	NAME OF PRISONER	DATE OF DEATH	PRISON	CAUSE OF DEATH
1	Ulaş Yurdakul	1/1/2017	Balıkesir Kepsut Closed	Beaten
2	Hamza Kaçmaz	8/15/2017	Antalya Type E	Beaten
3	Gurgin Kurt	5/21/2013	Ahlat Prison	Brain Hemorrhage
4	Murat Özenalp	5/1/2014	Mamak	Brain hemorrhage
5	Celal Kılıçarslan	10/1/2014	Ağrı Type M	Brain hemorrhage
6	Cemal Özkan	12/16/2015	Rize Kalkandere Type L	Brain hemorrhage
7	Rıza Yıldırım	6/4/2016	Bolu Type F	Brain hemorrhage
8	Bekir Bıçakçı	13/04/2019	Isparta Type E	Brain hemorrhage
9	Ramazan Özalp	10/9/2014	Batman Type M	Brain tumor
10	Ali Ayverdi	7/24/2019	İzmir Type T	Brain tumor
11	Tahir Çetinkaya	8/2/2019	Sincan Type F	Brain tumor/paralysis
12	Cegerxwin Akdeniz	9/28/2016	Şırnak Type T	Burnt
13	Seyit Rıza Şeran	10/3/2016	Şırnak Type T	Burnt
14	Abdullah Akçay	6/26/2010	Maltepe Prison	Cancer
15	Cahit Durmaz	6/28/2012	Kırıkkale Type F	Cancer
16	Gülây Çetin	7/1/2012	Antalya Type L	Cancer
17	Magdalena de Winnaar	9/4/2012	Bakırköy Women and Children Prison	Cancer
18	Muhlis Barut	9/9/2012	Metris Prison	Cancer
19	Şahabettin Yüce	2/9/2013	Ermenek/Ankara Numune Hospital	Cancer
20	Hacı Nasır	3/25/2013	Gümüşhane E	Cancer
21	İrfan Eskibağ	5/6/2013	Sincan Closed	Cancer
22	Şehmus Yetek	7/13/2014	Diyarbakır Type D	Cancer
23	Hasan Turan	8/8/2014	Ünye Type M	Cancer
24	Osman Harbutoğlu	10/11/2014	Balıkesir Type L	Cancer
25	Abdülmecit Aslan	1/8/2015	Metris Prison	Cancer
26	Mehmet Canpolat	1/12/2015	Kandıra Type F	Cancer
27	Mehmet Oğur	9/20/2017	Silifke Type M	Cancer
28	Koçer Özdal	8/27/2018	Bafra Type T	Cancer
29	Muhsin Kızıllan	7/25/2019	İskenderun Type T	Cancer
30	Engin Erol	12/20/2019	Erzurum Type H	Cancer

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

31	Erdoğan Tülay	7/4/2020	Bitlis Type E	Cancer
32	Mevlüt Öztaş	8/18/2020	Afyon Type E	Cancer
33	Fatih Terzioğlu	8/24/2020	Silivri Closed	Cancer
34	Ercan Dağhan	11/5/2020	Sincan Closed	Cancer
35	Ahmet Kaplan	11/11/2020	İskenderun Type T	Cancer
36	Hadi Yalçın	1/1/2021	Edirne Type F	Cancer
37	Hayrettin Yılmaz	3/13/2021	Dinar Type T Closed	Cancer
38	Abdulvahit Tuncay	5/1/2021	Tekirdağ Type T	Cancer
39	Kadir Eyce	4/11/2018	Sivas Type E	Cancer
40	Vasıf Bayram	12/13/2018	Sakarya Ferizli	Cancer
41	Bilal Gülfidan	10/15/2019	Ankara Sincan Cezaevi	Cancer
42	Saim Uyanık	3/15/2019	Adana	Cancer
43	Yavuz Bölek	6/16/2019	İzmir Şakran Cezaevi	Cancer
44	İsmail Ülker	6/17/2018		Cancer
45	Mustafa Ali Mutlu	10/18/2019		Cancer
46	Ahmet Kemal Kaya	11/19/2016	Isparta Type E	Cancer
47	Beyazıt Yıldırım	7/2/2018	Bursa Cezaevi	Cancer
48	İsmail Aygün	11/20/2018	Bursa Cezaevi	Cancer
49	Yusuf Kurt	11/21/2021	Silivri Cezaevi	Cancer
50	Naim Çıtır	1/21/2018	Konya E	Cancer
51	İsa Gültekin	22/04/2021	Mersin Tarsus No. 3 Type T Closed Prison	Cancer
52	Mehmet Ali Başar	9/23/2018	Silivri Cezaevi	Cancer
53	Ümit Gökhasan	11/23/2020	Afyon Type E	Cancer
54	Tacettin Toprak	8/24/2019	Manisa Type T	Cancer
55	Fatih Korkmaz	10/25/2016	Bartın Prison	Cancer
56	Recep Türk	11/25/2018	Samsun Closed	Cancer
57	Cemal Gürer	25/04/2018	Elazığ High Security	Cancer
58	Nihat Baymış	2/26/2018	İzmir Şakran Cezaevi	Cancer
59	Selman Aşçı	12/27/2017	İzmir Şakran Cezaevi	Cancer
60	Yıldırım Sarp	4/27/2018	Diyarbakır Prison	Cancer
61	Hüseyin Penbe	5/29/2017	Sincan Closed	Cancer
62	Caner Durukan	6/3/2020	Nevşehir Prison	Cancer

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

63	Ramazan Üzer	12/30/2018		Cancer
64	Bahri Demirulus	7/30/2018		Cancer
65	Elmas Cankurt	10/5/2018	Kırkclareli Prison	Cancer
66	Deniz Hakan Şen	3/6/2018	Silivri Cezaevi	Cancer
67	Ali Hocaoglu	5/6/2018	İzmir Şakran Cezaevi	Cancer
68	Mehmet Ali Tokel	1/6/2019	Antalya Prison	Cancer
69	Yusuf Uzun	8/7/2020	Kocaeli Kandira Prison	Cancer
70	Özgür Doğan	4/7/2020	İzmir Kırklar Prison	Cancer
71	Lokman Ersoy	N/A	Balıkesir Type L	Cancer
72	Medeni Arifoğlu	1/25/2020	Malatya Prison	Cancer
73	Mustafa Çelikkilek	4/23/2019	Ankara Sincan Cezaevi	Cancer
74	Mustafa Kılıç	8/23/2019		Cancer
75	Ferhat Sarıhan	5/4/2016	Oltu Type T	Cerebral Artery Occlusion
76	Hasan Vural	5/16/2015	Erzurum Type E	Chronic ailments
77	Yusuf Kardaş	5/23/2012	Mersin Type E	Cirrhosis
78	Mehmet Yeter	4/1/2020	Bafra Type T	Covid 19
79	Ahmet Akak	9/1/2020	Midyat Prison	Covid 19
80	Şakir Oğuz	9/1/2020	Elazığ Open	Covid 19
81	Veysel Atasoy	9/1/2020	Tavşanlı Prison	Covid 19
82	Muhammed Emir	10/2/2020	Elbistan Type E	Covid 19
83	Hüseyin Özen	11/14/2020	Bursa Type H	Covid 19
84	Metin Yücel	1/18/2021	Düzce Type T Closed	Covid 19
85	Kahraman Sezer	1/30/2021	İskenderun Type T	Covid 19
86	Ersoy Karamustafa	2/13/2021	Manisa Type T Closed Prison	Covid 19
87	Önder Ateş	3/4/2021	Samsun Type E Closed	Covid 19
88	Engin Öksüzoglu	5/2/2021	Alanya Type L	Covid 19
89	Ali Orhan	5/4/2021	Bolvadin Type C Closed	Covid 19
90	Halil Şimşek	5/5/2021	Çanakkale Type E	Covid 19
91	Erdal Kılınç	5/12/2021	Silivri Closed	Covid 19
92	Şerif Vatansever	5/13/2021	Kocaeli No. 2 Type T Closed	Covid 19
93	Mahmut Karataş	2/4/2012	Bingöl Type M	Diabetes

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

94	Abdurrahman Şen	12/1/2017	Alanya Type L	Diabetes
95	Rıdvan Barış	3/11/2019	Elazığ Open	Epilepsy
96	Hüseyin Polat	1/27/2020	Tekirdağ Type F	Gastric Bleeding
97	Hayrettin Toktaş	5/22/2012	Batman Type M	Heart attack
98	Livaze Ç.	12/27/2012	Bursa Prison	Heart attack
99	Hasan Kaya	10/10/2013	Bingöl Type M	Heart attack
100	Seyithan Taşkıran	1/1/2014	Bitlis Type E	Heart attack
101	Yaşar Dere	9/2/2014	İzmir Şakran	Heart attack
102	Haşem Arduçlu	12/31/2014	Siirt Type E	Heart attack
103	Lütfü Taş	12/31/2014	Diyarbakır Type D	Heart attack
104	Kuling Sevilgen	3/14/2015	Bandırma Type T	Heart attack
105	Dursun Tent	5/18/2015	Kayseri Closed	Heart attack
106	Mahmut Altun	7/8/2015	N/A	Heart attack
107	Hüseyin Dinç	10/15/2015	Kandıra Type F	Heart attack
108	Hakan Özdemir	12/25/2015	Erzurum Open	Heart attack
109	Ahmet Yücel	1/1/2016	Hacılar Kırıkkale	Heart attack
110	Erkan Aydoğan	5/30/2016	Aliağa Open	Heart attack
111	Alp Buğdaycı	6/2/2016	Metris Prison	Heart attack
112	Hasan Hayri Alp	7/19/2016	Sincan Type F	Heart attack
113	Ünal Takmaklı	11/29/2016	Menemen Type T	Heart attack
114	Kenan Öner	2/20/2017	Tekirdağ Type F	Heart attack
115	Ali Özer	3/24/2017	Çorum Type L	Heart attack
116	Sinan Coşar	6/20/2017	Konya E	Heart attack
117	Ahmet Tatar	8/1/2017	Osmaniye No. 2 T	Heart attack
118	Murat Saat	12/28/2017	Bandırma Type T	Heart attack
119	Celal Şeker	2/3/2018	Diyarbakır Type D	Heart attack
120	Teoman Gökçe	2/4/2018	Sincan Closed	Heart attack
121	Vahdettin Yahya Bayat	2/9/2018	Diyarbakır Type E	Heart attack
122	Zeki Güven	7/1/2018	Sincan Type F	Heart attack
123	Sabri Çolak	8/24/2018	Van High Security	Heart attack
124	Burhan Karatay	11/7/2018	Giresun Type E	Heart attack
125	İbrahim Akbaba	12/29/2018	Edirne Type F	Heart attack
126	Mehmet Gök	2/11/2019	Tarsus Type T	Heart attack

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

127	Kemal Bilici	10/11/2019	Manisa Type T	Heart attack
128	Hasan Eskicioğlu	11/20/2019	Mardin Type E	Heart attack
129	Hıdır Çetin	11/28/2019	Alanya Type L	Heart attack
130	Erdal Tüysüz	12/20/2019	Kocaeli Kandıra Prison	Heart attack
131	Ümit Erdiñç	2/4/2020	Kahramanmaraş Prison	Heart attack
132	Bedri Bozkurt	6/22/2020	Diyarbakır Type D	Heart attack
133	C. A.	8/1/2020	Çorum Type L	Heart attack
134	Hakan Hız	11/13/2020	Giresun Type E	Heart attack
135	Yusuf Paçacı	15/04/2019	Batman Type M	Heart attack
136	Zübeyir Babat	19/04/2013	İzmir Type F	Heart attack
137	Muzaffer Özcengiz	28/04/2019	Çorum Type L	Heart attack
138	Aram Akyüz	3/30/2014	Hacılar Kırıkkale	Heart attack
139	Mustafa Akyol	9/15/2019	Patnos Type L	Heart disease/ Parkinson's
140	Hüseyin Üzmez	10/14/2014	Bursa Type E	Heart failure
141	Mehmet Yıldızbakan	3/27/2017	İskenderun Type M	Heart failure
142	Mustafa Barış Avıalan	10/16/2020	Sincan Type F	Heart failure
143	Sıraç Yüksel	2/4/2019	Osmaniye No. 2 T	Hunger strike
144	Zülcüf Gezen	3/17/2019	Tekirdağ Type F	Hunger strike
145	Ayten Beçet	3/23/2019	Gebze Women	Hunger strike
146	Zehra Sağlam	3/24/2019	Oltu Type T	Hunger strike
147	Medya Çınar	3/25/2019	Mardin Type E	Hunger strike
148	Yonca Akıcı	3/29/2019	Şakran Women	Hunger strike
149	Mahsun Pamay	5/4/2019	Elazığ Type T	Hunger strike
150	Mustafa Koçak	24/04/2020	İzmir Type F	Hunger strike
151	Kinyas Gülcen	10/6/2019	Patnos Type L	Infection
152	Sadık Tezel	3/6/2015	Ünye Type M	Kidney failure
153	Ramazan Beyazpirinç	2/20/2016	Sincan Type F	Lack of treatment
154	Abdülşamet Çelik	2/10/2015	Sincan Type F	Leukemia
155	Seferi Cesim	8/15/2015	N/A	Liver failure
156	Takiyettin Özkahraman	9/19/2020	Patnos Type L	Lung failure
157	Sabri Kaya	5/21/2020	Osmaniye No. 2 T	Multiple diseases
158	Vefa Kartal	5/31/2020	Edirne Type F	Multiple diseases
159	Ali Boçnak	9/24/2020	Patnos Type L	Multiple diseases



# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

160	Mahmut Bilgiç	6/11/2010	Niğde Type E	Murder
161	Duran Ali Kütük	2/10/2014	Yozgat Type E	Murder
162	Kürşat Avcu	5/3/2014	Sincan Type L	Murder
163	Ali K.	7/27/2014	Tekirdağ Type T	Murder
164	Nihat Yılmaz	7/28/2014	Tekirdağ Type F	Murder
165	Onur Önal	8/31/2014	Maltepe Child	Murder
166	Ahmet Suphi Altındöken	12/4/2016	Adana Type E	Murder
167	Ersin Ö	7/26/2017	Aydın Type E	Murder
168	Ahmet Gürbüz	8/8/2017	Anamur Type T	Murder
169	Emre İregör	8/17/2017	Denizli Type T	Murder
170	Emrah İlhan	10/4/2017	Silivri Closed	Murder
171	Abdullah Gülle	1/22/2018	Giresun Type E	Murder
172	F.T	3/12/2019	Çorum Type L	Murder
173	Bayram Erkan	N/A	Kandıra Type T	Murder
174	Hasan Ertuğrul	10/23/2015	Manisa Type E	Pneumonia
175	Nesrin Gençosman	7/11/2018	Ordu Type E	Pneumonia
176	Rıza Kazıcı	6/16/2015	Kandıra Type T	Post operative infection
177	İsmail Arslan	6/4/2018	Bandırma Type T	Respiratory distress
178	Mehmet Aras	12/18/2011	Erzurum Type H	Stomach Bleeding
179	Cengiz Ünver	10/26/2017	Elmalı Open	Stomach Bleeding
180	Sıtkı Bektaş	11/12/2020	Tekirdağ Type F	Stomach Bleeding
181	Bora Sarı	8/11/2014	Rize Kalkandere Type L	Suicide
182	Cem Garipoğlu	10/10/2014	Silivri Closed	Suicide
183	Barış Kılıç	2/2/2016	Elazığ Type E	Suicide
184	Haydar Durmaz	2/7/2016	Kürkçüler Type F	Suicide
185	Erdal Ahi	2/10/2016	Van Type M	Suicide
186	Ahmet S.	3/25/2016	Sakarya Type L	Suicide
187	Bulut Tontu	5/11/2016	Kayseri Closed	Suicide
188	Ramis K.	5/22/2016	Antalya Type L	Suicide
189	Alpaslan Gökhan Demir	5/30/2016	Bursa Type E	Suicide
190	Mahmut Uzunkaya	6/20/2016	Elazığ E	Suicide
191	Sennur Güven	6/20/2016	Gebze Woman	Suicide

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

192	Aydın İpkin	7/13/2016	Adıyaman Type E	Suicide
193	Segvan Yaman	7/19/2016	Rize Kalkandere Type L	Suicide
194	İsmail Çakmak	7/22/2016	Silivri Closed	Suicide
195	Ömer Çubuklu	9/1/2016	İzmir Type F	Suicide
196	Bedih Kurucan	9/9/2016	Mugla E	Suicide
197	Seyfettin Yiğit	9/16/2016	Bursa Type E	Suicide
198	Emirhan Nas	10/1/2016	Trabzon Type E	Suicide
199	A.T	10/14/2016	N/A	Suicide
200	İrfan Kızılaslan	11/5/2016	Tokat Type T	Suicide
201	Zeynep Epli	11/7/2016	Gebze Woman	Suicide
202	Burak Açıkalın	11/9/2016	Kırıkkale Type F	Suicide
203	Mehmet Emin Doğan	11/18/2016	Tekirdağ Type F	Suicide
204	Behçet Emdî	11/19/2016	Kandıra Type T	Suicide
205	Beytullah Akil	12/11/2016	Şırnak Type T	Suicide
206	Hasan Ekinci	12/25/2016	Edirne Type F	Suicide
207	Ali Yamuç	9/19/2017	Alanya Type L	Suicide
208	Abdullah Derin	9/22/2017	Diyarbakır Type D	Suicide
209	Ahmet Kalaycı	11/24/2017	Dinar Type T	Suicide
210	Emre Kambur	1/20/2018	Trabzon Type E	Suicide
211	Ahmet İncir	3/16/2018	Diyarbakır Open	Suicide
212	Sefer Çağlar	3/20/2018	Van Type F	Suicide
213	İbrahim Halil Özyavuz	6/2/2018	Silivri Closed	Suicide
214	Davut Demirkale	7/14/2018	Mersin E	Suicide
215	T.G.	7/22/2018	Isparta	Suicide
216	Hüseyin Bozyiğit	10/7/2018	Batman Type M	Suicide
217	İbrahim Yılmaz	10/11/2018	Erzurum Type E	Suicide
218	B.C.	1/24/2019	İskenderun Prison	Suicide
219	Yusuf Akbulut	2/13/2019	Siverek Type T	Suicide
220	Veli Ersoy	6/30/2019	Eskişehir Type T	Suicide
221	İrfan Kılıç	7/3/2019	Kandıra Type F	Suicide
222	Adem Shy	7/14/2019	Nazilli Type E	Suicide
223	Halis Coşkun	7/18/2019	Mersin Tarsus No. 3 Type T Closed Prison	Suicide

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

224	İslam Kaya	8/27/2019	Van Type M	Suicide
225	Kamil Çoban	9/4/2019	Denizli Type D	Suicide
226	Mustafa Akarca	9/23/2019	Karaman Type M	Suicide
227	Yasin Lapçin	10/4/2019	Denizli Type D	Suicide
228	Doğukan Çelenk	10/7/2019	İstanbul Maltepe Juvenile Prison	Suicide
229	Umut Taşkın	11/4/2019	Mersin Type E	Suicide
230	Kerim Gülaç	11/7/2019	Ferizli Type L	Suicide
231	Murat Aydın	11/7/2019	Uşak Prison	Suicide
232	Veysel Yıldırım	11/29/2019	Siirt Prison	Suicide
233	Zafer Karakuş	11/29/2019	Kırıkkale Type T	Suicide
234	Hüseyin B.	12/6/2019	Kayseri Closed	Suicide
235	Musa K.	12/19/2019	Elbistan Type E	Suicide
236	Vedat Kuru	12/25/2019	Beycuma Type M	Suicide
237	Enver Yıldız	1/10/2020	Aliağa Closed Prison	Suicide
238	Nurcan Bakır	1/15/2020	Balıkesir Burhaniye	Suicide
239	Ali Erdoğan	4/4/2020	Şakran Juvenile Prison	Suicide
240	Müslüm Aslan	5/12/2020	Türkoğlu Type L	Suicide
241	Ercüment A.	6/10/2020	Ödemiş Type T	Suicide
242	H.F	7/18/2020	Ferizli Type L	Suicide
243	Musa Erkiş	7/25/2020	Bartın Prison	Suicide
244	Kadir Kurt	8/23/2020	Konya Eregli Type T	Suicide
245	Sinan Gencer	9/23/2020	Van High Security	Suicide
246	Agit Elçi	1/1/2021	Siirt Type E Closed Prison	Suicide
247	Shayan Kheyrian	1/13/2021	Kocabaş Type D Prison	Suicide
248	Mustafa B.	2/1/2021	Samsun Type M Closed Prison	Suicide
249	Aysel Koç	3/3/2021	Sincan Closed	Suicide
250	Osman Safa	3/5/2021	Sakarya Type L	Suicide
251	Macit Demir	3/17/2021	Hakkari Closed	Suicide
252	M.G.	4/1/2021	Kocabaş Type D	Suicide
253	Hüseyin Kılınçer	6/11/2021	Adana Prison	Suicide

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

254	Hakan Karakaş	23/04/2020	Hatay Type T	Suicide
255	Mehmet Ali Arslan	24/04/2019	Silivri Closed	Suicide
256	Unknown	24/04/2021	Çorum Type L	Suicide
257	Halit Refik Kertmen	25/04/2020	Kilis Type L	Suicide
258	Ersen Yıldız	26/04/2020	Bafra Type T	Suicide
259	Zaki Y. M. Hasan	29/04/2019	Silivri Closed	Suicide
260	M.E.	29/04/2020	Doğubeyazıt Prison	Suicide
261	Kadir Aktar	2/17/2021	Maltepe Closed	Suspicious death
262	Ramazan Akbaşlı	2/22/2021	Van Type F	Suspicious death
263	Oğuzhan Gürbüz	3/29/2021	Samsun Closed	Suspicious death
264	Halime Gülsu	27/04/2018	Tarsus Women's Closed	Systemic lupus erythematosus
265	Yılmaz Duruk	11/18/2017	Mersin Open	Tooth abscess
266	Serkan Tumay	10/17/2020	Kırıkkale Type F	Torture
267	Tarık Karaman	25/09/2015	Fethiye Type T	Torture
268	Bektaş Cekirge	7/8/2019	Sivas Type E	Tuberculosis
269	Nebi İlhan	1/10/2020	Siirt Type E	Tumor in internal organs
270	Emine Aslan Aydoğan	12/3/2019	Urfa No. 2 Type T	Tumor in the kidney
271	Ali Alp	10/10/2015	İzmir Şakran	Unknown
272	Basil Mihemed Xêr Şêx Musa	1/4/2016	İzmir Type F	Unknown
273	Arap Ali Yardımcı	1/31/2017	Bafra Type T	Unknown
274	Azat Alp	7/31/2017	Bergama Type M	Unknown
275	A German prisoner	12/26/2017	Alanya Type L	Unknown
276	Ahmet Turan Özcerit	3/12/2018	Bandırma Type T	Unknown
277	Ali Haydar Yıldız	2/10/2019	Metris Prison	Unknown
278	Yakup Cute	2/24/2019	Samsun Type T	Unknown
279	Aynur Uyar	7/19/2019	Ayvalık Prison	Unknown
280	Mehmet Selim Buğrahan	9/9/2019	Maraş Türkoğlu Type L	Unknown
281	Mustafa Kabakçioğlu	8/29/2020	Gümüşhane E	Unknown
282	Cengiz Karakurt	9/22/2020	Siirt Prison	Unknown
283	Şevket Öznur	Summer 2012	Ümraniye Type E	Unknown

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

**TABLE 4: A LIST OF INMATES WITH CRITICAL HEALTH CONDITIONS**

	NAME	OCCUPATION OR SPECIAL CONDITION	CONVICTION
1	Yusuf Ozmen	Engineer	Membership in a Terror Organization
2	Merve Selimoglu	Accountant	Membership in a Terror Organization
3	Merve Aydogan	Tradesman	Membership in a Terror Organization
4	Tahsin Manav	Retired	Membership in a Terror Organization
5	Busra Inan	Student	Membership in a Terror Organization
6	Emre Turan	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
7	Bilal Sel	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
8	Hatice Ogut	Retired Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
9	Osman Genc	Police Officer	Membership in a Terror Organization
10	Asli Kisi	Dormitory worker	Membership in a Terror Organization
11	Adil Bera Isik	Child	
12	Veysel Avunan	Unemployed	Membership in a Terror Organization
13	Fatma Askin	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
14	Seynur Ozdemir	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
15	Kadir Cec	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
16	Ayşe Ozdogan	Dormitory Manager	Membership in a Terror Organization
17	Sevgi Sezer	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
18	Hidayet Tosun	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
19	Hatice Erol	Unemployed	Membership in a Terror Organization
20	Ali Imran Ciritci	University Student	Membership in a Terror Organization
21	Yagiz Gul	Child	
22	Ali Ozlu	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
23	Mustafa Koray Mehirlı	Police Officer	Membership in a Terror Organization
24	Kadri Sencar	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
25	Halil Kucuker	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
26	Betul Aygun	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
27	Ramazan Kuru	Tradesman	Membership in a Terror Organization
28	Ahmet Ferah	Tradesman	Membership in a Terror Organization
29	Adem Erdogan	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization



# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

30	Muaz Bahadir	Child	
31	Huseyin Kara	Doctor	Membership in a Terror Organization
32	Zubeyde Kara	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
33	Muhammet Kosar	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
34	Omer Ertas	Politician	
35	Oguz Aslan Ozen	Academician	Membership in a Terror Organization
36	Tacettin Ozer	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
37	Gulden Asik	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
38	Ayse Kurt	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
39	Adem Kacar	Judge	Membership in a Terror Organization
40	Engin Kara	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
41	Serif Agu	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
42	Yusuf Akkus	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
43	Harun Karateke	Activist	
44	Ahmet Akdogan	Retired	Managing a Terror Organization
45	Sinan Buyukoral	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
46	Ahmet Karakus	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
47	Rukiye Kocak	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
48	Ahmet Polat Onel	N/A	Managing a Terror Organization
49	Unal Unes	N/A	Managing a Terror Organization
50	Meryem Karateke	Student	Membership in a Terror Organization
51	Abdullah Aslan	N/A	Using Bylock Application
52	Fadime Cosar	N/A	Using Bylock Application
53	Turgay Dogan	Prosecutor	Membership in a Terror Organization
54	Sevim Demirdelen	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
55	Ugur Basbuga	Accountant	Membership in a Terror Organization
56	Bilal Karakurt	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
57	Omer Samli	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
58	Canan Utangac	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
59	Yuksel Kizilkaya	Police Officer	Membership in a Terror Organization
60	Suleyman Said	Child	

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

61	Rabia Erbay	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
62	Ugur Yeloglu	N/A	Aiding and Abetting a Terror Organization
63	Arin Yilmaz	Child	
64	Celal Afsar	Tradesman	Aiding and Abetting a Terror Organization
65	Abdulkadir Turan	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
66	Dogan Olcabay	Journalist	Membership in a Terror Organization
67	Hasan Gemi	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
68	Yahya Ozdemir	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
69	Omer Faruk	Child	
70	Ayhan Gencay	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
71	Birsen Hasirci	Housewife	Using Bylock Application
72	Emrah Meydan	Businessman	Membership in a Terror Organization
73	Fatma Zehra Babacan	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
74	Bahattin Turkaslan	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
75	Ahmet Makal	Academician	Membership in a Terror Organization
76	Emrah Celik	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
77	Mustafa Aydin	Lawyer	Membership in a Terror Organization
78	Malik Cula	Tradesman	Membership in a Terror Organization
79	Savas Uyar	Financial Advisor	Membership in a Terror Organization
80	Erdal Dengiz	Chief of Police	Membership in a Terror Organization
81	Yahya Karadeniz	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
82	Songul Yanak	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
83	Mustafa Demirtas	Civil Servant	Membership in a Terror Organization
84	Kazim Avci	N/A	Attempting to overthrow the constitutional order
85	Mehmet Emin Ulutas	Preacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
86	Aziz Baglan	N/A	
87	Abdulkerim Camkurt	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
88	Fatma Bektas	N/A	
89	Mehmet Emin Ozkan	N/A	
90	Hakki Sarac	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
91	Fuat Ozkan	Teacher	

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

92	Erdem Kizilkaya	N/A	
93	Ali Orhan	Engineer	Membership in a Terror Organization
94	Sadi Sakaci	Pharmacist	Membership in a Terror Organization
95	Ali Osman Karahan	Retired	Membership in a Terror Organization
96	Mustafa Turk	Retired	Membership in a Terror Organization
97	Mehmet Gelen	N/A	
98	Sebahattin Akbas	Soccer Player	Membership in a Terror Organization
99	Melih Gasgar	Journalist	Membership in a Terror Organization
100	Ferhan Demir	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
101	Vehbi Yildiz	Writer	Membership in a Terror Organization
102	Zulkuf Tekin	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
103	Gurbuz Donmez	Retired	Membership in a Terror Organization
104	Yavuz Selim Burgu	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
105	Tubanur Aycicek	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
106	Kerem Sabri Kutukcu	Child	
107	Devrim Ayik	Journalist	Membership in a Terror Organization
108	Elif Sahin	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
109	Mukadder Alakus	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
110	Ekrem Ogdem	N/A	
111	Yasemin Aladag	Teacher	
112	Aytac Abali	N/A	
113	Damla Akcakaya	Child	
114	Yusuf Pekmezci	Retired	Membership in a Terror Organization
115	Yeliz Kurtok	Civil Servant	Membership in a Terror Organization
116	Yakup Duran	N/A	
117	Celal Bulbul	Retired	Membership in a Terror Organization
118	Nurcan Bicer Oner	Writer	Membership in a Terror Organization
119	Ebru ve Tunahan Child	Child	
120	Mehmet Ali Turan	Businessman	Membership in a Terror Organization
121	Levent Yasar	Businessman	Using Bylock Application
122	Ismet Ozcelik	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

123	Esra Cepik	Student	Membership in a Terror Organization
124	Birgul Bulut	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
125	Guzin Mizrak	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
126	Serdin Cengiz	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
127	Hayati Kaytan	N/A	Managing a Terror Organization
128	Firat Mercan	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
129	Bilal Danis	Civil Servant	Membership in a Terror Organization
130	Fatma Yurt	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
131	Mehmet Necmi Turhan	Retired	Membership in a Terror Organization
132	Veysel Alici	Civil Servant	Membership in a Terror Organization
133	Bilal Konakci	Police Officer	Membership in a Terror Organization
134	Akif Sari	Association Worker	Membership in a Terror Organization
135	Ahmet Avci	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
136	Lutfi Koc	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
137	Merve Gokkaya	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
138	Burak Ugurlu	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
139	Halil Karakoc	Imam	Membership in a Terror Organization
140	Mustafa Ozcan Cay	Military Officer	Membership in a Terror Organization
141	Abdulaziz Orpek	Manager in a Public Institution	Membership in a Terror Organization
142	Ali Osman Unal	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
143	Yasin Akaslan	Accountant	Membership in a Terror Organization
144	Ridvan Yildiz	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
145	Abdulalim Kaya	Retired	Membership in a Terror Organization
146	Aysun Sahin	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
147	Fethi Kazanci	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
148	Ozlem Ugurlu	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
149	Ozcan Ozturk	Military Officer	Coup Attempt
150	Bekir Bayram	Retired	Membership in a Terror Organization
151	Semsettin Ozer	Writer	Membership in a Terror Organization

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

152	Mehmet Sait Demiroz	Supreme Court Member	Membership in a Terror Organization
153	Namik Bingol	Retired	Membership in a Terror Organization
154	Mehmet Tahir Kocaturk	Businessman	Using Bylock Application
155	Ali Unal	Writer	Attempting to overthrow the constitutional order
156	Erdogan Erduran	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
157	Mustafa Sahin	Prosecutor	Using Bylock Application
158	Engin Aktas	Ship Worker	
159	Miktad Dogan	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
160	Ahmet Kaptan	Imam	Membership in a Terror Organization
161	Cetin Ciftci	Journalist	Membership in a Terror Organization
162	Cengiz Karakurt	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
163	Vahit Cifci	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
164	Zeynep Turkkan	Teacher	
165	Rabia Biyikli	Housewife	Member of a Radical Leftist Group
166	Yusuf Engin Tepe	Student	Membership in a Terror Organization
167	Alperen Demirel	Student	Membership in a Terror Organization
168	Osman Oner	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
169	Halil Gunes	N/A	
170	Demet Sahin	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
171	Nusret Mugla	Retired	Membership in a Terror Organization
172	Avni Ucar	N/A	Managing a Terror Organization
173	Ali Bocnak	Preacher	
174	Musa Kusur	Retired	Membership in a Terror Organization
175	Siddik Guler	Retired	
176	Fatma Tokmak	N/A	Membership of a Terror Organization
177	Sedat Laciner	Akademisyen	Membership in a Terror Organization
178	Onder Ates	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
179	Zuleyha Dogru	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
180	Ali Kara	Businessman	Membership in a Terror Organization



# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

<b>181</b>	Fuat Alperen Catpınar	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>182</b>	Alparslan Karakus	Teacher	Using Bylock Application
<b>183</b>	Cemil Dilber	Engineer	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>184</b>	Mehmet Ali Duman	Engineer	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>185</b>	Seyhan Simsek	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>186</b>	Ayhan Tatar	N/A	
<b>187</b>	Hakan Yildirim	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>188</b>	Ceyda Korkut	Child	
<b>189</b>	ismail Ilgin	Child Gelismi Uzmani	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>190</b>	Hanife Ciftci	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>191</b>	Ismet Torun	Job Security Specialist	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>192</b>	Murat Koc	Military Officer	Coup Attempt
<b>193</b>	Emin Kaya	N/A	
<b>194</b>	Sukru Tugrul Ozsongul	Academician	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>195</b>	Zeynep Celik	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>196</b>	ilhan isbilen	Businessman	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>197</b>	Seyma Tekin	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>198</b>	Aleaddin Kaya	Journalist	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>199</b>	Nursel Ozlem Eroz	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>200</b>	Ender Ileriye	Civil Servant	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>201</b>	Ahmet Kaplan	Police Officer	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>202</b>	Kazim Golcuk	N/A	
<b>203</b>	Nurullah Bulbul	N/A	
<b>204</b>	Nazar Ali Yucal	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>205</b>	Ali Candan	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>206</b>	Ahmet Serdar Inan	Businessman	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>207</b>	Abdulkerim Bugra Ozgur	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>208</b>	Songul Kizilkaya	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>209</b>	Halil Ibrahim Gul	Financial Advisor	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>210</b>	Hasan Huseyin Koc	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

211	Yusuf Ugur Ozmen	Engineer	Membership in a Terror Organization
212	Ozer Toksoy	Arastirma Gorevlisi	Membership in a Terror Organization
213	Cemal Altiparmakoglu	Police Officer	Membership in a Terror Organization
214	Leyla Karaman	Civil Servant	Membership in a Terror Organization
215	Esra Uymaz Saral	Trainee Lawyer	Membership in a Terror Organization
216	ibrahim Kuzu	Imam	Membership in a Terror Organization
217	Fatma Comert	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
218	Ekrem Turk	Police Officer	Membership in a Terror Organization
219	Ali Ozturk	Police Officer	Membership in a Terror Organization
220	Yusuf Kurt	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
221	Bekir Aydin	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
222	Aydin Degirmenci	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
223	Ugur Erguler	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
224	Ekim Polat	Manager	
225	Ahmet Cakal	Retired	
226	Eyvaz Akinci	Retired	Membership in a Terror Organization
227	Cihat Ozdemir	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
228	Ergin Aktas	Ship Worker	
229	Abdullah Turan	Student	Membership in a Terror Organization
230	Serdar Yildirim	Chief of Police	Using Bylock Application
231	Erol Zavar	Journalist	Membership in a Terror Organization
232	Yusuf Haciismailoglu	Imam	Managing a Terror Organization
233	Metin Gonulsen	Politician	Membership in a Terror Organization
234	Orhan Cetingul	Public Prosecutor	Membership in a Terror Organization
235	Meryem Oner	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
236	Mesut Kemal	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
237	Elif Ayyildiz	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
238	Fadime Karyagdi	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
239	Ayhan Isik	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
240	Maruf Arifoglu	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
241	Abdulkadir Bas	Unemployed	Membership in a Terror Organization

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

<b>242</b>	Ali Alcik	Supreme Court Member	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>243</b>	Huseyin Serter	HSYK member	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>244</b>	Mehmet Fatih Tas	Prosecutor	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>245</b>	Ilyas Yildirim	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>246</b>	Kenan Ates	Academician	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>247</b>	Zeynep Yolcu	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>248</b>	Ali Cansever	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>249</b>	Mesut Gul	Dormitory Manager	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>250</b>	Mustafa Emiroglu	Retired	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>251</b>	Hakan Bas	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>252</b>	Cafer Turker Hamitoglu	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>253</b>	Enes Cengiz	Old Mayor	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>254</b>	Seyit Ahmet Aydin	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>255</b>	Ismail Aktas	Officer	Managing a Terror Organization
<b>256</b>	Pinar Tikit	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>257</b>	Rihan Kavak Ozbek	Politician	Managing a Terror Organization
<b>258</b>	Dilber Tanrikulu	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>259</b>	Pembe Erguvan Karabas	Dentist	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>260</b>	Nilgun Teselli	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>261</b>	Fatma Duraker	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>262</b>	Beyza Demir	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>263</b>	Abdulkerim Ozgur	Businessman	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>264</b>	Ibrahim Akbaba	Truck Driver	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>265</b>	Giyasettin Sevmis	N/A	Aiding and Abetting a Terror Organization
<b>266</b>	Halim Kirtay	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>267</b>	Ugur Selman Kelekçiler	Newspaper Delivery	Membership of a Terror Organization
<b>268</b>	Raziye Isik	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>269</b>	Ferdi Yigit	Businessman	Membership in a Terror Organization
<b>270</b>	Huda Culluoglu	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

271	Hamiyet Colak	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
272	Akhmet Serin	Worker	Membership in a Terror Organization
273	Halime Sahin	Student	Membership in a Terror Organization
274	Talha Ismail Ilgin	Child Development Specialist	Membership in a Terror Organization
275	Zeynep Sakrak	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
276	Sevgi Sanri	Teacher	Membership in a Gülen-linked Association
277	Veysi Demir	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
278	Umit Demirtas	N/A	
279	Isa Kara	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
280	Fatma Gulec	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
281	Fatma Zehra Gul	Dormitory Manager	Membership in a Terror Organization
282	Ahmet Dogan	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
283	Emine Akay	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
284	Yasemin Karadag	Student	Membership in a Terror Organization
285	Mustafa Mehirlil	Police Officer	Membership in a Terror Organization
286	Nurhayat Yildiz	Housewife	Using Bylock Application
287	Mevlude Basdas	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
288	Sise Bingol	Housewife	Aiding and Abetting a Terror Organization
289	Mehmet Yavas	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
290	Abdurrahman Bildirici	Retired	
291	Semsettin Ayyildiz	Teacher	Membership in a Terror Organization
292	Ahmet Silik	Retired	
293	Cemil Ivrendi	N/A	
294	Recep Citikbel	Poet	Membership in a Terror Organization
295	Abdullah Kalay	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
296	Mehmet Basci	Painter	Membership in a Terror Organization
297	Alaattin Gokhan	Retired	Membership in a Terror Organization
298	Ridvan Yusufoglu	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization
299	Huriye Acun	Housewife	Membership in a Terror Organization
300	Üneys Özcan Öztürk	N/A	Membership in a Terror Organization







**Special Report**

# Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

October, 2021



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

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

