



**SILENCED
TURKEY**

**Stand Up for
Human Rights**

REPORT 2023



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

www.silencedturkey.org





REPORT 2023

Stand Up for Human Rights

www.silencedturkey.org

Produced by Advocates of Silenced Turkey Inc. & AST Publishing



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	6
AST GIVES A VOICE TO THE VOICELESS & TAKE ACTION	10
1 - FREEDOM CONVENTION	12
2 - CONFERENCES, PANELS AND LECTURES	18
3 - HUMAN RIGHTS FESTIVAL	20
4 - FILM SCREENINGS	22
5 - AST EVENT HALL VISITS	24
6 - SOCIAL GENOCIDE EXHIBITIONS	26
7 - BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS & APH PROJECT	32
8 - REPORTS	36
9 - PUBLICATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC JOURNALS & ORGANIZATIONS	42
10 - WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 6 YEARS	44
11 - FREEDOM TRUCKS	48
12 - VIGILS & PROTESTS	50
13 - REACHED MILLIONS	54
14 - STRATEGIC NETWORKING ENGAGEMENTS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS AND INTELLECTUALS	56
15 - EVENTS & PROGRAMS	60
16 - SG MEMORIALS	65
17 - ART 4 HUMAN RIGHTS	66
18 - ANIMATIONS	70
19 - SONGS FOR OPPRESSED	71
20 - VIDEO CLIPS & DOCUMENTARIES	72
WHERE ARE WE ON SOCIAL MEDIA	74
VOLUNTEER	75
TESTIMONIALS	76
AST IN THE NEWS	81
TURKEY'S ABYSMAL HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD	84

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



HAFZA GIRDAP
Executive Director, AST
Gender, Immigration and Racialization
Researcher, Stony Brook University

As 2023 draws to a close, I reflect with gratitude on my six years as the Executive Director of Advocates of Silenced Turkey. It's a privilege to work alongside compassionate and knowledgeable human rights advocates like all of you.

Despite the global challenges to democracy and justice, your unwavering energy remains inspiring. As we take a pause to reconnect with family, friends, and ourselves during this season, I am optimistic about what 2024 holds for the Advocates of Silenced Turkey family and the persecuted people we serve. This optimism is fueled by the life-changing work our volunteers undertake daily, highlighted within the pages of this annual report.

The political climate in Turkey has grown increasingly tumultuous **since the so-called coup attempt on July 15,**

2016. The government's collective persecution of political dissidents and critics has resulted in the dismissal of **over 130,000 individuals from their jobs,** with arbitrary arrests and lengthy pretrial detentions becoming tools to suppress opposition. The harsh persecution has also affected the lives of family members, estimating **around 10 million people impacted.**



In 2023, we regretfully witnessed several egregious cases of human rights abuses, including the arbitrary and disgraceful detention of Huda Kaya, a former DEM MP and a prominent human rights advocate. The refusal to release Ramazan Taskiran, a prisoner in the advanced stages of cancer, was particularly distressing. Similarly, the unlawful detention of Nurcan and Abdulkadir Arslan, parents of seven-year-old quintuplets, and the tragic death of Yusuf Kerim, a six-year-old cancer patient, were deeply troubling instances. The unjustifiable detention of Can Atalay, an elected MP, persisted despite the Supreme Court's decision to overrule it. Additionally, the ongoing imprisonment of Serife Sulukan, a paralyzed prisoner who cannot survive without assistance, further highlights the dire human rights conditions faced by the people of Turkey. These are just six examples among the countless instances of human rights misery endured by the people of Turkey.

In alignment with the distressing stories of persecution outlined above, prison conditions in Turkey, marked by deplorable conditions, particularly for imprisoned women, the sick, the elderly, and those prisoners of conscience, are among the most severe human rights abuses. Despite international rules protecting these individuals, incidents of violence and ill-treatment persist within prisons.

Correspondingly, recent years have seen an alarming increase in gender-based violence and discrimination against women in Turkey, especially those from marginalized communities. After the 2016 coup attempt, women's rights and agency became viewed as a threat, leading to the targeting of women as anti-government dissidents or terrorists. Women from various communities face discrimination, hate speech, sexual harassment, and physical violence due to their gender, ethnicity, and political beliefs. The withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention in



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2021 exacerbated violence against women, resulting in a significant rise in femicide. **In 2022 alone, 334 women were killed, with over 300 femicide cases identified so far in 2023.**

Discriminatory practices against various groups, including Kurds, Alevis, Gulen movement volunteers, and even children, continue unabated. Thousands of children, often with their families, have faced perilous journeys; legal protections for women with children were neglected for those affected by the state of emergency decrees (KHKs) and OHAL (state of emergency). The failure to implement these protections results in significant rights violations against women and children, including unborn and newborn infants. AST's photographic documentation, "Being the Other Child in Turkey" interprets how the vulnerable bodies and souls of these children are impacted by gross rights violations and the challenging ordeals they endure.

Furthermore, the Turkish government's persistent torture cases, both under police custody and on black sites, represent a horrifying crime against humanity. Those involved in torture are protected, rewarded with impunity, and often promoted despite legal actions being filed against them. Since the 2016 coup attempt, torture has become systematic in Turkey, affecting a growing number of victims.

From 2016 to 2023, in the midst of the human rights crisis, numerous individuals fell victim to grief, stress, and illness. As of November 2023, **we have documented 952 casualties** attributed to the state of emergency (OHAL) and decree laws (KHK), which include 90 children. This encompasses suspicious deaths in prisons, those who took their own lives, and those who lost their lives while trying to flee Turkey across the Meriç and Aegean, encountering denial to return to their home countries.

The numerous state-sanctioned human rights abuses in Turkey are too extensive to enumerate. AST engages in a range of activities, from organizing conferences and panels to writing reports submitted to relevant organizations and committees. Collaborating with other organizations is crucial for sharing causes, learning from others' stories, and amplifying our own narratives.

In response to the pandemic and global crises, AST has adapted its strategies, incorporating virtual protests, panels, and written works, including reports and books. Survivor interviews are shared through books, providing a platform for the voices of those persecuted.



AST encourages people to write letters to decision-makers and focuses on youth empowerment, recognizing the significant role young advocates play. Collaboration between youth and adults is essential in all aspects of our activities, including the use of art and music to advocate for human rights.

In 2024, AST remains committed to being the voice of the voiceless, defending fundamental rights, educating and motivating human rights advocates, urging leaders to prioritize human rights, and convening groups for collaborative action.

Let us unite in the fight against violence, inequality, and injustice. Through solidarity and political unity, we can amplify our strength, break down prejudices, and work towards a world free from violence and injustice. Thank you for being part of this crucial cause.

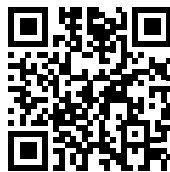
AST GIVES A VOICE TO THE VOICELESS

The Advocates of Silenced Turkey (**AST**) are committed to combating human rights abuses and injustices within Turkey.

AST consists not only of legal experts but also includes relatives of political prisoners and victims who have faced job loss, property confiscation, and the loss of family members under the current oppressive administration.

AST actively participates in various human rights initiatives, which encompass the creation of reports submitted to relevant committees, councils, and entities. **AST** organizes conferences, documents all forms of violence and injustice experienced by the Turkish people, arranges exhibitions, produces documentaries, and hosts art competitions.

Committed to advancing democracy and human rights in Turkey, **AST** is dedicated to expanding its efforts in raising awareness and advocating for the cause.



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

Murat Kaval	President and CEO	Ali Tepe	Scholars Rights Watch Coordinator
Hafza Girdap	Executive Director & Spokesperson	Aydogan Vatandas	Media Freedom and Reporter
Hevin Elmas	Finance Assistant	Esma Birlik	Twitter Manager
Nur Cam	APH Project Assistant	Elif Halo	Hope Stories Project Coord.
Zeynep Caliskan	Finance Assistant	Ayse Gul	Kahoot Human Rights Contest Coord.
Kubra Sam	APH Project Manager	Sermin Is	Regional Volunteer Coordinator
Ayse Nur	Research Assistant	Afra Hur	Translation Coordinator
Meral Hak	Regional Coordinator	Rabia Inan	Art for Human Rights Assistant
Semra Yerli	Regional Coordinator	Sueda Murat	Internship Coordinator
Eda Kas	Volunteer Coordinator Asst.	Hilal ince	Survey Manager
Umit Kardes	Regional Coordinator	Mina Leyla	Author and Reporter
Murat Has	Regional Coordinator	Zeynep Kayadeler	Author
Yasin Gurel	Regional Coordinator		
Osman Abdullah	Regional Coordinator		
Vefa Bayir	Regional Coordinator	ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS	
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SuheyLa Nar	Representative	Marra Yates	Undergraduate student/ Staff at a Local Hospital
Vaner Can	Regional Coordinator	Kari O'rouke	Chairperson of the Inter-Faith Committee
Rana Bilen	Graphic Designer	Kelly Isola	Pastor
Saime İlker	News Content Manager	Michael Poage	Author
Nurettin Kar	Art4HumanRights Coordinator	Ann Suellentrop	Nurse & Activist
Betul Iman	Youth4HumanRights Coordinator	Taylor Qualls	Pastor/Counselor
Mine Altın	High School Youth Coordinator	Sheri Hays	Social Worker and Human Rights Activist
Elif Soy	Women's and Children's Rights Coordinator	Stephen Arbeau	Teacher, Activist
Muhsin Nazif	Graphic and Web Designer	Sat Bir	Human Rights Activits/ Non-profit President
Hamza Yormaz	Producer	Allen Olshtein	Chaplain
Ayşe Nur	Volunteer Affairs Coordinator	Jim Juhnke, Ph.D	Professor of History
Murat Dogan	Legal Consultant	Jude Huntz	Campus Minister
Joseph Selam	Legal Consultant	Edward Stevenson	Retired Pastor
Yasemin Kahraman	Legal Consultant	Bailey Hughes	Legal Consultant
Mustafa Yaz	FaceBook Admin	Lewis Hinshaw	Pastor
Serkan Tayyar	Youtube Coordinator	Gloria Hinshaw	Teacher
Eyup Guler	Advisory Board Coordinator	Ferhat Ozturk, Ph.D	Refugee and Academician
Onur Has	Institutional Relations Coordinator	Psk. Yasemin Milhan	Refugee and Psychologist
Erkan Erk	Instagram Admin	Mehmet Halidun, Ph.D	Refugee and Academician
Bulent Ceyhan	Reporter		

*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



The Freedom Convention Turkey shines a spotlight on critical global issues, including democratic decline, erosion of the rule of law, misuse of anti-terror laws, limited freedom of expression, and human rights setbacks. It highlights the essential role of international bodies in addressing rights violations and explores utilizing ECHR and UN avenues for change. Celebrating Human Rights Day on December 10th, the convention aims to deepen awareness of Turkey's challenges and offer strategies to unite with the global human rights community, amplifying voices stifled by oppressive regimes.

Human rights refers to all the privileges and rights that an individual has just by virtue of being human; regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, or other characteristics. Throughout history, different treaties, decrees, and covenants have increasingly take human rights under protection on a global scale. In other words, the concept of human rights is widely institutionalized. International human rights rules require states to guarantee that their citizens have access to human rights and to protect them from any infringements or abuses of those rights. However, the current Turkish government goes beyond simply failing to uphold these duties and denying them by persecuting the people who support and seek out fundamental freedoms like the right to free speech.

AST (Advocates of Silenced Turkey), as an NGO has relentlessly been working since its foundation in 2017 to champion human rights which are harshly violated by the state in Turkey, with the hopes of supporting a reestablishment democratic values.



FREEDOM CONVENTION



SPEAKERS 2023



HAFZA 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 will address the arbitrary deprivation of civil and political rights and crack down on freedom of expression in Turkey remarking on the international covenants of which Turkey is a state party. Human rights experts also discussed the international humanitarian law in today's world and conflict related abuses including Ukraine case and pushbacks in Greece. Thus, Freedom Convention 2022 brought the ongoing violations and persecutions in Turkey to the global attention once again and offered a forum for the formulation of strategies to put an end to those violations.

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 KENEZ
Journalist

FREEDOM CONVENTION



PAST EVENTS

Freedom Convention Turkey 2021, provided a platform for human rights advocates, intellectuals, and policymakers to understand the human rights abuses in Turkey. The convention comprised of discussions, and workshops focusing on civil and political rights violations, the collapse of the rule of law, and discriminatory policies against 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 Symphosis



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 MAMALOGU
Persecuted Lawyer



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



MFANA GWALA
Executive Board Member,
NADEL, SA

FREEDOM CONVENTION



PAST EVENTS

Turkey Freedom Convention Turkey 2020 was a unique convention for human rights activists, intellectuals and policy makers focused on human rights violations in Turkey organized by AST. Participants and experts did not only discuss the persecutions in Turkey but also were able to develop strategies and recommendations to Turkish government and international bodies to end those grave violations through the 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



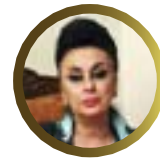
CENGİZ AKTAR
Professor of Political
Scientist at the University
of Athens



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



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

Turkey Freedom Forum is a unique convention for human rights activists, intellectuals and policy makers focused on human rights violations in Turkey organized by AST. Participants and experts will not only learn the ongoing violations and persecutions in Turkey but also be able to develop strategies and recommendations to Turkish government and international bodies to end those grave violations through the panel discussions. In pursuance of justice and peace, this forum aims to bring hundreds of human rights defenders and activists together and also to foster the dynamics to mobilize.

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

Leveraging panels, lectures, and conferences has been instrumental in shedding light on and addressing human rights issues in Turkey. These platforms serve as vital channels for in-depth discussions, expert insights, and the dissemination of crucial information surrounding the ongoing challenges faced by individuals in the country. Through thought-provoking panels, impassioned lectures, and engaging conferences, advocates have had the opportunity to amplify their voices, share compelling narratives, and foster a deeper understanding of the multifaceted human rights landscape in Turkey. These events not only facilitate the exchange of ideas but also provide a space for collaboration, bringing together human rights leaders, scholars, and activists to strategize and mobilize collective efforts toward positive change. The utilization of such forums has proven essential in raising awareness, fostering dialogue, and ultimately contributing to the broader advocacy for human rights and social justice in Turkey. In alignment with this commitment, AST experts actively participate not only in organizing events but also as featured speakers at various prestigious gatherings. Their engagements include prominent 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 Affairs Council Women's Day Conference. By actively contributing their expertise to these diverse platforms, AST experts play a crucial role in fostering meaningful discussions, sharing insights, and advocating for human rights on an international stage. Their presence at such esteemed events reflects a dedication to amplifying awareness and mobilizing global efforts to address critical human rights issues in Turkey and beyond.



CONFERENCES, PANELS AND LECTURES



Gregory Meeks
Congressman New York 5th District
Honorary Istanbul Congressional Co-Chair



Roger Wicker
Senator from Mississippi
Honorary Senate Co-Chair



Jacky Rosen
Senator from Nevada
Honorary Senate Co-Chair



His Beatitude Theophilos III
Patriarch of the HC City of Jerusalem



Ambassador Callista Gingrich
U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See (Vatican)
2021 and President and CEO of Congress 800



Hatra Cindap
Executive Director of The Advocates of Silenced Turkey



Beth Van Schaak
Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice of the U.S. Department of State



Rabbi David Saperstein
Religious Action Center Director Emeritus and Senior Advisor for Policy at Heschbar



Sam Brownback
2017 Summit 2023 Co-Chair



Katrina Lantos
2017 Summit 2023 Co-Chair



Nury Turkel
USCIBF Commission Chairman



Speaker New Gingrich
Chairman of G 360



HUMAN RIGHTS FESTIVAL

AST is actively at the forefront of organizing protests and events, notably hosting a distinctive human rights festival that incorporates a range of awareness activities tailored for children, exhibitions, storytelling sessions, parades, and more. The goal is to cultivate active engagement with human rights issues in the daily lives of individuals. By offering a diverse array of activities, AST aims to make human rights advocacy accessible and impactful. With a collective hope that these multifaceted efforts significantly contribute to the ongoing fight for human rights, our dedication to this important cause remains unwavering.



HUMAN RIGHTS FESTIVAL



FILM SCREENINGS

AST coordinated screenings of **Marianna Kakaounaki's** acclaimed documentary, "Invisible," at diverse venues, including community centers and universities in New York and Washington DC. The film narrates the harrowing tale of a Turkish couple compelled to flee their homeland to evade persecution, facing allegations of involvement in the 2016 military coup against President Erdogan. **Ebubekir and Gonca** symbolize a larger group of over a million individuals from Turkey accused

of terrorism and coup-related ties, forming a burgeoning community of shared destinies. Marianna's inaugural feature documentary, "Invisible," illuminates their transition from obscurity to visibility. The film was officially selected for its world premiere at the Copenhagen International Documentary Festival in 2021.



FILM SCREENINGS

AST volunteers in Kansas City presented the impactful play "Silenced Turkey," **written by Professor and author Dr. Gretchen Eick**. The play vividly portrays the abduction of a Turkish family, including children, by Turkish intelligence in Pakistan. Despite the family's escape from Turkey and reclaiming their freedom, the play, showcased virtually and at a church in Wichita, has attracted significant interest.



AST EVENT HALL VISITS

In February 2023, the AST Event Hall was inaugurated with the primary objective of serving as a venue for hosting events in collaboration with our dedicated volunteers. Beyond its role in occasional gatherings, the Event Hall also serves as a repository for a significant portion of the artifacts and items featured in the Social Genocide exhibition. Welcoming a multitude of visitors from various parts of the country and around the world, the Hall has provided a conducive environment for AST's team to host numerous meetings, plan and organize larger events, and collaborate on future projects. Recognizing the meaningful synergy between spaces and the individuals within them, the Event Hall has become a hub for our young volunteers and local representatives. We eagerly anticipate welcoming you to our Event Hall, fostering a deeper connection, and collaboratively generating advocacy projects for the promotion of human rights.



AST EVENT HALL VISITS



SOCIAL GENOCIDE EXHIBITIONS

A JOURNEY OF REMEMBRANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

The seeds of the Social Genocide Exhibition, which I have the privilege of coordinating, were sown on February 24, 2022, under the banner of '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 detained in Turkish prisons. Their creations, 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, along with the cherished possessions that defined their existence. With this purpose in mind, months of relentless effort culminated in the creation of the Social Genocide Exhibition, which would eventually travel across the United States. The exhibition opened its doors to the public for the first



ASLIHAN KAS
*AST Board Member,
Social Genocide Exhibition Coordinator*



SOCIAL GENOCIDE EXHIBITIONS



time on June 5, 2022, at the **Wyndham Hotel in New Jersey**. With the tremendous support of Kari O'Rourke, a member of AST Advisory Board in Kansas City, and her associates, we reached thousands of visitors at three different venues in Kansas City in September, 2022. On May 8, 2023, we gathered with visitors in **Washington, D.C.** In the past year, the exhibition made a significant impact as it toured six different programs in cities such as **Chicago, Michigan, Indiana, and Cleveland.**

Allow me to introduce you to some of the remarkable projects that have sprung forth from the Social Genocide Exhibition. The AST Event Hall in New Jersey now serves as a permanent home to 40 invaluable relics from the exhibition. Currently, we are working towards sharing these stories with a broader audience by displaying them in cultural centers and human rights corners in cities like Chicago, Rochester, and Pittsburgh.

In the realm of literature, interviews conducted with the dedicated team members who worked on the exhibition and the stories behind the displayed relics have been eloquently documented by Mina Leyla in her book titled 'Bloody Tie'. This literary work is now accessible to readers on Google Books and Google Play. In addition, our **American friend Kari O'Rourke** successfully completed her **PhD thesis under the title 'Social Genocide in Turkey,'** which has been officially accepted.

SOCIAL GENOCIDE EXHIBITIONS



To provide some insight into the preparation and creation of the exhibition, we firmly believed that individuals' belongings bore witness to the vivid experiences of their suffering. Initially, these relics were gathered in Turkey, carefully preserved in the homes of our friends across various cities. They eventually made their way to America, either through shipments or the luggage of visiting relatives.

The Social Genocide Exhibition stands as a collective repository of hundreds of relics, encompassing the experiences of individuals from diverse ethnic backgrounds, beliefs, and ideological perspectives. Notably, it includes relics from Kurds, Alevis, volunteers of the Hizmet (Gulen) Movement, women, children, journalists, politicians, and activists.

What unites us in the Social Genocide Exhibition transcends the boundaries of religion, ethnicity, or worldview. It is our shared commitment to kindness and love. The exhibition

SOCIAL GENOCIDE EXHIBITIONS

aspires to give a voice to individuals of every hue and listen attentively to their stories, with the ultimate goal of sharing these narratives with the world. It meticulously safeguards the memories of hundreds, including Taybet Ana, a Kurdish mother who was tragically shot with ten bullets by security forces in the midst of a street in Silopi, Hatice Akcabay who lost her life in Meriç, along with her three children while fleeing the persecution, Ali İsmail Korkmaz, who tragically lost his life during the Gezi protests, Garibe Gezer, a young woman who met a harrowing end through torture in prison, imprisoned journalist Mehmet Baransu, and Şehit Murat Tekin, who fell victim on a bridge.

Our endeavor to illuminate human rights violations and bear witness to the true victims of oppression has led us to encompass over 200 relics, each a poignant testament to resilience and the indomitable human spirit. The Social Genocide Exhibition stands as a tribute to common human values, a symbol of remembrance, and a powerful platform for justice. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to those whose invaluable contributions have made this crucial project possible. We welcome your support in our mission to expand this exhibition, solidify its presence in select locations, and invite your participation in both organizing events and contributing relics to this noble cause.



SOCIAL GENOCIDE EXHIBITIONS



SOCIAL GENOCIDE EXHIBITIONS



BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS & APH PROJECT



The Life and Legacy of Gökhan Açikkollu

I will never stop seeking for justice and trying to hold those perpetrators accountable for their crimes, both in this world and the next. I will never say "Well, it is just fate, and there is nothing we can do about it." No, I will not step aside! I will demand justice until justice is done! Yes, I believe firmly in destiny and the Hereafter, but I also believe that if I let those perpetrators get away with their horrendous crimes, shame on me!

The Illustrations of a Teacher in Prison

Yolgezer, a formerly imprisoned artist, invites the world to see the dire human rights violations in Turkey. Through an anonymous activist perspective, the artist specifically depicts Turkey's jails where tens of thousands of political prisoners are kept. You will not only witness how the life is like in prison, but also learn why those prisoners of conscience are incarcerated and how they feel behind bars.



143 Social Genocide Practices in Erdogan's Turkey

This work presents an exhaustive list of flagrant human rights violations to the degree of social genocide, perpetrated after the coup attempt of 15 July 2016. Within this framework, the report identified 143 rights violations and social genocide practices. Since some of these practices are executed publicly, it is known to everyone.

BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS & APH PROJECT



Stories of Hope 1: Written by Children Refugee and Oppressed

"The Stories of Hope: Written by Children - Refugee and Oppressed" is a compiled selection of the stories submitted for the "Hope Stories from Refugee Children" contest, organized by Advocates of Silenced Turkey (AST) in 2022.

The Life of Halime Gulsu: The Heavenly Teacher Murdered in Prison

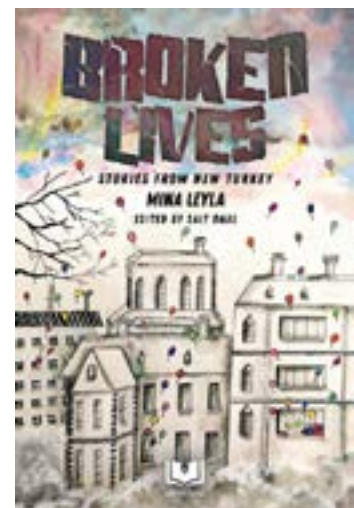
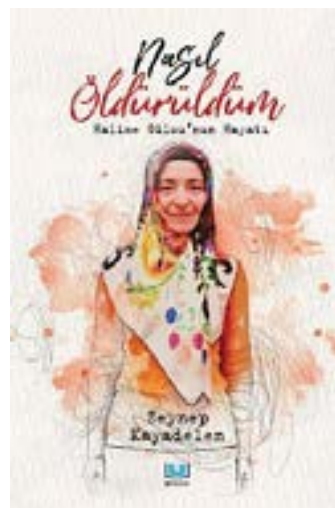
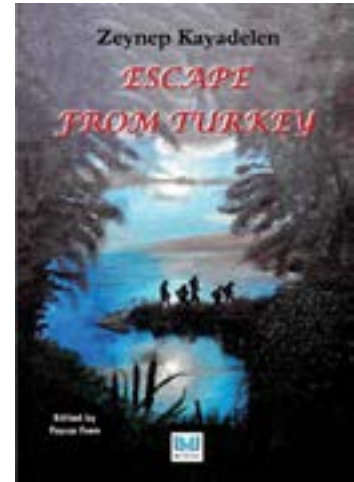
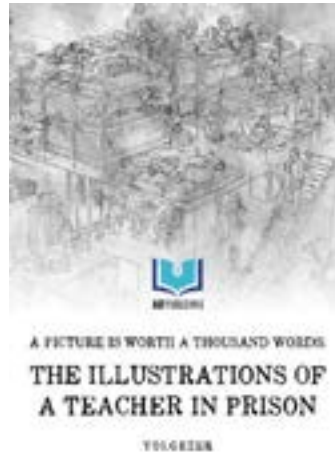
They will try to change the reports, the statements, and the facts. They will try to evade taking responsibility. But everyone knows that I was in fact murdered. Those whose hearts have darkened will be proud of their accomplishment.



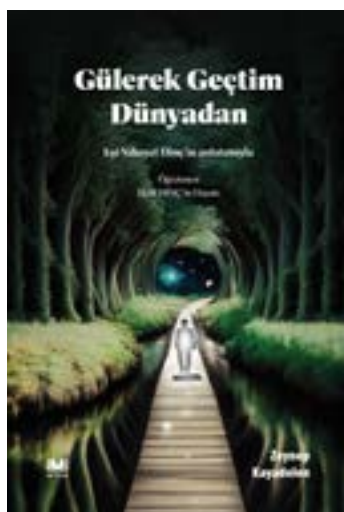
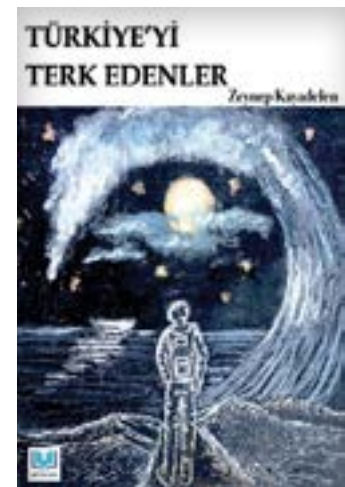
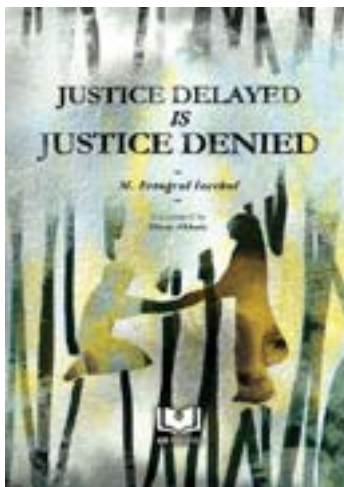
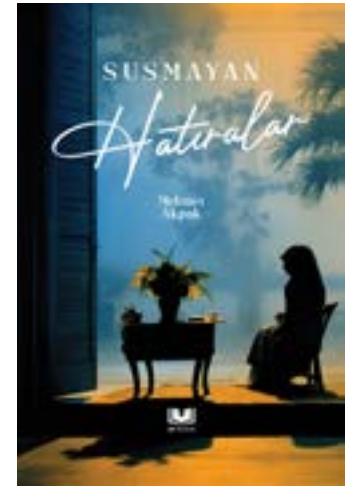
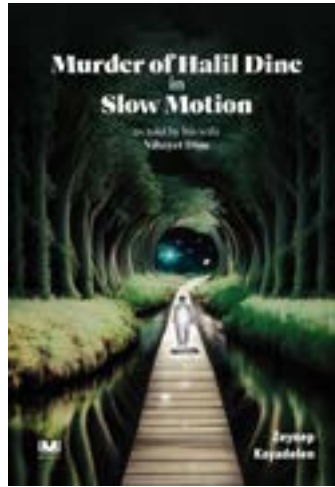
Art For Human Rights: Persecution in Turkey

We can't help but speak up... or in this case, sketch up. If you want to help people, you're reminded to say something if you see something. Our voices hoarse, we now turn to pen, pencil, brush, and other media to squeeze out every last word. We at Art for Human Rights organized this collection to present a fraction of the hundreds of pieces from all corners of the world, from artists who wanted not their voices, but their cause to be heard.

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.



REPORTS



Women's Rights Violations by the Turkish Legal System

The intent of this report is to declare the victims of the 'New Turkey,' especially women with children who have been under persecution since the July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Although the Turkish government does not promote transparent data on the number of children imprisoned with their mothers.

Freedom Convention

Turkey Freedom Forum is a unique convention for human rights activists, intellectuals, and policymakers focused on human rights violations in Turkey organized by AST. In pursuance of justice and peace, this forum aims to bring hundreds of human rights defenders and activists together and to foster the dynamics to mobilize. This report will focus on five unique panel topics and will highlight outstanding discussions.



Turkey's Human Rights Record in Numbers

We dedicate this book to all innocent victims of human rights violations, especially to the victims, who lost their lives due to the harsh manifestations of the State of Emergency and Decree Laws.

According to the Global Crime Index report published in 2021, Turkey ranks 1st in Europe in Organized Crime and 13th in the world.

REPORTS



COUP AGAINST JUDICIARY!

THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE TURKISH JUDICIAL SYSTEM AFTER DECEMBER 17-25 CORRUPTION CASES AND JULY 15, 2016 COUP ATTEMPT

The integral principle of democratic regimes, and of a state of law, is the independence and impartiality of the judiciary. As the judiciary is weakened by being exposed to political interventions in countries with weak democratic foundations, it can become a tool of intimidation by dictatorial administrations.

Collapse of Rule of Law in Turkey

There are numerous reports illuminating the collapse of rule of law and the judicial independence in Turkey. The lack of fair trials, the denial of the right to defense, and political interference in ongoing cases summoned close-up scrutiny from international organizations to the nature of post-coup trials, causing debilitating damage to the credibility of trials at all.



DID YOU KNOW THAT ECHR RULED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY?: NO PUNISHMENT WITHOUT LAW!

The European Court of Human Rights ruled that the rights of a Turkish teacher, Yalcinkaya, convicted of what prosecutors called terrorism offences had been violated because the case was largely based on his use of a phone app.

The court said its ruling could apply to thousands of people convicted following an attempted coup in Turkey in 2016 after the prosecution presented use of the ByLock encrypted messaging app as evidence of a crime.

In its judgement, the court found the case had violated the European

DID YOU KNOW?

Convention on Human Rights, namely the right to a fair trial, the right to freedom of assembly and association and the right of no punishment without law. The ruling is a milestone in the ongoing pursuit of justice and democracy in Turkey underscoring the role of international pressure in urging not only Turkey but also other nations to adhere to the rule of law.

REPORTS



Erdogan's Long Arms: Abductions in Turkey and Abroad

It is no secret that Turkey's authoritarian political Islamist regime, headed by the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) and its ruler Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, has long been suppressing opposition in the country.

Erdogan's Torture Squads

Government employees who have been involved in the use of torture have been protected by government institutions and officials in Turkey for years and rewarded with impunity. Even when a lawsuit is filed against them, it is ensured that these employees continue their duties and even receive promotions as they are prevented from being sentenced and imprisoned.



REPORTS



<https://tinyurl.com/2b5vt8rm>



<http://tinyurl.com/3ef8krt3>



REPORTS



Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdogan's Turkey

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.



PUBLICATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC JOURNALS & ORGANIZATIONS

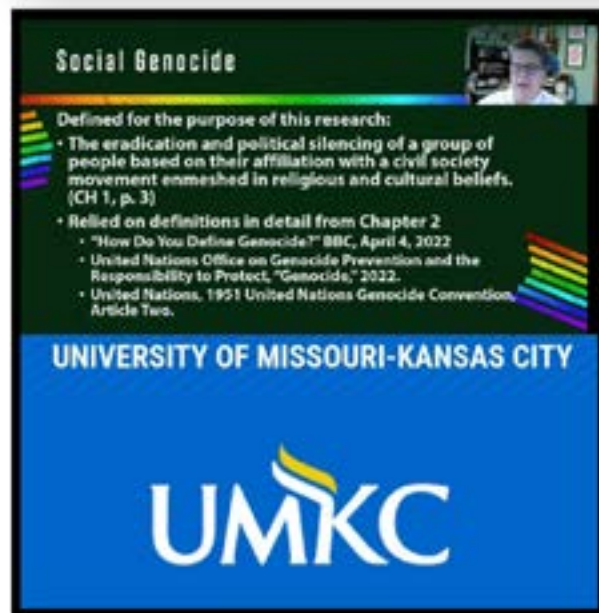
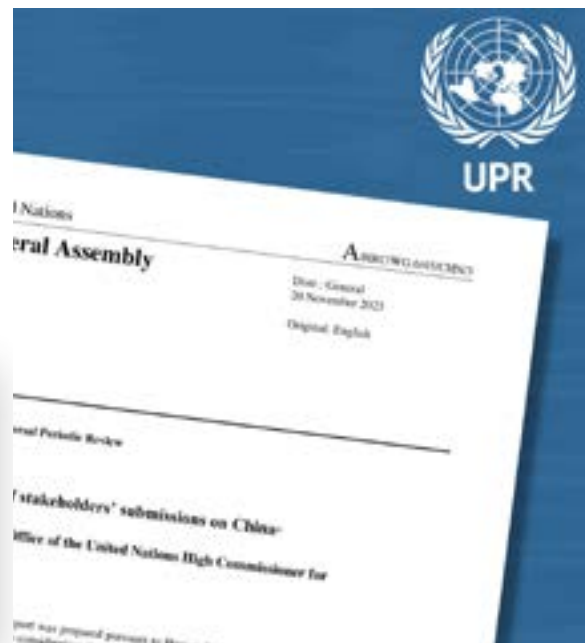
Documenting the narratives of persecuted individuals in Turkey, specifically their real-life experiences, constitutes a significant aspect of our work. To date, we have released numerous books in various languages, comprised of these stories obtained through interviews with survivors of the extensive 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



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.



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


2K+

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


23

Books in English have been published on Amazon

WHAT WE ACHIEVED


336

Videos and Animations produced on Human Rights.

336

550+

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

550+

4

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

4

14

Documentaries produced

14

119

Lectures and panels organized

119

DID YOU KNOW?

DID YOU KNOW THAT TURKEY'S GOVERNMENT IS IMPRISONING WOMEN WITH BABIES AND WOMEN IN POSTPARTUM ARBITRARILY, DESPITE INTERNATIONAL LAWS ADVISING AGAINST THEIR INCARCERATION?

The government of Turkey is also imprisoning both parents who are only caregivers of young children although COMMITTEE on the RIGHTS of the CHILD strictly states that "In sentencing parent(s) and primary caregivers, noncustodial sentences should, wherever possible, be issued in lieu of custodial sentences, including in the pre-trial & trial phase.

Alternatives to detention should be made available and applied on a case-by-case basis, with full consideration of the likely impacts of different sentences on the best interests of the affected child(ren)."

As a state party to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, #Turkey is mandated to "undertake to ensure the child such protection and care as is necessary for his or her well-being" (Article 3), "ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development

of the #child" (Article 6), and "ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will" (Article 9). Yet, the Turkish government infringes upon these vital articles essential for the well-being of critically ill children like Yusuf Kerim Sayin, who tragically succumbed to cancer, Zuleyha Erkol, whose mother passed away from cancer months ago, and whose father is imprisoned despite being the sole caretaker, and the quintuplets, who are children with special needs, along with their parents being incarcerated.

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

73+

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?

DID YOU KNOW THAT DESPITE TWO RULINGS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT, OPPOSITION POLITICIAN CAN ATALAY HAS NOT YET BEEN RELEASED?

Can Atalay has been in prison since April 25, 2022. Can Atalay, a Member of Parliament from the Turkey

Workers' Party (TİP), who was sentenced to 18 years in prison in the Gezi Park case, and who has not been released from the prison despite being elected an MP from Hatay in May 14 elections.



WHAT WE ACHIEVED


20K+

Total Volunteered hours

20K+

**2
MILLION+**

Views on our Youtube Channel

**2
MILLION+**

152

Miscellaneous Events and Activities Organized

152

700+

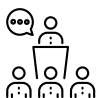
 Volunteers in **30 Countries**
700+

200+

 Programs, Activities, Reports, Books etc produced **ANNUALLY**
200+

100K

Followers in 5 Social Media Accounts

100K

100+

Experts spoke on our panels and Conferences

100+

300+

News, National and International Coverage about our activities

300+

100+

Take Action and Petition Campaigns

100+

1,800+

 Programs, Activities, Reports, Books etc created in **6 YEARS**
1,800+

FREEDOM TRUCKS

250,000+ MILES in 4 years across 25 states in the USA

Activist Fatih Yildirim, seeking to bring attention to the injustices and legal transgressions faced by tens of thousands, including pregnant women and infants, in the post-July 15 witch-hunt in Turkey, has transformed his truck into a mobile platform, touring the streets of the United States. Yildirim states, "My objective is to use this platform to spotlight the injustices and legal violations occurring in Turkey and raise awareness, particularly in America. I aim to share information



about the persecutions and injustices in Turkey by utilizing this platform. This truck serves as my means of communication, and I aspire to make it widely known."



FREEDOM TRUCKS



VIGILS & PROTESTS

AST's primary objectives involve initially maximizing awareness and subsequently leveraging that awareness to instigate meaningful action. Protests serve as a crucial foundation for our ongoing initiatives. With a vast network of volunteers spanning the globe, we possess the capacity to orchestrate protests in numerous locations worldwide.

This has resulted in hundreds of protests across tens of different countries. Notable events include the White Chair protests, addressing the suspicious death of a purged police officer, International Women's Day protests, and calls for the release of babies incarcerated in Turkey's jails. It is essential to emphasize our unwavering commitment to maintaining these efforts, and we extend our gratitude for your continued support.



VIGILS & PROTESTS



DID YOU KNOW?

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS (ECtHR) NOTIFIED THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT ABOUT OVER 1000 APPLICATIONS RELATED TO CONVICTIONS BASED ON THE USE OF THE BYLOCK MESSAGING APPLICATION, FOLLOWING THE YALÇINKAYA JUDGMENT?

The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has informed Ankara **about 1,000 pending applications** related to convictions for Gülen movement membership based on the use of the **ByLock smartphone application**. This comes after a significant ruling in September that declared the use of the ByLock application as neither a reliable piece of evidence nor a criminal offense.

This development follows the Grand Chamber decision by the ECtHR in the case of Yüksel Yalçinkaya v. Türkiye in September 2023. In this verdict, the ECtHR determined that Turkey had breached three articles of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) in the case of former

teacher Yüksel Yalçinkaya: Article 6, pertaining to the right to a fair trial; Article 7, addressing no punishment without law; and Article 11, regarding freedom of assembly and association.

VIGILS & PROTESTS



VIGILS & PROTESTS



REACHED MILLIONS

250,000- 750,000 views per day!



Images and ads play a pivotal role in human rights advocacy by serving as powerful tools to evoke emotions, raise awareness, and galvanize public support. A thoughtfully designed image possesses the unique power to articulate the urgency and severity of human rights issues, rendering them more relatable and impactful for a broader audience.

AST's digital ads strategically placed in prominent locations like Times Square and London have garnered over 10 million views, exemplifying the widespread reach of visual advocacy. These visuals effectively communicate messages drawing attention to human rights abuses in Turkey, inspiring action, and **galvanizing communities** to advocate for justice and equality. The visual medium, with its universal appeal, becomes a catalyst for meaningful change and collective mobilization in the pursuit of human rights.



REACHED MILLIONS



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



EVENTS & PROGRAMS



EVENTS & PROGRAMS



EVENTS & PROGRAMS



EVENTS & PROGRAMS



EVENTS & PROGRAMS



SG MEMORIALS

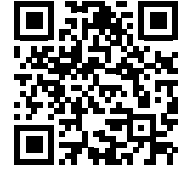


SG Memorial, Chicago, IL



SG Memorial, Rochester, NY.

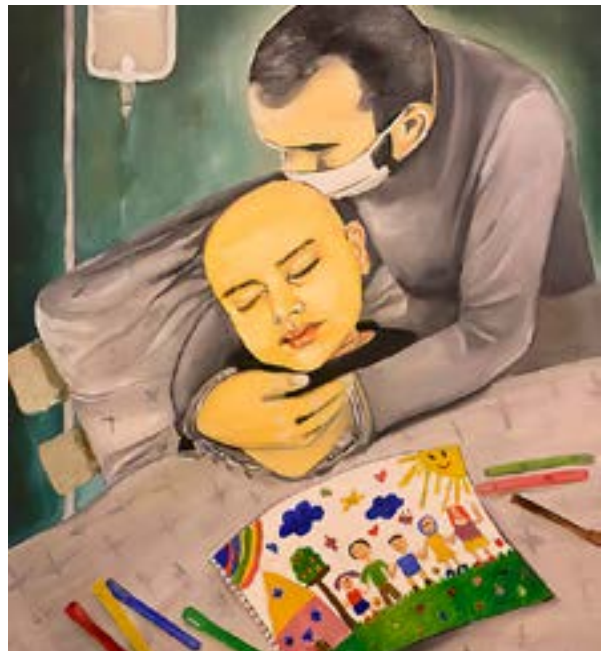
ART 4 HUMAN RIGHTS



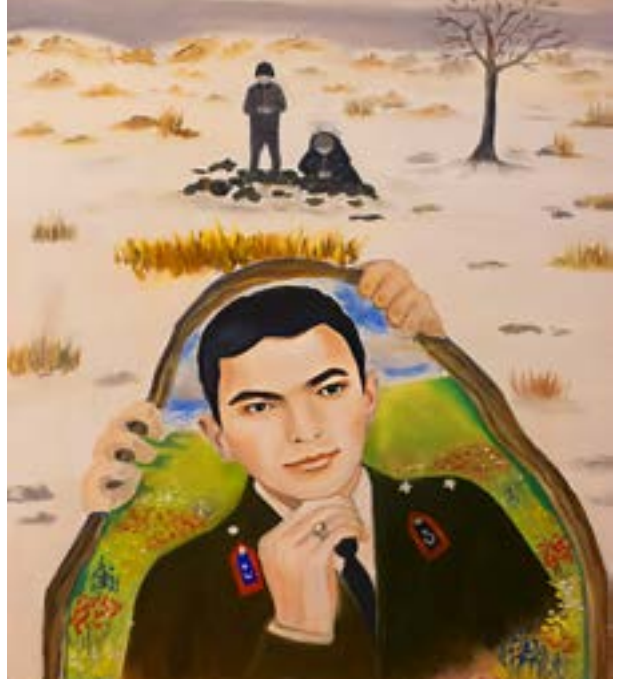
Recognizing that oppressors, dictators, and tyrants employ diverse methods to persecute people, and acknowledging that there should be a variety of ways to voice opposition and resistance, AST seizes every opportunity to advocate for the voiceless, raise awareness about human rights, and speak out against injustice. Art emerges as a potent tool for expressing these messages, with committed volunteers producing impactful artworks that vividly recount the stories of individuals like Garibe Gezer, who met their demise in jail; Ahmet Burhan, succumbed to cancer; Hrant Dink, fell victim to a hate crime on the street; Gokhan Acikkollu, fatally tortured in police custody; and young children who perished while fleeing persecution on boats. The collected artworks are featured in art exhibitions on university campuses, libraries and museums. Each year, the contest is dedicated to commemorating a victim of persecution in Turkey, ensuring their memory is immortalized.



ART 4 HUMAN RIGHTS



ART 4 HUMAN RIGHTS



ART 4 HUMAN RIGHTS



ANIMATIONS



Human rights issues are often complicated, and their portrayal in the media or official documents can be challenging for the public to relate to. In this context, animation serves as a compelling and easily understandable form of communication, with the potential to improve public understanding and empathy toward human rights. As a result, AST utilizes the power of animation to bring attention to injustices and nuances that are commonly overlooked or intentionally avoided.



ABDUCTIONS BY ERDOGAN'S TURKEY



WHAT CAN YOU BUY FOR \$1 IN TURKEY? JAIL TIME?



Özlem Meci ve Diğer Mağdur Annelere İthafen



Mustafa Kabakçıoğlu



Political Prisoners in Turkey and Human Rights Violations



Persecution of Women & Children in Turkey

SONGS FOR OPPRESSED



WALKING DOWN / Yağmur Öztürk

AST acknowledges the significance of engaging with distinct means to address injustices. Taking advantage of every possible convenience, AST passionately advocates for those without a voice and vehemently speaks out against injustice. Music serves as a powerful tool for conveying these messages, thanks to its universal language. Devoted volunteers from various parts of the world actively engage in AST's Songs for Oppressed Contest, utilizing different languages to sing songs devoted to standing up for human rights.



SARILSIN ANNEM / ALP ÇAMALAN



SAYFALARCA / OTASKA



HOPE / Yağmur Öztürk



UNUTMAYIN BENİ / BERKUS

VIDEO CLIPS & DOCUMENTARIES



Short videos and documentaries play a pivotal role in the human rights fight, serving as potent tools for awareness, education, and advocacy. In a visually driven world, these audio-visual mediums effectively convey the intricacies of human rights issues in a compelling manner. Short videos, with their brevity, capture attention swiftly and deliver impactful messages, ideal for social media dissemination and public engagement. On the other hand, documentaries delve deeper into human rights violations, offering context, personal stories, and a comprehensive understanding of the issues, whether it be the plight of individuals like Garibe Gezer or international crimes such as the abuse of Interpol. By bringing these narratives to light, these films evoke empathy, inspire action, and hold perpetrators accountable, serving as a means to expose injustices, amplify the voices of the oppressed, and mobilize global support for the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights.



Social Genocide Exhibition



Birader-i Canberaberim / Hikaye



Garibe Gezer İşkenceyle Öldürüldü



Turkey Deserves Democracy, not a Dictatorship! / London Ads

VIDEO CLIPS & DOCUMENTARIES



ABUSE OF INTERPOL BY TURKEY



"HAKKINI HELAL ET ZEKİ..." / HİKAYE



BEN AYŞEMSİZ NE YAPARIM- DOCUMENTARY



ZÜLEYHA'CA / ŞİİR



SENA'NIN UMUT HİKAYESİ



YARGIYA DARBE RAPORU

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+



AST reached a total of
100k+ plus 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 **705 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



BAILEY HUGHES

Advocates of Silenced Turkey is a vital organization to all those that face the brunt of the Erdogan regime. **Through its work, Advocates of Silenced Turkey has brought awareness to the ongoing human rights crisis in Turkey by creating reports, publishing books, and creating avenues of representation at the European Court of Human Rights.**

Advocates of Silenced Turkey serves as a resource to so many. Advocates of Silenced Turkey has empowered those impacted by the Erdogan regime to share their stories and gives them the opportunities to be heard. Be a part of this incredible movement and raise awareness to the ongoing human rights abuses taking place in Turkey. Do this by donating to the Advocates of Silenced Turkey. Be a part of the movement.

ED STEVENSON

The current politically dominant powers in Turkey have persecuted anyone they feel might raise questions about the actions or integrity of the current regime. Advocates of Silenced Turkey are countering this persecution in a number of ways.

The advocates have supported many who have left Turkey to escape the persecution. They have done this by helping provide general resettlement aid such as housing, work opportunities, and the community of care. I've been most involved in helping with the publication of the stories of those imprisoned and those persecuted, such as young soldiers falsely accused of mutiny, their families, and others.

The most poignant stories have been those of the children of parents who have been treated in such unjust ways, destroying the children's peace and security in their young lives. This is an organization that is working to relieve both the economic and political dislocation of those who have been d, as well as the emotional pain of being unjustly torn from jobs, families, and homeland.

I hope you will support the work of speaking for those in Turkey who have been unjustly silenced by an unjust regime.

TERRY TOWLES

I had the privilege of visiting Turkey a number of years ago, and I was so impressed by the history and the culture that I found there. I was also gratified to see that there was a democracy in Turkey, which was for me, fairly unusual in that part of the world. The Turkish people had a great deal of freedom and autonomy.

But things have changed. Political disagreement is now labeled as dissidence, and unity is now disguised as being uniformity. **The Advocates of Silenced Turkey is an organization that gives a voice to those who are being persecuted. If you believe in human rights and you want to see a return to civility and freedom in Turkey,** then perhaps you would consider supporting AST.

TESTIMONIALS



JUDITH PAULETTE

AST is a group of compassionate souls who cannot turn away. Like many of my friends and neighbors, they cannot turn away from knowing people, who have the same desire to live lives of service to others, are suffering because they are educated, and they want to pass along a better future to those who follow.

They cannot turn away from what is happening to people in a country that was once celebrated as a model of democratization, a source of inspiration for other nations yearning for a government to serve all the people, not just a favored few.

They cannot stand idly by as the Republic of Turkey continues to be transformed under its new regime, which has caused a flood of Turkey's brightest and best to have no other option than to leave the country until it is safe to return.

We in the US are fortunate to have many of these brightest and best among us now, contributing to our own society in amazing ways. They are on the front lines of healing our sick, doing internationally significant scientific research, strengthening our diverse economy, teaching our children, and offering cultural enrichment to us all.

AST is a collective of lawyers, judges, academics, journalists, and countless activists who hold dear the principles of democracy and universal human rights. They include prisoners of conscience pursued by the Erdogan regime, relatives of political prisoners, and victims who have suffered the loss of jobs, property, and family members due to the current administration.

I invite you to find out more about AST by visiting silencedturkey.org. You will see their commitment to utilize all the advocacy tools, mechanisms, and systems that can possibly be used to protect and promote the human rights of those whose voices are being silenced in Turkey and beyond.

TAYLOR QUALLS

I support AST, because everyone, of course, deserves basic human dignity and rights. But beyond that, everyone deserves to have their story known and heard and to be seen.

And there are far too many people who don't have a voice in Turkey, and there are far too many people in America, in the West, who just have no idea what's going on in Turkey and how hard so many people have had to fight just to raise and love their children, and how many people have been denied that basic right to be with and love their families and take care of them.

I want people to be heard, but I also want people to know, because the more that everyone knows, the more we all know, the more possibility there is of change. I hope people will join me in giving to AST and that we can actually bring about change and difference because there are far too many people turning a blind eye, and it's up to all of us working together to make these wonderful, beautiful people whose voices heard.

TESTIMONIALS



TYLER KAUFFMAN

I am a Midwestern kid from the heartland. As such, I was deeply instilled with US American values like freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the right to defend oneself. These freedoms are blessings that will be mentioned this Thanksgiving weekend around my family's dinner table. They are innate to my understanding of what it means to be a citizen of the world, and I believe they should be made possible to everyone.

It often catches me off guard when I hear these freedoms are being restricted to people because of the way they look, worship, or believe because it's simply different than the common majority in the society they are born into.

I support groups where these freedoms are being expanded. That's part of the reason I support Advocates of Silenced Turkey. They are giving voice to those being persecuted because they are different, and their freedoms are being restricted and even trampled upon in some cases.

I hope you will consider supporting Advocates of Silenced Turkey as well, and the expansion of freedoms of all people, so that that way we can grow into being who God created us to be, that we might make the largest impact of difference in the world and in our little sphere of it, our corner of it.

KERIM BALCI

When people support a human rights organization, they usually fail to realize the inspiration factor they are also supporting.

The Advocates of Silenced Turkey is an inspiring human rights organization. We are, all over the world, inspired by the work they have been doing in recent years. I particularly was amazed by their success to integrate local people to their fight for human rights violations in Turkey.

I also took inspiration from the recent Human Rights Festival organized by AST, and we are hoping to duplicate it here in London.

So, when you support the Advocates of Silenced Turkey, you are actually supporting human rights work all around the world.

SAT BIR

This is a message from my heart to those of you who can or is thinking about donating to this effort. Please consider that you're safe, you have a home, you're not afraid that people are gonna come into your home and take you away.

They need you, they need us. Blessings.

TESTIMONIALS



EDWARD STEVENSON, COMMUNITY LEADER, KANSAS CITY

The writers of the pieces in the "Hope Stories" are exceptional young people. I have not met them physically. I have only (only?!?) known them through their writings. Their personal maturity is exceptional. Their experiences are exceptionally fraught in ways most of us, thank goodness, have never known. In many cases the very writing itself is exceptional. And in all that I have read there is an exceptional commitment, an exceptional discipline, an exceptional persistence in seeking hope even in the midst of terrifyingly threatening circumstances.

We are in a time when too, too many of the world's leaders and peoples seem bent on violence, when nature itself seems to be becoming more and more hostile to human well-being, when many even among those who are economically and socially comfortable seem to be turning to tantalizing distractions or simply falling into depression and despair. By contrast these young writers are heroes and should be recognized as psychological, spiritual and moral leaders.

The reason is that they demonstrate a commitment to building and maintaining hope and meaning in the midst of extreme circumstances. Circumstances of sudden, unwarranted arrest and denial of due process of law; circumstances of physical abuse and even outright torture; circumstances of isolation from family and loved ones; circumstances of imprisonment and ongoing verbal and psychological harassment by those who are supposed to be the upholders of justice.

Read these stories. Sense their courage. Observe a maturity that seems far beyond their youthfulness. Then examine your own commitments to justice, to a freedom beyond mere physical and social circumstance. As it has for me, let their hope inspire, enlarge and even strengthen your own.

BONNIE HAGHIRIAN

"I donated to AST because I am a mother. I cannot imagine having my child confined in a prison, away from family, away from life itself. I donated to AST because I have a voice, and those who are silenced have none. When one of us is hurting, we all are hurting."

JAMIE FRAZIER

"We have watched Turkey devolve from an open, multicultural society into an autocracy that imprisons and tortures those who share different opinions or are identified with any group the government deems as threatening. It breaks our hearts that families and friends are separated and suffering only because they seek peace and understanding."

EYYUP ESEN

"I have been volunteering for AST to be the voice of babies/kids and oppressed women and men. AST is the hope of desperate people in Turkey. They are the light at the end of the Turkish tunnel. Please donate so that their fight for freedom and justice can continue."

TESTIMONIALS



RUTH EFIRD, NURSE, NORTH CAROLINA

I was so surprised to receive the book Silent Scream from you when I came back home yesterday! I had been at my son's home for over 3 weeks. I read it crying last night. My heart goes out to the people of Turkey who are silently protesting the Turkish government.

I signed up for the newsletter so that I can keep up with the latest events.

Thank you for sending me this realistic book of oppression of women in Turkey.

MESSAGE FROM THE MOTHER OF GARIBE GEZER; MURDERED POLITICAL PRISONER.

Greetings from Mardin Kenboran to the US.

You didn't forget my Garibe. You wanted to commemorate her in the exhibition in the US. So I would like to send you a memento of her. I watched and saw your exhibition work, I was very pleased. I know that you have not forgotten and will not forget my Garibe.

Hail to the prisoners, to those in exile. Greetings to all Kurds and Turks. Hello Garibe's friends, comrades, those who have not forgotten her.

You always have a place in my heart. You are always welcome. I would sacrifice myself for you since you don't let my Garibe be forgotten. And I will never forget you. I will never leave my Garibe's path and I will not forget her.

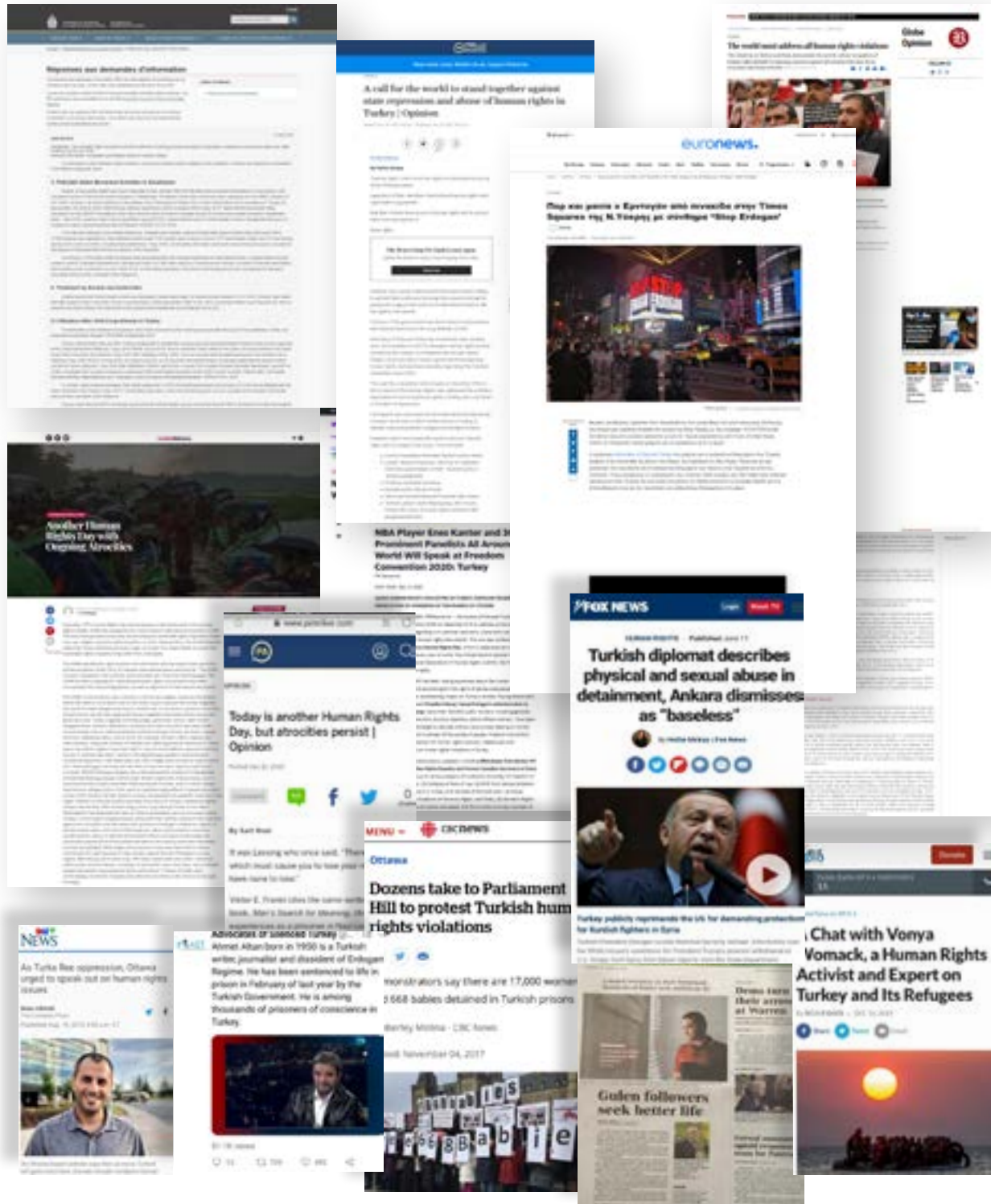
I will never forget you as long as I live. You are the light to my eyes.
My Garibe was unique. I salute you all.

KARI O'ROURKE

The phrase "a particular bundle of silences" caught my attention immediately. The desire expressed by the group of people who will become the participants in this proposed study is that they want to un-silence their voices. In the fourth proposed group of participants for the study, I will examine more than 40 stories and artifacts of lives that have been lost as a part of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's regime's efforts to eradicate the Hizmet people. I was invited to be a speaker at a social genocide awareness event in New Jersey in June 2022. Afterwards, I organized a group of volunteers to bring the exhibit to Kansas City and in September 2022 we presented the exhibit in three venues and I named the exhibit "Un-Muted." The stories of what -happened to these people are the counter-narratives to what the mainstream media in Türkiye presents. The story of Garibe Gezer is gut-wrenching. She was arrested and sent to prison in 2016 and died in 2021 as the result of prolonged torture, isolation and repeated rape. After we shared her story through the exhibit, her mother sent a video message which the Advocates of Silenced Turkey (AST) volunteers translated to English for us. By sharing Garibe's story we ensured that her voice remains present in the historical record despite the efforts of the dominant regime's attempts to silence it. It is critically important to ensure are not lost to the narrative of dominance and oppression.

AST IN THE NEWS

AST REACHED MILLIONS & APPEARED IN THE NEWS 300+ TIMES

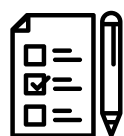


SUPPORT AST



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

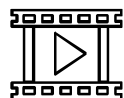


1 UN Application \$2,000 - \$4,000

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

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by making a monthly donation
or one-time donation



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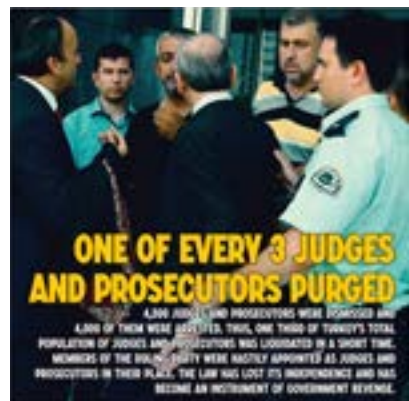
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TURKEY'S ABYSMAL HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD



TURKEY'S ABYSMAL HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD



TURKEY'S ABYSMAL HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD

TURKEY'S HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT IN NUMBERS SINCE THE DECLARATION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY:

- ▷ More than **1,576,000** people were investigated for being members of an armed terrorist organization
- ▷ More than **300,000** people were detained
- ▷ More than **100,000** people were arrested
- ▷ **234,419** passports were revoked
- ▷ More than **152,000** civil servants were dismissed after the declaration of the state of emergency (OHAL).
- ▷ **4,500** judges and prosecutors were dismissed. **4,000** of them were arrested.
- ▷ **1,605** prisoners have been reported to have serious diseases and **604** of whom had major health problems making it impossible to stay in prisons. Their right to life is threatened.
- ▷ **36** people drowned in the waters of Maritsa river and the Aegean sea while trying to escape persecution in their own countries.
- ▷ **144** people have been kidnapped by the state's intelligence forces since 2016, some of them later appeared devastated by grueling tortures. Some are still missing.
- ▷ After the state of emergency, more than **800** people expelled with statutory decrees died due to heavy psychological traumas they had to face or due to fatal accidents in their new but harsh workplaces.
- ▷ For the first time in Turkey's history, more than **17,000** women were arrested for political reasons.
- ▷ A total of over **3,000** children under the age of 6 have been locked in prisons with their mothers, most of whom were detained for political reasons. At one point, nearly **900** hundred babies were growing inside the dark wards of Turkey's prisons.
- ▷ **5,728** institutions were closed and more than **40,000** people working in these institutions were dismissed without any rights, compensation.

TURKEY'S ABYSMAL HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD

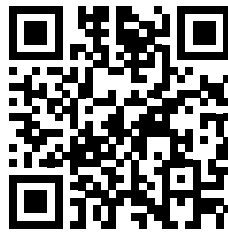
- ▷ A total of **23,427** academics either lost their right to rank or were expelled. Among them, **406** were the signatories of the declaration of peace, **3,041** were discharged from universities that were closed and **7,508** were dismissed from the public academic institutions due to their alleged affiliations with certain political and social groups.
- ▷ With the statutory decrees, **1,598** associations, **560** foundations, **29** unions, **33** television channels, **34** radio channels, **90** newspapers and magazines were closed.
- ▷ With the statutory decrees, the doors of **1,604** high schools, primary and kindergartens, **360** private lessons and study centers, **847** student dormitories and **15** private universities were locked.
- ▷ **985** commercial companies were confiscated with the statutory decrees. The amount of usurped or confiscated assets in the form of personal and corporate bank accounts and movable and immovable assets exceeded **\$30 billion** dollars.
- ▷ **44** journalists were physically attacked.
- ▷ **23** journalists were verbally threatened.
- ▷ **57** journalists were detained for 144 days in total.
- ▷ **6** journalists were beaten in custody.
- ▷ **43** journalists in prison.
- ▷ Trustees were appointed to **59** municipalities that the Kurdish opposition party HDP won in the local elections.
- ▷ Prisons have become overcrowded due to arbitrary detention and political revenge operations. Despite its total capacity of **233,194** people, the number of detainees and convicts remaining in Turkish prisons as of 31 March 2022 is **314,502**. In terms of prison density rate according to population, Turkey ranked first among the Council of Europe member states with about **3,700** prisoners per **1 million** people.
- ▷ The government boasts of spending **20 billion** TL to build **227** new prisons while counting its big investments. **126** of these prisons were built after 15 July 2016.
- ▷ Only in the last two years, **104** detainees and convicts have lost their lives in prisons.
- ▷ An estimated **1.8 million** books were burned or destroyed in 2016.



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

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 www.youtube.com/AdvocatesofSilencedTurkey



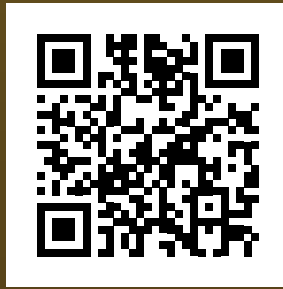
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Human Rights

REPORT 2023



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