



REPORT 2024

Stand Up for Human Rights

www.silencedturkey.org

Produced by Advocates of Silenced Turkey Inc. & AST Publishing



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

Copyright © Advocates of Silenced Turkey, 2025

All publication rights of this work belongs to
Advocates of Silenced Turkey Inc. and AST Publishing.

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.

April 2025

ISBN: 9798280464698

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO	4
FREEDOM CONVENTION	10
CONFERENCES, PANELS AND LECTURES	17
EVENTS AT AST HALL	20
EXHIBITION OF SILENT SCREAMS	24
BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS & APH PROJECT	31
REPORTS	36
PUBLICATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC JOURNALS & ORGANIZATIONS	40
WHAT WE ACHIEVED	42
DOCUMENTARY	46
STRATEGIC NETWORKING ENGAGEMENTS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS AND INTELLECTUALS	50
SONG CONTEST	54
WHERE ARE WE ON SOCIAL MEDIA	56
TESTIMONIALS	58
AST IN THE NEWS	61

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

As we close the chapter on 2024, we at Advocates of Silenced Turkey (AST) are filled with gratitude and reflection. This past year has been one of transformation, resilience, and hope—made possible only through the incredible dedication of our donors, volunteers, and supporters. Together, your compassion carried our work across borders, giving a voice to the silenced and hope to the oppressed.

I joined AST in July 2024, and from the very first day, I was embraced by a deeply committed and welcoming community. AST isn't just an organization—it's a family. A family of passionate human rights defenders who never waver in the face of injustice. Being part of this team has been an honor, and witnessing your energy in action has been nothing short of inspiring.

In this annual report, we invite you to journey through the highlights of our work in 2024. These aren't just initiatives or projects—they are lifelines for those who've been marginalized, imprisoned, silenced. Every dollar donated, every hour volunteered, every post shared made a real difference.



Osman Dulgeroglu
CEO, AST





We are proud to show you the impact of your support, and we hope you'll walk with us again in 2025—because there is still so much more to do.

Since the so-called coup attempt in Turkey on July 15, 2016, the country has plunged into a climate of fear and repression. Over 130,000 people lost their jobs. Thousands were arrested without evidence, and many were held in pretrial detention for years. The effects ripple far beyond those imprisoned—entire families, an estimated 10 million people, now live with the trauma of persecution.

Among the most heartbreaking violations are the inhumane prison conditions—especially for women, the sick, the elderly, and prisoners of conscience. Despite international laws meant to protect them, violence and mistreatment remain rampant.

One moment from 2024 stands out as a stark symbol of injustice: In May, Turkish authorities arrested 48 people in Istanbul, including 15 underage girls—high school students. They were accused of terrorism based on their association with the Gülen movement. These girls were interrogated without lawyers, without food, and without contact with their families. Activities like renting an apartment or going bowling were listed as criminal acts in the indictment. This case, condemned globally, showed just how deeply anti-terror laws are being weaponized to silence dissent.

Discrimination in Turkey knows no bounds. Kurds, Alevis, Gülen movement supporters, and even children are targeted. Families flee persecution, forced to cross dangerous borders with infants

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



in their arms. Protective laws for women and children have been disregarded under emergency decrees (KHKs), leaving the most vulnerable completely exposed.

Our photo project "Being the Other Child in Turkey" tells the story of these children—how their innocence is stolen by injustice, how their small bodies bear the weight of a broken system.

And torture - once considered unacceptable - has become customary practice. While innocent victims are brutalized in custody, the real perpetrators walk free. Since 2016, torture has become a systemic tool of fear.

Between 2016 and 2024, the ongoing human rights crisis in Turkey claimed the lives of at least 1,042 individuals, including 90 children, as a result of measures linked to the state of emergency (OHAL) and decree laws (KHK). These casualties include suspicious deaths in prisons, suicides, and people who perished while attempting to flee the country via the Evros (Meriç) River and the Aegean Sea—often denied the right to return to their homeland. By November 2023 alone, 952 such cases had already been documented, underscoring the grave toll of this prolonged period of repression.

But we refuse to stay silent.

At AST, we organize panels, write reports, submit findings to international bodies, and collaborate with organizations across the globe. We adapt—we've gone digital with virtual protests, interviews, and publications to keep these stories alive. We collect survivor testimonies and publish them, not just as evidence, but as living history.

We empower young people to take action. We write to leaders. We use art and music as tools for change. Every hand that joins ours helps us reach a little further, stand a little stronger.

I look to 2025 with hope. Not because the struggle is over—but because I've seen what this community can do. I've seen what you can do.

This year, and every year ahead, AST will remain a voice for the voiceless. We will continue to defend rights, educate, inspire, and advocate. We will keep urging world leaders to put human dignity first. And we will continue building bridges—with survivors, with allies, with you.

Let's keep going—together. Let's fight injustice with truth. Let's respond to silence with solidarity.

Thank you for standing with us.

With deepest appreciation,

Osman Dulgeroglu

Advocates of Silenced Turkey



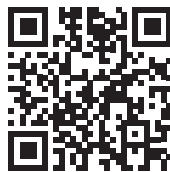
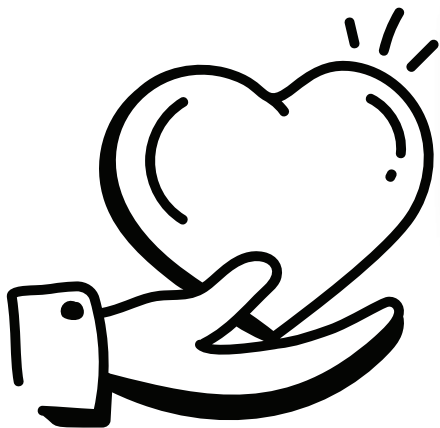


AST GIVES A VOICE TO THE VOICELESS

Advocates of Silenced Turkey (AST) is dedicated to promoting human rights and justice in Turkey, with a particular focus on individuals and communities who have been politically targeted and silenced by the regime following the 2016 coup attempt. What is widely regarded as a faux coup became a pretext for widespread repression, resulting in the persecution of tens of thousands through state of emergency measures and decree laws.

Through comprehensive reports, awareness campaigns, and legal assistance, AST strives to expose human rights violations and support those affected by these unjust practices. Our mission is to empower victims of political persecution by amplifying their voices, fostering international awareness, and mobilizing action to restore fundamental rights and freedoms.

We are committed to building a world where justice prevails and no one is forced to live in fear of persecution, censorship, or exile for their beliefs or identity.



TAKE ACTION

We stand up for our rights and the rights of others who have been silenced. You can be one of the advocates of silenced Turkey by being a volunteer of AST. You may apply to be a volunteer by emailing help@silencedturkey.org



ADVOCATES OF SILENCED TURKEY

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sadri Altinok	President
Aslihan Kas	Secretary
Murat Kaval	Director

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Gretchen Eick, Ph.D	Academician
Marra Yates	Undergraduate student/Staff at a Local Hospital
Kari O'rourke	Chairperson of the Inter-Faith Committee
Kelly Isola	Pastor
Michael Poage	Author
Ann Suellentrop	Nurse & Activist
Taylor Qualls	Pastor/Counselor
Sheri Hays	Social Worker and Human Rights Activist
Stephen Arbeau	Teacher, Activist
Sat Bir	Human Rights Activist/ Non-profit President
Allen Olshtein	Chaplain
Jim Juhnke, Ph.D	Professor of History
Jude Huntz	Campus Minister
Edward Stevenson	Retired Pastor
Bailey Hughes	Legal Consultant
Lewis Hinshaw	Pastor
Gloria Hinshaw	Teacher
Ferhat Ozturk, Ph.D	Refugee and Academician
Psk. Yasemin Milhan	Refugee and Psychologist
Mehmet Halidun, Ph.D	Refugee and Academician

OUR TEAM

Osman Dulgeroglu	CEO
Hafza Girdap	Spokesperson & Program Director
Aslihan Kas	Program Director
Hevin Elmas	Finance Assistant
Hande Hur	APH Project Coordinator
Fatih B	Report Dept Coordinator
Muhsin Nazif	Graphic and Web Designer
Ayşe Nur	Volunteer Affairs Coordinator
Aydogan Vatandas	Media Freedom and Reporter
Eyup Guler	Fundraising Coordinator
Nurettin Kar	Art4HumanRights Coordinator
Sait PA	Finance Director
Cemile	Social Media Specialist
Hamza Yormaz	Video Producer, Graphic Designer
Deniz Kenan	Social Media Specialist
Oznur Sahin	Social Media Specialist
Lale Okur	Author
Mehmet Okur	APH Project Assistant
Mina Leyla	Author
Zeynep Kayadeler	Author
Mehmet Akpak	Author
Ayşe Gul	Kahoot Human Rights Contest Coord.
Serkan Tayyar	Youtube Coordinator
Semra Yerli	Regional Coordinator

*Some of the names above have been changed due to security concerns of the members whose relatives might be harmed by the current authoritarian regime in Turkey.

FREEDOM CONVENTION



Turkey's evolving political landscape has raised concerns among international organizations, scholars, journalists, and human rights advocates, as democratic principles continue to erode under increasing authoritarian governance. The aftermath of the attempted coup saw the imposition of a prolonged state of emergency, during which the Turkish government carried out mass purges targeting political dissidents, including members of the Kurdish community.

These crackdowns, coupled with restrictions on freedoms and political expression, have led to an ongoing debate about the nature of Turkey's regime—ranging from electoral authoritarianism to more severe forms of autocratic control.

Despite mounting evidence of human rights violations, the Turkish government seldom acknowledges these concerns, instead maintaining an assertive foreign policy that contrasts sharply with its domestic repression. The Freedom Convention seeks to bridge this gap in understanding by critically examining Turkey's domestic policies in light of its international human rights commitments.

Through rigorous analysis and dialogue, the event aims to uncover the broader implications of Turkey's political trajectory, its impact on economic instability, and the urgent need for global solidarity. By mobilizing individuals and organizations worldwide, we strive to advance the cause of justice, democracy, and fundamental freedoms in Turkey and beyond.



FREEDOM CONVENTION



SILENCED TURKEY
VIRTUAL
FREEDOM CONVENTION TURKEY 2024

TURKEY'S DOMESTIC AND TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION ALONGSIDE THE AGGRESSIVE FOREIGN POLICY

PANEL I:
🕒 9.30 AM - 11.00 AM ET
📅 10 DECEMBER, 2024

HAFZA GIRDAP
Spokesperson & Program Director, Advocates of Silenced Turkey
Gender Studies, Stony Brook University

MYRNA DAWSON
President, Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice & Accountability

GULCAN DIRIL
Family Member of an Enforced Disappearance Victim

TARIK TOROS
Journalist

ELODIE TRANCHEZ
Human Rights and International Law Expert

JONAS LONSTEN
Film Director

EREN BASKIN
Lawyer

SILENCED TURKEY
VIRTUAL
FREEDOM CONVENTION TURKEY 2024

ERODING FREEDOMS AND ECONOMIC INSTABILITY IN TURKEY

PANEL II:
🕒 11.30 AM - 1.00 PM ET
📅 10 DECEMBER, 2024

HAN O'Rourke
Researcher

NEJLA DEMIRCI
Film Director

LALE DEMIRKAZAN
Lawyer

MICHAEL POLAK
Chair, The Young Barristers' Committee (YBC) of the Bar Council of England & Wales; Barrister, Church Court Chambers

ZELIHA OZDOGAN
Economy Professor

DR. ILHAN DÖĞÜS
Economist

The Freedom Convention 2024 convened experts, advocates, and scholars to assess Turkey's growing authoritarianism, human rights violations, and economic instability. The discussions highlighted the contradiction between Turkey's global human rights rhetoric and its suppression of dissent.

Panel I analyzed domestic and transnational repression, focusing on political crackdowns, opposition challenges, and the lack of judicial accountability. Panel II explored the link between democratic decline and economic instability, addressing corruption, political purges, and their impact on marginalized communities. The event fostered global awareness, strengthened solidarity, and mobilized action for human rights and democracy in Turkey.

SPEAKERS 2024



HAFZA GIRDAP
Spokesperson & Program Director,
Advocates of Silenced Turkey
Gender Studies, Stony Brook
University



MYRNA DAWSON
President, Canadian Femicide
Observatory for Justice &
Accountability



GULCAN DIRIL
Family Member of an Enforced
Disappearance Victim



TARIK TOROS
Journalist



ELODIE TRANCHEZ
Human Rights and
International Law Expert



DR. ILHAN DÖĞÜS
Economist



LALE DEMIRKAZAN
Lawyer



VONYA WOMACK
Executive Director,
Refugees Unknown,
Stories Untold (RUSU)



EREN BASKIN
Lawyer



KARI O'ROURKE
Researcher



NEJLA DEMIRCI
Film Director



ZELIHA OZDOGAN
Economy Professor



MICHAEL POLAK
Chair, The Young Barristers'
Committee (YBC) of the Bar
Council of
England & Wales; Barrister,
Church Court Chambers

FREEDOM CONVENTION

PAST EVENTS

The Freedom Convention 2023 highlighted Turkey's democratic decline and human rights crisis. Panel I examined the collapse of judicial independence, misuse of anti-terror laws, and suppression of media, academia, and political opposition, emphasizing the urgent need for international advocacy.

Panel II focused on Turkey's compliance with international law, discussing the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) rulings, UN mechanisms, and NGO collaboration to address political persecution, torture, and aggressive foreign policies. The event reinforced global solidarity and strategies for justice and human rights in Turkey.



SPEAKERS 2023



HAFAZA GIRDAP
Executive Director / Advocates
of Silenced Turkey,
Gender Studies / Stony
Brook University



JOYCE M. DAVIS
Opinion Page Editor / PennLive,
President and CEO / World
Affairs Council of Harrisburg



BASKIN ORAN
Emeritus Professor



SINAM MOHAMAD
Chief of Mission, US Mission
of the Syrian Democratic
Council



ANDREA BARRON
Advocacy and Outreach
Program Manager / Torture
Abolition and Survivors Support
Coalition (TASSC)



GUNAL KURSUN
Penal Lawyer and Human
Rights Defender



JOHAN HEYMANS
Criminal Law and Human
Rights Lawyer



MERVE KAYIKCI
Postdoctoral Researcher,
KU Leuven



SARAH TEICH
Human Rights
Lawyer



PARIDHI SINGH
Legal Officer, Media Freedom,
TrustLaw / Thomson
Reuters Foundation

FREEDOM CONVENTION



PAST EVENTS

Freedom Convention Turkey 2022 addressed the arbitrary deprivation of civil and political rights in Turkey, as well as the regime's ongoing crackdown on freedom of expression—highlighting violations in the context of international covenants to which Turkey is a state party. Human rights experts also examined the role of international humanitarian law in today's world, discussing conflict-related abuses, including the war in Ukraine and the practice of pushbacks in Greece. By spotlighting the persistent human rights violations and persecution in Turkey, Freedom Convention 2022 once again drew global attention to these critical issues and provided a platform for developing strategies to end such abuses.

SPEAKERS 2022



ABDULLAH DEMIRBAS
Politician, Former Mayor
of Sur Municipality



GOKHAN TOY
Lawyer, Institute for
Diplomacy and Economy



KANI XULAM
American Kurdish
Information Network



KATRINA LANTOS
President, Lantos Foundation
for Human Rights & Justice



LEVENT KENEZ
Journalist



LEVENT MAZILIGÜNEY
Lawyer



LYUDMYLA KOZLOVSKA
President, Open
Dialogue Foundation



MIKAIL KIRBAYIR
Brother of Cemil Kirbayir, victim
of Enforced Disappearances



MERAL SIMSEK
Journalist & Author



MOHAMED SHAFIE
Legal Consultant & Robert
Glidden Visiting Professor,
Ohio University



SIDERIS ANTHIMOS
Lawyer



TONNY PILLAY
Executive Director,
Law Society of South Africa



MAHSUNI KARAMAN
American Kurdish
Information Network



VONYA WOMACK
Director, Refugees Unknown
Stories Untold



BULENT KENES
Journalist

FREEDOM CONVENTION



PAST EVENTS

Freedom Convention Turkey 2021 provided a vital platform for human rights advocates, intellectuals, and policymakers to engage with the ongoing human rights abuses in Turkey. The convention consisted of thought-provoking discussions and workshops that focused on violations of civil and political rights, the erosion of the rule of law, and discriminatory policies targeting minorities, ethnic groups, and dissidents.

SPEAKERS 2021



DAVID PHILLIPS
Director of Peace-Building
and Human Rights Program,
Columbia University's Institute
for the Study of Human Rights



EMRE TURKUT
Postdoctoral Researcher
at Centre for Fundamental
Rights, Hertie School



ARBANA XHARRA
Journalist, Recipient of the
International Women of
Courage Award from the US
State Department



DR. KEMAL SAHIN
Volunteer Jurist,
Human Rights Center,
Gent University



SERDAR CELEBI
Lawyer



DESPINA SYRRI
Director, Civic School of
Political Studies in Greece
and President of Symþiosis



ANJEL DIKME
Author



CYNTHIA BUTLER
-Moderator-
Lawyer



ARAT BARIS
Journalist and Author



RUTH BEN-GHIAT
Professor of History and
Italian Studies,
New York University



BARBAROS SANSAL
Fashion Designer & Activist



MELTEM ARIKAN
Author and Complementary
Medical Practitioner



YASEMIN MAMALOGLU
Persecuted Lawyer



BUSRA SARAC
-Moderator-
Phd Researcher, University of
Portsmouth, UK



MFANA GWALA
Executive Board Member,
NADEL, SA

FREEDOM CONVENTION



PAST EVENTS

Freedom Convention Turkey 2020, organized by AST, was a distinctive gathering for human rights activists, intellectuals, and policymakers, focusing on the widespread human rights violations in Turkey. The event provided a platform for participants and experts to not only discuss the ongoing persecutions but also to develop strategies and offer recommendations to both the Turkish government and international bodies, aiming to end these severe violations through insightful panel discussions.



SPEAKERS 2020



ABDULHAMIT BILICI
Former CEO of
Zaman Newspaper



AHMET NESIN
Journalist & Author



ALON BEN-MEIR
Senior Fellow at New York
University's Center for Global
Affairs & Senior Fellow at the
World Policy Institute



ALP ASLANDOGAN
Executive Director of
Alliance for Shared Values



ARZU YILDIZ
Journalist, Recipient of
Media Ethics Award & The
Bravest Woman Award



BULENT CEYHAN
Freelance Journalist,
Recipient of Metin Goktepe
Journalism Award



CENGİZ AKTAR
Professor of Political
Scientist at the University
of Athens



CRAIG SHAGIN
Professor of Immigration Law
at the Widener University
Commonwealth Law School



DAVID KILGOUR
Fellow of the Queen's University
Centre for the Study of
Democracy; Director of the
Council for a Community of
Democracies (CCD)



EREN KESKIN
Lawyer & Human Rights
Activist



ESER KARAKAS
Professor of Public Finance
and Public Economics



EUGENE CHUNDOVSKY
Co-Chair, The Committee of
Concerned Scientists



HAKAN YESILOVA
Editor of Fountain Magazine



HILAL AKDENİZ
Sociologist



JAMES HARRINGTON
Founder of Texas Civil Rights
Project & Human Rights
Attorney

FREEDOM CONVENTION



PAST EVENTS

PANEL SESSIONS

- FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION
- COLLAPSE OF RULE OF LAW
- SHIFT FROM DEMOCRATIZATION TOWARDS AUTHORITARIANISM IN TURKEY : THE RISE OF POLITICAL ISLAM
- POWER, POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND VIOLATIONS OF MINORITY RIGHTS
- WOMEN'S RIGHTS in TURKEY

The Turkey Freedom Forum was a unique gathering organized by AST, bringing together human rights activists, intellectuals, and policymakers to focus on the ongoing human rights violations in Turkey. Participants and experts not only gained insight into the state of repression and persecution in Turkey, but also collaborated to develop strategies and offer recommendations to both the Turkish government and international bodies to end these grave violations through panel discussions. In pursuit of justice and peace, the forum united hundreds of human rights defenders and activists, while fostering the momentum needed to drive meaningful action.

SPEAKERS 2020



**OMER FARUK
GERGERLIOGLU**
MP of Turkey's
HDP



JOLCELYN CESARI
Senior Research Fellow at
Georgetown's Berkley Center
for Religion, Peace and
World Affairs



KERIM BALCI
Research Fellow &
Communications Officer
at London Advocacy,
Journalist



KISTEN GOVENDER
Elected Member of South
African Legal Practice
Council



MEHMET EFE CAMAN
Political Scientist at
Memorial University



MICHAEL RUBIN
Resident Scholar at AEI



NATALI AVAZYAN
Human Rights
Activist



RABIA CHAUDRY
Attorney, Advocate, NYT
Best Selling Author



SOPHIA PANDYA
Chair of Religious Studies
Department at California State
University Long Beach

CONFERENCES, PANELS AND LECTURES

Panels, lectures, and conferences serve as essential platforms for highlighting and addressing human rights issues in Turkey. These forums facilitate in-depth discussions, expert analysis, and the dissemination of critical information on the challenges faced by individuals under the current political climate. Through thought-provoking panels, compelling lectures, and engaging conferences, advocates have amplified their voices, shared impactful narratives, and deepened global understanding of Turkey's complex human rights landscape. By fostering dialogue and collaboration, these events unite human rights leaders, scholars, and activists, creating strategic opportunities for collective action and meaningful change.

In line with this commitment, AST experts actively contribute to and participate in high-profile global gatherings. They have played a pivotal role as organizers and speakers at esteemed forums such as the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the International Religious Freedom Summit, the Peace and Justice Academics Conference, and the World Press Freedom Day at the National Press Club. By engaging in these influential platforms, AST experts not only advocate for human rights but also foster international awareness and mobilization, reinforcing global efforts to address critical injustices in Turkey and beyond.



CONFERENCES, PANELS AND LECTURES



CONFERENCES, PANELS AND LECTURES



Hasan Sandir
High School Senior

Hansa Girdap
High School Sophomore

Mehru Erkisi
High School Sophomore

Arkyilmaz
Sophomore

EVENTS AT AST HALL

In February 2023, the AST Event Hall was inaugurated with the aim of hosting events in collaboration with our dedicated volunteers. Beyond being a venue, the hall also serves as a space where a significant portion of the artifacts and objects featured in the Social Genocide exhibition are displayed.

Additionally, the hall includes a dedicated corner where books and reports published so far are introduced in detail, and human rights violations are highlighted through artistic expressions. This special section not only provides visitors with insights into ongoing projects but also serves as a source of motivation, encouraging them to engage in human rights initiatives.

Since its opening, the AST Event Hall has welcomed over 2,000 visitors, not only from across the United States but also from various countries around the world.

It has hosted numerous events, including meetings with volunteers, book launch events, author-reader gatherings, and artistic programs that depict human rights violations through the language of art. The hall continues to provide a space for AST's team to organize meetings, plan larger events, and collaborate on future projects.

Recognizing the profound connection between spaces and the people within them, the Event Hall has become a central hub for young volunteers and local representatives. We look forward to welcoming you to our Event Hall, fostering stronger connections, and collectively creating advocacy projects to promote human rights.



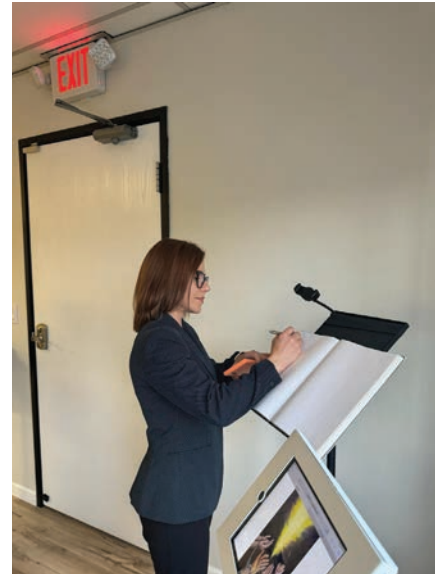
EVENTS AT AST HALL



EVENTS AT AST HALL



EVENTS AT AST HALL



EXHIBITION OF SILENT SCREAMS

A JOURNEY OF REMEMBRANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

The foundations of the Exhibition of Silent Screams, which I have the privilege of coordinating, were laid on February 24, 2022, with the event titled "Commemoration for the Persecuted Lives in Turkey and Art Exhibition." This commemorative event marked the beginning of an inspiring journey, showcasing the artistic talents of individuals unjustly imprisoned in Turkish prisons. Works ranging from calligraphy to marbling and various other forms of art were transported from Turkey to the United States, igniting a spark of inspiration within us.

Our mission was clear: to shed light on the lives of individuals abandoned to the darkness of civil death in Turkey and to bring to light the cherished possessions that defined their existence. After months of relentless effort, the Social Genocide Exhibition came to life and was displayed in various cities across the United States. The exhibition opened its doors to visitors for the first time on June 5, 2022, at a hotel in New Jersey.



ASLIHAN KAS
AST Board Member,
Exhibition of Silent Screams Coordinator





With the tremendous support of Kari O'Rourke, a member of the AST Advisory Board, and her team, thousands of visitors attended the exhibition in three different venues in Kansas City in September 2022. On May 8, 2023, we gathered with visitors in Washington, D.C.

Over the past three years, the exhibition has traveled across 19 cities in the United States and Canada, reaching thousands of visitors through 34 different events, leaving a profound impact.

Projects Born from the Exhibition

I would like to share some significant projects that have emerged from the Exhibition of Silent Screams. The AST Event Hall in New Jersey now serves as a permanent home to 36 invaluable relics from the exhibition. Currently, we are working toward expanding our reach by exhibiting these stories in cultural centers and human rights corners in cities like Chicago, Rochester, and Pittsburgh.

In the field of literature, significant efforts have been made. Interviews with exhibition team members and the stories behind the relics were compiled by Mina Leyla into a book titled "Bloody Tie." This work is now available to readers on Google Books and Google Play. Additionally, a book titled "Social Genocide Exhibition with Memorial," featuring the personal stories and photographs of 97 individuals, has been published on Amazon.



Furthermore, our American friend Kari O'Rourke successfully completed her Ph.D. dissertation titled "Social Genocide in Turkey," which has been officially recognized in academic circles.

The Preparation Process and Collection

During the preparation of the exhibition, we firmly believed that personal belongings serve as the most powerful witnesses to the suffering experienced by individuals. Initially, these relics were safeguarded by our friends in different cities across Turkey. Eventually, they were transported to the United States either through shipments or in the luggage of visiting relatives.

The Social Genocide Exhibition stands as a collective repository of memories, bringing together hundreds of relics that reflect the experiences of individuals from diverse ethnic, religious, and ideological backgrounds. The exhibition includes stories from Kurds, Alevis, volunteers of the Hizmet (Gülen) Movement, women, children, journalists, politicians, and activists.

What unites us in the Social Genocide Exhibition is not religion, ethnicity, or worldview—but our shared commitment to humanity and justice. The exhibition aspires to give a voice to individuals from all walks of life and to share their stories with the world.

In this regard, the exhibition preserves the memory of Taybet Ana, a Kurdish mother who was tragically shot ten times by security forces on a street in Silopi. It also commemorates Hatice Akçabay, who lost her life along with her three children in the Meriç River while fleeing persecution; Ali İsmail Korkmaz, who was killed during the Gezi protests; Garibe Gezer, a young woman who died under torture in prison; imprisoned journalist Mehmet Baransu; and martyr Murat Tekin, who was executed on a bridge. Additionally, the memory of 18-month-old Enes, who was smuggled out of Turkey in a suitcase by his mother, is honored in the exhibition.

A Memorial Space and the Pursuit of Justice

Our commitment to shedding light on human rights violations and bearing witness to the true victims of oppression has led us to compile a collection of over 450 relics, each a poignant testament to resilience and the indomitable human spirit. The Social Genocide Exhibition stands as a tribute to universal human values, a memorial space, and a powerful platform for justice.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this invaluable project. We invite your support in expanding the reach of our exhibition, establishing permanent locations, and participating in upcoming events. For those who wish to contribute to the advocacy of human rights, we welcome you to take part in organizing the exhibition and adding new relics to this meaningful collection.



EXHIBITION OF SILENT SCREAMS

Overview of the Exhibition Showcased Across 19 Cities in the U.S. and Canada



CURRENTLY, THE EXHIBITION FEATURES OVER
400 MEMORABILIA FROM MORE THAN 140 INDIVIDUALS.

KEY STATISTICS:



THE EXHIBITION HAS REACHED OVER **7,000 VISITORS**
THROUGH **34 DIFFERENT PROGRAMS IN 20 CITIES.**



THE EXHIBITION HAS BEEN COVERED BY LOCAL MEDIA, REACHING
TENS OF THOUSANDS THROUGH NEWS ARTICLES, RADIO AND TV PROGRAMS.



TWO BOOKS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED: **"THE BLOODY TIE"** AND
"THE SOCIAL GENOCIDE EXHIBITION AND MEMORIES."



AN AMERICAN ACADEMICIAN HAS WRITTEN A
DOCTORAL DISSERTATION ON THE EXHIBITION.



EXHIBITION OF SILENT SCREAMS



EXHIBITION OF SILENT SCREAMS




Ashkan Kas
Sosyal Gökürüm Sergisi Koordinatörü

Türk Atasoy
KHK'li Polis memuru
Veysel Atasoy'un oğlu

- 75 kilo girdiği cezaevinden 51 kilo çıktı,
- Hastane koridorunda 'Su' veren asker azar işitti,
- Savcı: Size babanızın ölüsünü göstermeyeceğim,
- Doktorlar komutana; Adam ölecek; çıkarın şu kelepçesi

**HASTA YATAĞINDA
ELLERİ KELEPÇELİ CAN VERDİ**
KHK'LI POLİS MEMURU VEYSEL ATASOY





Ashkan Kas
Sosyal Gökürüm Sergisi Koordinatörü

Asya Gezer
Garibe Gezer'in kız kardeşi

**ASYA GEZER,
KARDEŞİ
GARİBE'Yİ ANLATTI**





Ashkan Kas
Sosyal Gökürüm Sergisi Koordinatörü

Zekiye Ataç
Ahmet Burhan Ataç'ın Annesi

**TEDAVİSİ GECİKTİRİLDİ
BABASINA KAVUŞAMADAN
HAYATA GÖZLERİNİ YUMDU**
ZEKİYE ATAÇ, OĞLU
AHMET BURHAN'I ANLATTI





Ashkan Kas
Sosyal Gökürüm Sergisi Koordinatörü

Melike Çetinkaya
Ahmet Çetinkaya'nın Annesi

**BEDENİM
ALMANYA'DA
AKLIM FİKRİM
BAKIRKÖY, SİLİVRİ
CEZAEVLERİNDE**





Ashkan Kas
Sosyal Gökürüm Sergisi Koordinatörü

Cüneyt Öztas
Mevlüt Öztas'ın Eşi

Elif Öztas Kılıç
Mevlüt Öztas'ın Kızı

**TEK SUÇU
GAZETECİ OLMAK!**
TAHLİYESİNDEN
57 GÜN SONRA
VEFAT ETTİ:
MEVLÜT ÖZTAŞ





Ashkan Kas
Sosyal Gökürüm Sergisi Koordinatörü

Ahmet Baransu
Mehmet Baransu'nun Kardeşi

**MEHMET
BARANSU:
HAPİSTE OLMAMI
GÜNAHLARI ÇUVALA
SIGMAYAN İNSANLAR
İSTİYOR**





ABDULLAH DEMİRBAŞ:
ACILARI ORTAKLAŞTIRDIK KI
BİR DAHA YAŞANMASINI!





BAVULDAKİ BEBEK:
BİR ANNENİN
ÖZGÜRLÜK
MÜCADELESİ..





Av. Özge Bül Herderekçi
ÖZGÜRLÜĞÜM
ELİMDEN ALINDIĞINDA,
SADECE BEN DEĞİL,
TÜM AİLEM
CEZALANDIRILDI




BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS & APH PROJECT



SOCIAL GENOCIDE EXHIBITION: JOURNEY OF REMEMBRANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

Step into the heart-wrenching world of "The Social Genocide Exhibition: A Journey of Remembrance and Human Rights Advocacy," orchestrated with deep compassion by a team of tireless volunteers and human rights champions of AST. This book is a vivid mosaic of human stories, echoing the cries for justice and the unyielding spirit of those who've suffered.



<https://a.co/d/76Og9cS>



BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS & APH PROJECT



Echoes of Justice: 100 Kahoot Questions on Human Rights

The Kahoot competitions we organize every month to raise awareness among young people about human rights violations worldwide and in Turkey have reached over 10,000 views on YouTube globally.

The impact of these competitions on young people and the feedback we receive have been a great source of motivation for us. Among the feedback we have received from young people, one recurring sentiment is: 'Thank you for spreading awareness in a way that is both accessible and engaging through these Kahoot competitions.' This kind of feedback has been both gratifying and instrumental in guiding our efforts.

FRAGILE PATHS, STRONG HEARTS: STORIES OF REBIRTH

Farzona, a true embodiment of selflessness, was driven by a deep longing to explore distant lands from a young age. Motivated by this passion, she left her home and family to pursue her studies thousands of miles away, ultimately dedicating her life to Hizmet across three countries and three continents.



<https://a.co/d/6RpQSVI>



BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS & APH PROJECT



Dreams Interrupted: Backdrop of the PakTurk Schools Crisis in Pakistan The Ordeals of the Turkish Teachers

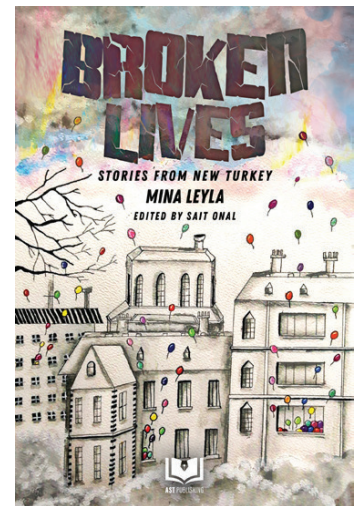
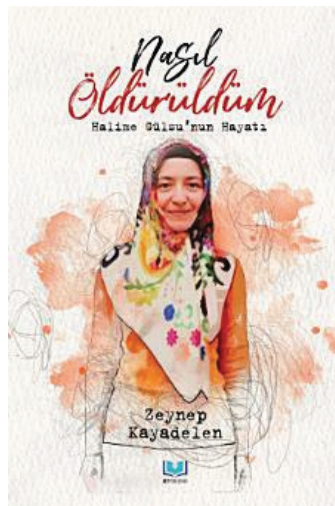
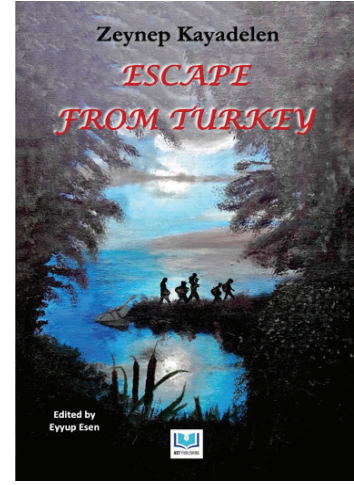
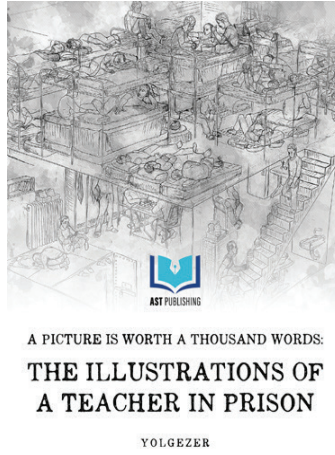
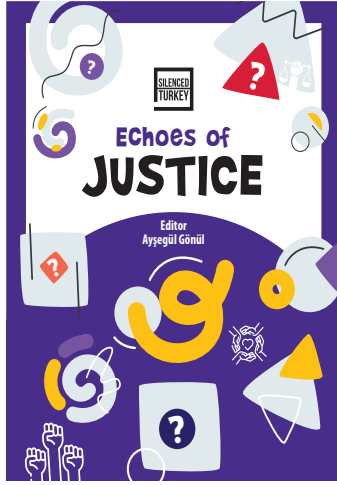
This book presents an earnest insight into the hardships faced by the PakTurk International Schools & Colleges and the dedicated Hizmet volunteers who contributed to make these educational institutions a success story in academics and social standing. Established in 1995 with ambitious aspirations and a strong foundation of love, brotherhood, and benevolence, these schools have become synonymous with providing a unique and nurturing educational experience.

Journey: Yolculuk

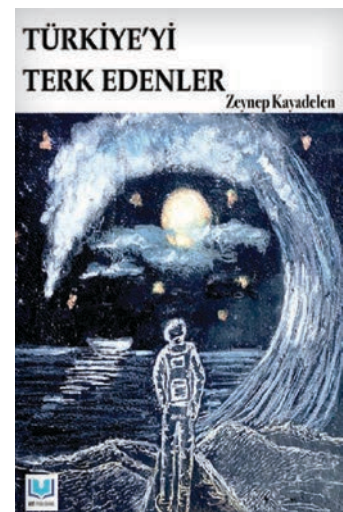
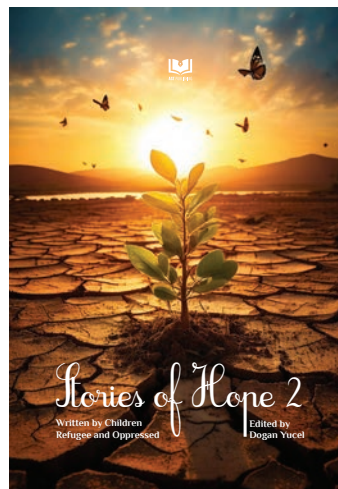
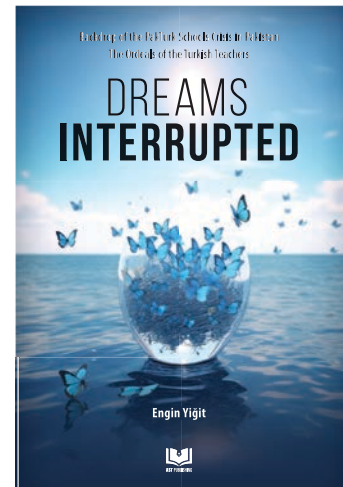
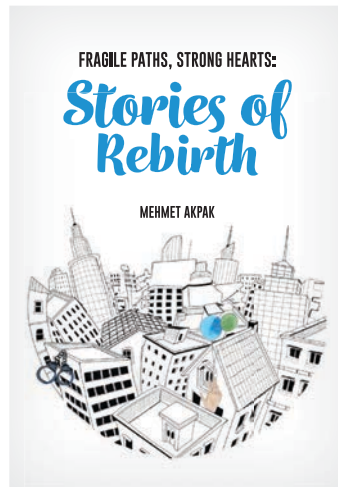
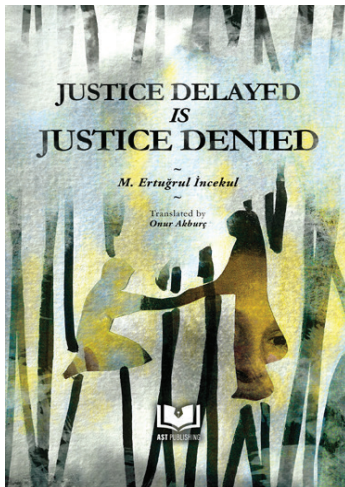
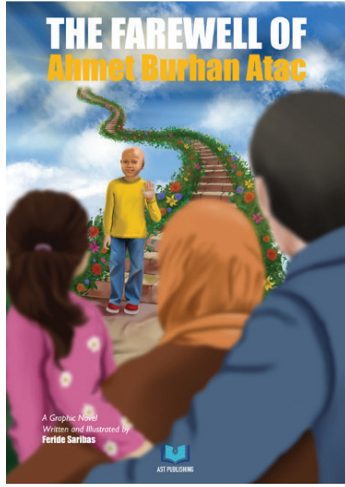
This beautiful work, from its storyline to its illustrations, originated from the pen of Feyza, who is herself a refugee youth. Feyza, one of the living witnesses to human rights violations in Turkey, successfully conveys her story, inspired by real events, through the eyes of children without dramatization.



BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS & APH PROJECT



BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS & APH PROJECT



REPORTS

As AST, our primary objectives revolve around raising awareness on various platforms and, based on the knowledge we disseminate, taking impactful action. This action primarily involves urging those in positions of power to restore the rule of law in Turkey, ensure human rights, and hold the Turkish government accountable for its harsh actions.

A crucial aspect of our proactive approach is the creation of reports, which we submit to relevant entities, committees, and commissions. To date, we have authored and **shared 53 reports**, covering topics such as the dire conditions in Turkey's prisons, the plight of sick and elderly inmates, violations of women's rights, global renditions orchestrated by the government, instances of torture, and the erosion of the rule of law.

With the sincere hope that these reports contribute significantly to the human rights cause, we remain committed to our work.



<https://tinyurl.com/4yvp2x5a>



REPORTS



The Teenage Girls Case: A Call for Justice

In May 2024, a large-scale anti-terrorism operation took place in Istanbul, where 48 individuals, including high school students and university-aged women, were detained by Turkish authorities. The Turkish government, under the guise of fighting terrorism, arrested these individuals on fabricated charges. Among those arrested were several mothers, taken into custody when authorities could not locate their daughters.

The Crackdown on Humanitarian Aid in Turkey

This report, issued by the Advocates of Silence Turkey (AST), details an alarming misuse of counterterrorism laws in Turkey to systematically target and dismantle philanthropic efforts supporting the Gülen Movement.



Special Report: "Authoritarianism Unveiled: Turkey's Human Rights Catastrophe"

On March 5, 2024, the Commissioner issued a comprehensive memorandum assessing the state of freedom of expression, media, and human rights defenders in Turkey. The memorandum called for urgent action to address these challenges, emphasizing the need for alignment with international human rights standards.

REPORTS



The Death of Fethullah Gülen: A Discourse Analysis in Turkish and International Media

On October 20, 2024, Fethullah Gülen, the founder of the Hizmet Movement/Fethullah Gülen Community, passed away in the United States. The passing of such an influential global figure garnered widespread attention in both Turkish and international media.

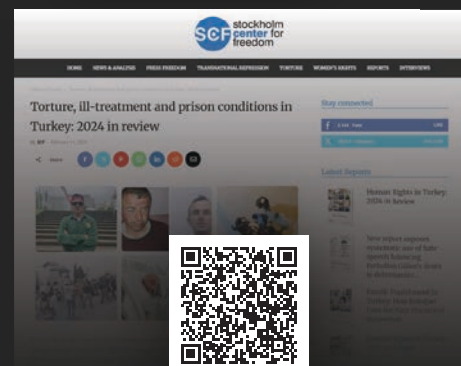
Collapse of Rule of Law in Turkey

Numerous reports highlight the erosion of the rule of law and judicial independence in Turkey. The absence of fair trials, denial of the right to defense, and political interference in ongoing cases have drawn intense scrutiny from international organizations. This scrutiny has exposed the troubling nature of post-coup trials, causing significant damage to the credibility of the judicial process as a whole.



Prison Conditions and Torture Reports

Human rights organizations documented widespread abuses in Turkish prisons, including torture, strip-searches, and denial of medical care, reflecting a concerning pattern of ill-treatment of detainees. "The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) also adopted a resolution highlighting the alarming prevalence of systemic torture and inhuman treatment in Turkey's detention facilities.



DID YOU KNOW?

REPORTS



Erdoğan's Long Arms: Abductions in Turkey and Abroad

It is well known that Turkey's authoritarian, political Islamist regime, led by the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) and its leader Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, has long been suppressing opposition within the country. Beyond its borders, Erdoğan's regime has extended its influence globally, employing diplomatic, economic, and covert tactics to silence dissent and promote its agenda on the international stage.

Erdoğan's Torture Squads

For years, government employees implicated in the use of torture have been shielded by Turkish government institutions and officials, rewarded with impunity. Even when lawsuits are filed against them, these individuals are allowed to remain in their positions, often receiving promotions, as efforts are made to prevent them from facing conviction or imprisonment.



PUBLICATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC JOURNALS & ORGANIZATIONS

Documenting the narratives of persecuted individuals in Turkey, specifically their real-life experiences, constitutes a significant aspect of our work. To date, we have released numerous books in various languages, comprised of these stories obtained through interviews with survivors of the extensive purge. Additionally, our advocacy extends to academic articles, which cater to a diverse audience and present the experiences of human rights abuses and injustices from an intellectual perspective. In this regard, advocates from AST have authored a range of articles addressing distinct human rights issues in Turkey. These topics include gender-based discrimination and violence in post-coup Turkey, the challenges faced during the 2023 elections, as well as the systematic targeting and silencing of educators and students associated with the Hizmet movement, along with broader human rights conflicts and dislocation. AST has also crafted comprehensive reports as the Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR) for



Women's Studies International Forum

Volume 99, July–August 2023, 102796

Gendered state violence and post-coup migration out of Turkey

Busra Nisa Sarac ^a ✉, Hafza Girdap ^b,
Nancy Hiemstra ^b



Unmasking Gender (In)Equality: Turkey's Post-2023 Election Landscape

PUBLICATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC JOURNALS & ORGANIZATIONS

the UN Human Rights Council. These reports outline specific actions that should be undertaken to enhance the human rights situation in Turkey. Furthermore, they provide recommendations to address and overcome the challenges hindering the enjoyment of human rights in the country.

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada / Commission de l'immigration et du statut de réfugié du Canada

Refugee claims ▾ Refugee appeals ▾ Immigration appeals ▾ Detention reviews / Admissibility hearings ▾

Home ▾ Country of Origin Information ▾ Responses to Information Requests

Responses to Information Requests

Responses to Information Requests (RIRs) are research reports on country conditions. They are requested by IRB decision-makers. The database contains a seven-year archive of English and French RIRs. Earlier RIRs may be found on the [European Country of Origin Information Network's](#) website. Please note that some RIRs have attachments which are not electronically accessible here. To obtain a copy of an attachment, [please e-mail us](#).

► Disclaimer

the time constraints of this Response.

Advocates of Silenced Turkey (3) reports that Enver Kiliç and Zabit Kiji, described as "members" of the Gülen movement, "were abducted from a plane in Kazakhstan by an unknown group of people," stating that on 16 September 2017, both men were denied access to the plane because their passports "were allegedly cancelled" (AST Dec. 2017, 2-3). Similarly, the Stockholm Center for Freedom (SCF) [4] indicates that Turkish citizens Zabit Kiji and Enver Kiliç were reported missing by their wives and that they were "reportedly abducted from a plane by a group of unknown people in [the] Kazakh city of Almaty" (SCF 20 Oct. 2017). The Turkish-language news site Aktif Haber reports that Enver Kiliç and Zabit Kiji were [translation] "abducted" by the [Turkish] National Intelligence Agency (MIT) working in cooperation with the Kazakhstani Intelligence Agency" (Aktif Haber 16 Dec. 2017). The same source also indicates that Enver Kiliç and Zabit Kiji were deported to Turkey on 30 September 2017 (Aktif Haber 16 Dec. 2017). Corroborating information regarding the involvement of the Kazakh Intelligence Agency could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this Response.

Information on treatment of Kazakh citizens affiliated with the Gülen movement could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this Response.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

United Nations
General Assembly
A/HRC/WG.6/45/CHN/3
Distr.: General
20 November 2023
Original: English

Annual Periodic Review
"stakeholders' submissions on China"
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 45/1, paragraph 10, and in consideration of...

Social Genocide

Defined for the purpose of this research:

- The eradication and political silencing of a group of people based on their affiliation with a civil society movement enmeshed in religious and cultural beliefs. (CH 1, p. 3)
- Relied on definitions in detail from Chapter 2
 - "How Do You Define Genocide?" BBC, April 4, 2022
 - United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, "Genocide," 2022.
 - United Nations, 1951 United Nations Genocide Convention, Article Two.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

UMKC

A DISSERTATION ABOUT SOCIAL GENOCIDE OF HIZMET MOVEMENT

TURKIC EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS BREAKING THEIR SILENCE:
AN ORAL HISTORY OF A TANGLED WEB OF POLITICAL POWER

A DISSERTATION IN
Educational Leadership, Policy, and Foundations
and Curriculum and Instruction

Presented to the Faculty of the University
of Missouri-Kansas City in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

By

Kari L. O'Rourke

B.A., Saint Mary College, 1985

M.B.A., University of Missouri-Kansas City, 1998

Kansas City, Missouri
2023

WHAT WE ACHIEVED

In conclusion, the Advocates of Silenced Turkey (AST) family remains steadfast in its commitment to combatting human rights violations and injustices in Turkey. Our multifaceted projects and initiatives reflect our dedication to preserving the names and stories of those who have endured persecution, as we tirelessly strive for justice and advocate for the restoration of democracy. AST's core objectives center around raising awareness across diverse platforms, compelling authorities to reinstate the rule of law and uphold human rights. Through the compilation and submission of impactful reports, we address critical human rights abuses. Our advocacy extends to organizing protests, events, and a distinctive human rights festival. Additionally, we actively archive the narratives of persecuted individuals, **sharing their stories in 51 published books** across various languages. AST provides legal support to those pursuing justice through international courts, and our commitment further manifests through lectures, panels, conferences, art, and photo exhibitions. Our collective endeavors aim to bring about positive change and foster a world where human rights are upheld and respected.


108

Legal applications have been submitted to international organizations and bodies like UN, Helsinki Commission


600+

Hours of Voice Recording of Persecuted Lives.


51

E-Books in English and Turkish have been Published on Google Books, Google Play and Kindle


7K+

Participants to Social Genocide Exhibitions


53

Reports like "Torture in Turkey" have been published mainly as e-report


307

Interviews have been conducted with persecuted refugees and people for APH Project


25

Books in English have been published on Amazon

WHAT WE ACHIEVED


500+

Videos and Animations produced on Human Rights.

336

550+

Pieces of Art produced from Art, Song, Poem and Short Film Contests.

550+

5

International Conferences organized as Freedom Convention which were viewed **60,000+**

4

14

Documentaries produced

14

130

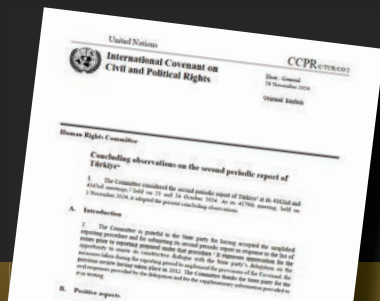
Lectures and panels organized

119

DID YOU KNOW?

Erosion of Judicial Independence:

The United Nations Human Rights Committee reported a significant deterioration in judicial independence, with concerns over the judiciary's susceptibility to political influence and its impact on fair trial rights.



European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) Violations:

In 2024, Turkey led Europe in pending human rights applications, with 67 out of 73 cases resulting in violations, particularly concerning the right to liberty and security, and freedom of expression.



WHAT WE ACHIEVED


6K+

Social Genocide Exhibitions

6K+

10
MILLION+

 View by Human Rights AD's in prominent locations like **Times Square, London** etc.

10
MILLION+

230+

Infographics, flyers, posters, presentations produced

230+

51

Art and Photo Exhibitions

51

80+

Social Media Campaigns

73+

3
MILLION+

 Views garnered with Freedom Truck covering **250,000 Miles in 25 states**
3
MILLION+

119

Peaceful Protests and Vigils

119

DID YOU KNOW?

Constitutional Court Findings:

Turkey's Constitutional Court identified human rights violations in over 2,500 applications during the first nine months of 2024, averaging about 10 violations per day, highlighting systemic issues within the country's legal framework.



WHAT WE ACHIEVED


20K+

Total Volunteered hours


**2.5
MILLION+**

Views on our Youtube Channel


152

Miscellaneous Events and Activities Organized


800+

 Volunteers in **30 Countries**

200+

 Programs, Activities, Reports, Books etc produced **ANNUALLY**

100K

 Followers in 5
Social Media Accounts

100+

 Experts spoke on our
panels and Conferences

300+

 News, National and International Coverage
about our activities

100+

 Take Action and
Petition Campaigns

1,800+

 Programs, Activities, Reports,
Books etc created in **6 YEARS**

DOCUMENTARY

"The Other Children" Documentary: A Global Voice for Turkey's Forgotten Children



The documentary "The Other Children," produced by Advocates of Silenced Turkey and Humankind Production, has been honored with the Best Human Rights Award at the Cannes World Film Festival. Additionally, it has won first place in two separate festivals in Europe and received a total of seven awards from various international film festivals.

Three years ago, we set out on a mission to shed light on the struggles of children from families affected by Turkey's State of Emergency (OHAL) and emergency decrees (KHKs). With this goal in mind, we began interviewing children of purged families and officially launched the documentary project.

This film is the result of a three-year-long journey, with the past year dedicated to its intensive production process. The biggest challenge faced during the making of the documentary was the climate of fear among children and families who wanted to participate. Due to the oppressive regime in Turkey, many families and children were too afraid to speak. However, despite these obstacles, the film captures the heartbreaking stories of 13 children, including

three who lost their lives and 10 who bravely came forward to share their experiences.

A documentary that gives a voice to the voiceless

"The Other Children" focuses on the experiences of children whose lives were deeply impacted by the OHAL period and the KHK purges in Turkey. The documentary serves as a powerful platform to amplify the voices of these children, highlighting their experiences of marginalization, separation from their parents, and prison visits. Each child in this film has a unique and deeply moving story, and their testimonies will leave a lasting impact on audiences worldwide.



By watching this documentary, you will witness the true stories of children whose lives were torn apart by the Turkish government's crackdown. You will hear about:

Children who risked their lives crossing the Meriç River after their families were denied the right to live freely.

Little Betül Civelek, who tragically lost her life while returning from a prison visit to see her father.

Ahmet Burhan Ataç, who passed away longing for his imprisoned father.

Furkan Dizdar, who lost his life because his medical treatment was denied while in exile.

These are not just statistics—they are the heartbreaking realities of children whose voices have been silenced.

A Collective Effort: 50+ Volunteers Behind the Scenes

This documentary was made possible thanks to the relentless efforts of over 50 dedicated volunteers from Advocates of Silenced Turkey. Without their commitment and hard work, this project would not have come to life. We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to this meaningful cause.

From Local Screenings to Global Recognition

Since its premiere, "The Other Children" has been screened in more than 30 locations, including New Jersey, San Francisco, Santa Clara (CA), Toronto, Sydney, Ottawa, Cherry Hill (NJ), Pittsburgh (PA), Long Island, Utah, Philadelphia, Seattle, San Diego, and many more. And today, we are honored to share this film with you here in Arizona.





We are also continuing our journey through the film festival circuit to ensure that this powerful story reaches a global audience. So far, the documentary has won awards at three separate festivals and has been selected as a finalist in five others. Our goal is to bring "The Other Children" to the world's attention and advocate for the rights of these forgotten children.

Together, let's be the voice of "The Other Children."

STRATEGIC NETWORKING ENGAGEMENTS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS AND INTELLECTUALS



STRATEGIC NETWORKING ENGAGEMENTS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS AND INTELLECTUALS



STRATEGIC NETWORKING ENGAGEMENTS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS AND INTELLECTUALS



STRATEGIC NETWORKING ENGAGEMENTS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS AND INTELLECTUALS



SONG CONTEST

3rd Song Contest for Oppressed 2024

Grievances related to human rights violations in Turkey and other countries can be powerfully expressed through art, particularly song. In this context, AST organized a song contest to raise awareness about the human rights violations occurring in Turkey.

The competition aimed to harness the power of art to highlight issues such as political prisoners, torture, and the deprivation of fundamental rights.

Additionally, the competition sought to encourage artists to speak out, showcase their aesthetic talents, and deliver a clear message to the audience, while promoting artistic engagement in support of human rights.



Yusuf Kerim Anısına
MAZLUMLAR İÇİN ŞARKI YARIŞMASI FİNAL

3 MART 2024
1:00 PM ET
 19:00 ALMANYA - 21:00 TÜRKİYE

ZEYNEP KAYA VE NUR ÖZTÜRK'ÜN
 SUNUMUYLA **YOUTUBE CANLI YAYINI.**

*Sizlerin oylarıyla finalistler belirlenecek.

SILENCED TURKEY

[@silencedturkey](#)



1
TOPRAKTAN ALACAKLIYIZ
AHMET USLU
 TÜRKİYE

SILENCED TURKEY



2
SENSİZ ÖLÜYORUM
AHMET ATEŞ
 MISSOURI

SILENCED TURKEY

SONG CONTEST

3
HEP ELİF OLDUM
ERSİN DEĞER
COLUMBUS, OHIO




4
BARİŞ GÜVERCİNLERİ
FEYZA KÜÇÜK
ALMANYA





5
BAHARLARIN GERİ GELECEK
GRİFON
BELÇİKA




6
BANA SORMA
KENAN EĞRİ
İSVİÇRE

DAPDARACIK OLAN O HÜCRELERE
YOLLA!




7
YAŞAMIN TARİFİ
FADE
BELÇİKA






8
GÖRÜYORUM
YEZA TARUMAR




9
ANNE KORKUYORUM
ÖMER TAŞKAN
BELÇİKA

tanıdık geldim mi sana?

10
BEN ELİF GELİYORUM
TARİK EMRE
KUZEY AFRIKA




WHERE ARE WE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Youtube Videos **3 Million+** Viewed



Twitter

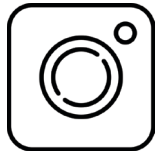
20.1k+



Facebook

60k+

5 FACEBOOK PAGES IN 5 LANGUAGES



Instagram

5k+

3 INSTAGRAM PROFILES



YouTube

14.9k+



Email List

8k+

amazon books

Google
Books

AST REACHED A TOTAL OF
100K+ FOLLOWERS ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

VOLUNTEER

If you want to volunteer for AST, please contact us at help@silencedturkey.org or volunteer@silencedturkey.org



We have **800+ volunteers** from more than **30 countries**



Total volunteer hours exceeded **20,000+**



Social media followers have passed **100k+**



The number of national & international news coverage more than **300**

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

- + TRANSLATION (TURKISH - ENGLISH / ENGLISH - TURKISH)
- + PROOFREADING / EDITING
- + WRITING ARTICLES OR ACADEMIC PAPERS
- + GOOGLE SEARCH (MEDIA AND DATA ENTRY)
- + DESCRIBE VICTIMIZATION THROUGH ART
- + FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES / CALL-CENTER
- + INTERVIEWING THE VICTIMS
- + INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTION
- + PERSECUTED PEOPLE OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS
- + CREATING & SENDING E-MAILS
- + CONTACTING CONGRESS & SENATE
- + EVENT COORDINATOR
- + PUBLIC RELATIONS
- + MEDIA RELATIONS
- + PUBLIC SPEAKING
- + PRESENTATIONS
- + GRAPHIC DESIGN
- + SOCIAL MEDIA
- + VIDEO PRODUCTION
- + VOICE RECORDING

TESTIMONIALS



● VONYA WOMACK

Executive Director at Refugees Unknown-Stories Untold (RUSU)

In a world where so many voices are silenced, Advocates of Silenced Turkey (AST) is a lifeline. It is more than an organization — it is a movement powered by courage, resilience, and a deep belief in justice. Once seen as a model of democratization, Turkey has become a place where democracy has faded, media has been crushed, and human dignity is under constant attack. Hundreds of journalists are behind bars. Families are torn apart. Loved ones are lost. And yet, AST refuses to look away.

I've had the privilege of working closely with AST, and what I've seen is nothing short of extraordinary. Lawyers, academics, journalists, and activists — many of them survivors themselves — are united by a single mission: to amplify the silenced. They document the truth when others won't. They provide legal support when few dare. They raise awareness and advocate for change in spaces where silence is often more comfortable than justice.

AST doesn't just tell stories — they fight for the people behind them. And in doing so, they remind the world that freedom, dignity, and justice are not negotiable. When you support AST, you stand with prisoners of conscience. You stand with families who have lost everything. You stand with those who still believe that every voice matters.

So I ask you — not just to read this, but to feel it. To hear the voices behind the statistics. To remember the faces behind the stories. And to join us. Because change doesn't begin in silence — it begins with those brave enough to speak, and those bold enough to listen.

● VOICES FROM THE EXHIBITION OF SILENT SCREAMS

Reflections from Visitors

Before I even understood the depth of the crisis, I had already met members of the Hizmet community — some of the kindest, most gracious, and service-minded people I've ever known. It's hard to grasp how such compassionate individuals could become targets of persecution. Hearing their stories at the Exhibition of Silent Screams — mothers drowning with their children while fleeing, a body kept in a freezer for days because burial was denied, families shattered by injustice — was both heartbreaking and unforgettable.

These are not just stories; they are cries for dignity, for justice, for recognition. As one visitor expressed, "Don't agonize — organize." And that is what Advocates of Silenced Turkey (AST) is doing: transforming pain into purpose, silence into advocacy, and despair into determined action. Through AST's efforts, the world is beginning to see what so many have endured — and still endure — in silence.

I stand with AST and all those who believe that, though injustice may persist, the arc of history bends toward justice — when we choose to act.

TESTIMONIALS



ORI Z. SOLTES

Historian and Educator

For decades, I have studied, taught, and written about Turkey — a country with an incredibly rich and complex history. My connection to it deepened profoundly when I encountered the Hizmet movement, a service-oriented initiative inspired by Fethullah Gülen that promotes education, dialogue, and humanitarian efforts across faiths, cultures, and borders. I had the privilege of meeting Gülen personally — a moment that exceeded every expectation. He was intellectual, humble, charismatic — a truly extraordinary figure. His recent passing brings both sadness and spiritual comfort, knowing he has returned to the beloved source. Yet his legacy lives on, in over 160 countries, through schools, dialogue centers, and programs that combat ignorance and poverty and foster peace.

But this legacy has also been under attack. Over the past decade, the Turkish government — in particular under President Erdoğan — has systematically targeted the Hizmet movement and anyone perceived as a threat to his authoritarian rule. The so-called coup of 2016 was not just a manufactured political tool — it was a turning point in a brutal campaign of repression. What followed was mass imprisonment, torture, exile, and the silencing of thousands. It has become increasingly clear that those who speak truth to power, who serve humanity instead of tyranny, are being crushed under the weight of a regime that controls not only the state but the narrative itself.

That is why the work of Advocates of Silenced Turkey (AST) is so essential. In a world where misinformation dominates and oppression grows louder, AST amplifies the voices that have been forcibly muted. They challenge the lies. They document the truth. They speak for those who can no longer speak. As someone who has witnessed both the beauty of Turkey and the pain of its current oppression, I believe in AST's mission with conviction. They are not just preserving memory — they are shaping resistance. They remind us that to love a country is to fight for its soul, to cry out for its people, and to push back against the forces that seek to erase them.

We must not stay silent. We must tell the world what is happening. And we must stand with those who have been silenced — not just for their sake, but for the future of democracy, justice, and truth.

TYLER KAUFMANN

Pastor

As a Christian pastor committed to dignity, compassion, and interfaith friendship, I've found deep kinship with my Muslim friends in the Hizmet community — people who serve others with humility, foster peace, and build harmony despite facing persecution in their homeland of Turkey. In honoring the legacy of their late leader, Fethullah Gülen, I invite you to support Advocates of Silenced Turkey (AST), an organization that stands with these resilient souls and carries their mission of peace forward. Together, we can be a force for justice and shared humanity.

TESTIMONIALS



"THERE IS NO 'DO NOTHING' OPTION"

REFLECTIONS FROM DR. KARI O'ROURKE, PH.D.

Chairperson for the Interfaith and Ecumenical Committee – Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

I first met members of the Hizmet community during an iftar at our church — warm, welcoming people whose stories shook me to my core. One man shared his experience, and I remember thinking, Why haven't I heard this before? That question led me on a journey — from dinner conversations to deep research, to collecting oral histories for my dissertation, and ultimately to becoming part of a family I never expected to find. As an educator and Christian, I couldn't stay silent. The persecution these individuals face, especially educators like themselves, is nothing short of a tragedy — one that must be told and remembered.

When Advocates of Silenced Turkey (AST) invited me to teach English to Turkish students, I said yes. What began as a six-week course turned into four years of weekly lessons with students across Turkey and the diaspora. But more than anything, it turned into a profound connection — one rooted in shared humanity. Through AST and initiatives like the Unmuted exhibit, I've witnessed how personal stories and even small objects carry immense emotional weight. I remember a woman pointing to a display and saying simply, "That was my brother's." I couldn't find words — I could only hold her. These are not statistics. They are real people with real families and real grief.

We cannot let these stories stay hidden within the Turkish community. Americans need to hear them. The world needs to hear them. There is no 'do nothing' option. Each of us has something to offer — a voice, a skill, a donation, a moment of time. We are all part of the same human family, and when one part suffers, the whole suffers. So I ask: What can you do?

AST YOUTH AMBASSADORS

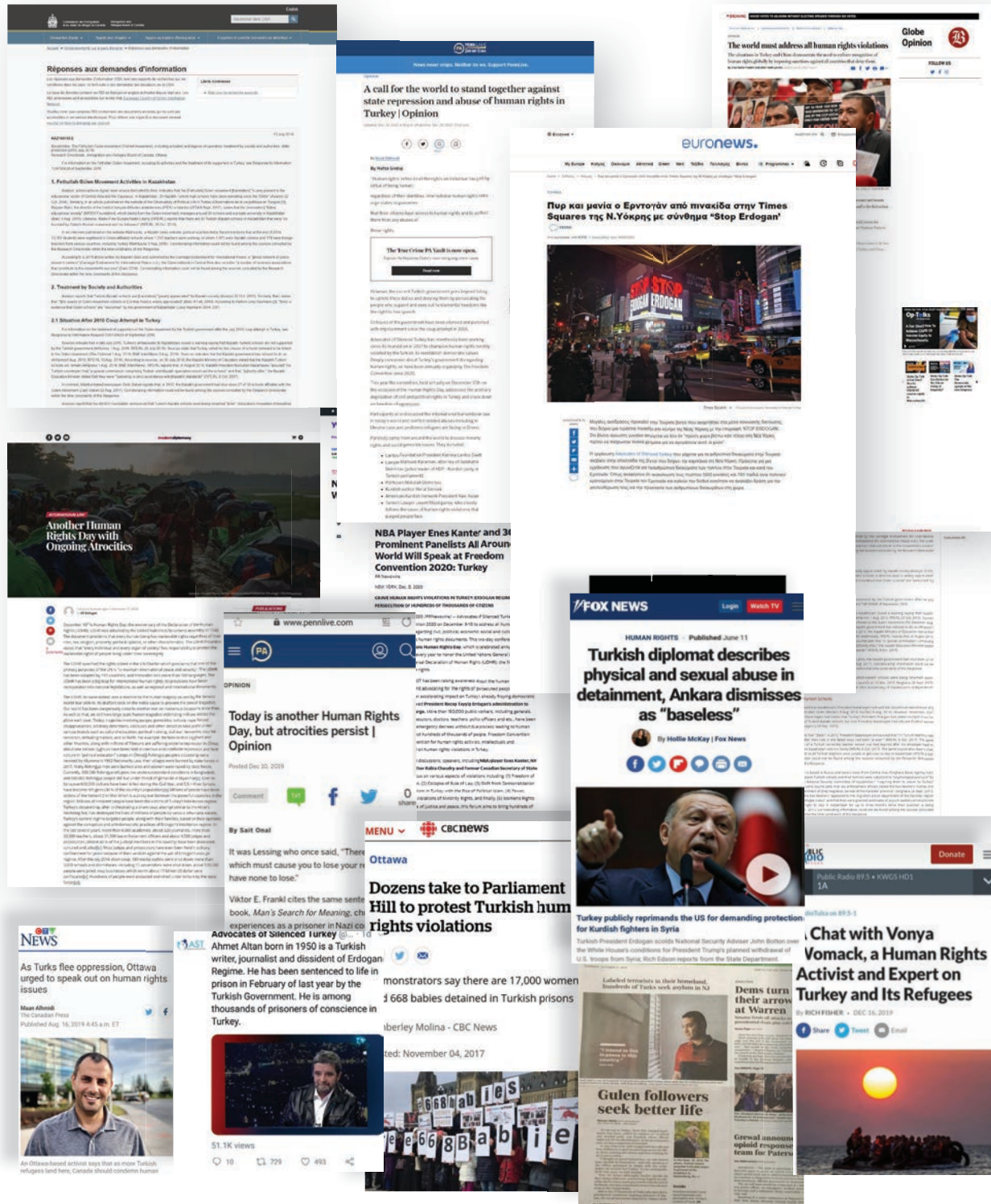
"Behind Every Number, There's a Face We Know"

To many, 2.2 million investigations, over 500,000 imprisonments, and thousands of babies growing up behind bars may seem like distant statistics. But for us, they are personal. Behind every number is someone we know — a family member, a friend, a story we've heard since childhood. We've held the baby clothes of children who drowned crossing rivers, met the siblings of those who died in prison, and listened to survivors who were denied medical care until it was too late. One of us once told the story of a woman who died in prison from cancer, only to hear the heartbreaking reply: "That was my sister." These are not abstract tragedies — they are part of our identity, our pain, and our responsibility.

As AST Youth Ambassadors, we believe it is our duty to remember and to act. The Exhibition of Silent Screams brought these stories to life — through shoes, letters, books, and artifacts that speak louder than any headline. We've greeted visitors, organized events, and even written our own stories. We've felt the weight of injustice, but also the power of solidarity. And we know that change begins with awareness, compassion, and courage. Our generation may not have started this struggle, but we are determined to carry it forward — to be the voice for those who have been silenced, and the light for those still walking through darkness.

AST IN THE NEWS

AST REACHED MILLIONS & APPEARED IN THE NEWS 300+ TIMES

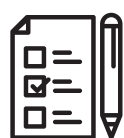


SUPPORT AST



TO CREATE REPORTS, BOOKS, PROGRAMS & MATERIALS TO RAISE THE VOICE OF THE OPPRESSED

The approximate cost to produce reports, books, campaigns, and programs on Human Rights is shown below. ***Thank you for your generous donations.***



1 Report \$3,000 - \$13,000

1 Book on Amazon or Google Books \$6,000 - \$15,000

1 Booklet \$750 - \$2,000

1 AST Paper \$150 - \$300

1 Story \$1,000 - \$2,000



1 Infographic \$150 - \$300

1 Presentation \$200 - \$500

1 Flier \$50 - \$100

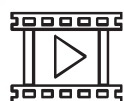


1 UN Application \$2,000 - \$4,000

1 Official Letter Creation \$100 - \$250

1 Social Media Campaign Creation \$500 - \$2,000

1 Newsletter \$250 - \$500



10 Pages Translation \$150 - \$400

1 Short Video Production \$1,000 - \$3,000

1 Documentary \$4,000 - \$20,000

1 Lecture \$1,000



1 Panel \$1,500 - \$2,500

1 Exhibition \$1,000 - 7,000

1 Conference fees \$100 - \$500

1 News translation \$30 - \$100



10 Calls and follow up \$100

10 Emailing and follow up \$100

1 Page translation \$15 - \$100

500 Reports printing and mailing \$2,500 - \$3,500



1 Song Contest & Award Ceremony \$10,000 - \$14,000

1 Art Contest & Award Ceremony \$6,000 - \$10,000

1 Short Film Contest & Award Ceremony \$12,000 - \$17,000

1 Photo Contest and Award Ceremony \$7,000 - \$10,000

1 Animation Cost \$2,000 - \$3,000



International Freedom Convention \$20,000 - \$30,000

Organizing a Protest \$1,000 - \$7,000

Giant Billboard Advertisements \$7,000 - \$50,000

Social Media Advertisements \$100 - \$5,000

1 Freedom Truck Advertisement \$7,000 - \$10,000

SUPPORT **AST**

by making a monthly donation
or one-time donation



✓ **CREDIT CARD OR DEBIT**

silencedturkey.org/donatenow

✓ **PAYPAL**

paypal.me/ast111

✓ **ZELLE**

advocatesofsilencedturkey@gmail.com

✓ **PATREON**

patreon.com/advocatesofsilencedturkey

✓ **SEND CHECK**

Please make your checks payable to
"Advocates of Silenced Turkey"
Address: Advocates of Silenced Turkey
P.O. Box 2399 Wayne, NJ 07474-2399

✓ **SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER**

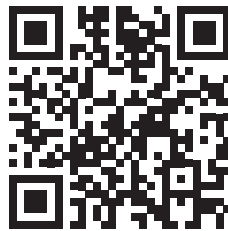
<https://bit.ly/2UEYDwD>



Help us spread the word,
be part of the change!
Together we can help be the voice of the
voiceless people of Turkey.



By making a monthly donation or one-time donation
www.silencedturkey.org/donatenow



By becoming a volunteer
www.silencedturkey.org/get-involved

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

By following us on social media

 www.twitter.com/silencedturkey

 www.facebook.com/silencedturkey

 www.instagram.com/silencedturkey

 www.youtube.com/AdvocatesofSilencedTurkey



Stand Up for
Human Rights

REPORT 2024



silencedturkey



www.silencedturkey.org