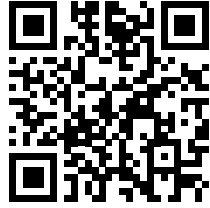


# Turkey's Human Rights Record in Numbers



SILENCED  
TURKEY



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



# **Turkey's Human Rights Record in Numbers**

## **ADVOCATES OF SILENCED TURKEY**

AST is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt, not for profit charitable and educational organization based in New Jersey, USA exclusively for defending human and civil rights.

EIN: 83-1568246

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1.6 MILLION PEOPLE PERSECUTED</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>OVER 300,000 DETENTIONS</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>MORE THAN 100,000 ARRESTS</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>234,419 PASSPORTS CANCELLED</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>152,000 OFFICERS EXPELLED</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>ONE OF EVERY 3 JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS PURGED</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>1,605 SERIOUSLY ILL PRISONERS NOT RELEASED DESPITE MEDICAL REPORTS</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>36 PEOPLE DROWNED WHILE TRYING TO CROSS THE BORDER</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>800 PEOPLE DIED DUE TO PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>17,000 FEMALE PRISONERS</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>3,000 YOUNG CHILDREN GREW UP IN PRISON</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>100 KHK VICTIMS COMMITTED SUICIDE</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>23,427 ACADEMICS WERE EXPELLED</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>1,598 ASSOCIATIONS WERE CLOSED</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>5,728 INSTITUTIONS WERE DEACTIVATED</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>560 FOUNDATIONS CLOSED</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>29 LABOR UNIONS SHUT DOWN</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>33 TV CHANNELS WERE EXCLUDED</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>33 RADIO MUTED</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>90 NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>44 JOURNALISTS WERE TRIED TO BE INTIMIDATED WITH PHYSICAL ATTACKS</b>	<b>30</b>

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>57 JOURNALISTS WERE DETAINED FOR DAYS DURING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>6 JOURNALISTS WERE SUBJECTED TO SEVERE TORTURE IN CUSTODY</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>MORE THAN 43 JOURNALISTS ARE STILL IMPRISONED</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>1,604 PRIMARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS WERE SEIZED</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>360 PREP SCHOOLS CLOSED</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>847 DORMS CLOSED</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>15 PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES WERE SEIZED</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>985 COMPANIES ILLEGALLY SEIZED</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>\$30 BILLION OF PEOPLE'S MONEY WAS ILLEGALLY TRANSFERRED TO THE TREASURY</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>TRUSTEES HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO 39 HDP MUNICIPALITIES</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>309,558 PEOPLE ARE IN JAIL WHILE THE TOTAL CAPACITY OF THE PRISONS IS 233,194</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>227 NEW PRISONS</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>104 DEATHS IN PRISON IN THE LAST 2 YEARS</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>149TH OUT OF 179 COUNTRIES IN THE DEMOCRACY INDEX</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>153RD OUT OF 180 COUNTRIES IN FREEDOM OF THE PRESS</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>LIRA LOSES 94 PERCENT OF ITS VALUE IN A DECADE</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>95TH OUT OF 140 COUNTRIES IN EDUCATION QUALITY</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>117TH OUT OF 139 COUNTRIES IN THE RULE OF LAW INDEX</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>149TH OUT OF 163 COUNTRIES IN THE SAFETY RANKING</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>TURKEY'S HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT IN NUMBERS</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>DECLINE OF TURKEY</b>	<b>54</b>

# PREFACE

Turkey, which was once touted as a model country, has now become a case study of what can happen to a country that moves away from the rule of law and human rights. The painful cries of people groaning at the face of oppression, cruelty and injustice are rising all over Turkey, and what's worse is that the society in general is blind and deaf to these grievances. While Turkey's once-faulty democratic regime is rapidly evolving into a one-man dictatorship, economic and social indicators show that the country is precipitating into a ditch.

Anyone who does not speak out against corruption, turns away from democratic principles, ignores unlawfulness, remains oblivious to human rights violations, and above all, supports them by either keeping silent or speaking, has an open or secret responsibility in the collapse of the country.

As Advocates of Silenced Turkey (AST), we are determined not to remain silent about this ominous aggravation of Turkey's maladies. We see it as an undeniable duty to reveal the picture with all its nakedness and to warn those responsible. In this context, with the study in your hand, we tried to demonstrate with numbers how the AKP government and its leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan's efforts to cover up corruption and unlawfulness with more corruption and lawlessness brought the country. Furthermore, we wanted to convey the cultural and social genocide carried out against the dissident segments of the society and the suffering of the victims, which we have tried to interpret with dozens of studies so far, once more with numbers. Numbers are bland by nature, yet the numbers in this study have the hue of grief and they represent how heavy the cost of straying from the law can be.



# **DEDICATED TO ALL PERSECUTED LIVES**

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.



# 1.6 MILLION PEOPLE PERSECUTED

**SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WITCH HUNT AGAINST THE HIZMET MOVEMENT IN TURKEY, ABOUT 1.6 MILLION PEOPLE WERE INVESTIGATED OVER TERRORISM CHARGES. IN OTHER WORDS, 1 OUT OF EVERY 50 PEOPLE IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY WAS ACCUSED OF BEING A MEMBER OF AN ARMED TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.**



# OVER 300,000 DETENTIONS

**MASSSES OF PEOPLE WERE DETAINED IN THE OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE POLITICAL POWER TO DESTROY THE OPPOSITION VOICES, ESPECIALLY THE VOLUNTEER-BASED GÜLEN MOVEMENT.**





# MORE THAN 100,000 ARRESTS

PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED EVEN THOUGH THEY DID NOT ENGAGE IN ANY ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE TO LINK THEM TO TERRORISM.



# 234,419 PASSPORTS CANCELLED

AS A PART OF THE SOCIAL GENOCIDE CARRIED OUT BY THE POLITICAL POWER  
TO SUPPRESS ALL OPPOSITION VOICES, PASSPORTS WERE CANCELLED.





# 152,000 OFFICERS EXPELLED

WITH THE STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED AFTER THE FAILED COUP ATTEMPT IN 2016, MORE THAN 152,000 CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE BEEN DISMISSED FROM THEIR DUTIES WITHOUT EVEN THEIR DEFENSES HEARD.



# **ONE OF EVERY 3 JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS PURGED**

**4,500 JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS WERE DISMISSED AND 4,000 OF THEM WERE ARRESTED. THUS, ONE THIRD OF TURKEY'S TOTAL POPULATION OF JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS WAS LIQUIDATED IN A SHORT TIME.**

**MEMBERS OF THE RULING PARTY WERE HASTILY APPOINTED AS JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS IN THEIR PLACE. THE LAW HAS LOST ITS INDEPENDENCE AND HAS BECOME AN INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT REVENGE.**



# **1,605 SERIOUSLY ILL PRISONERS NOT RELEASED DESPITE MEDICAL REPORTS**

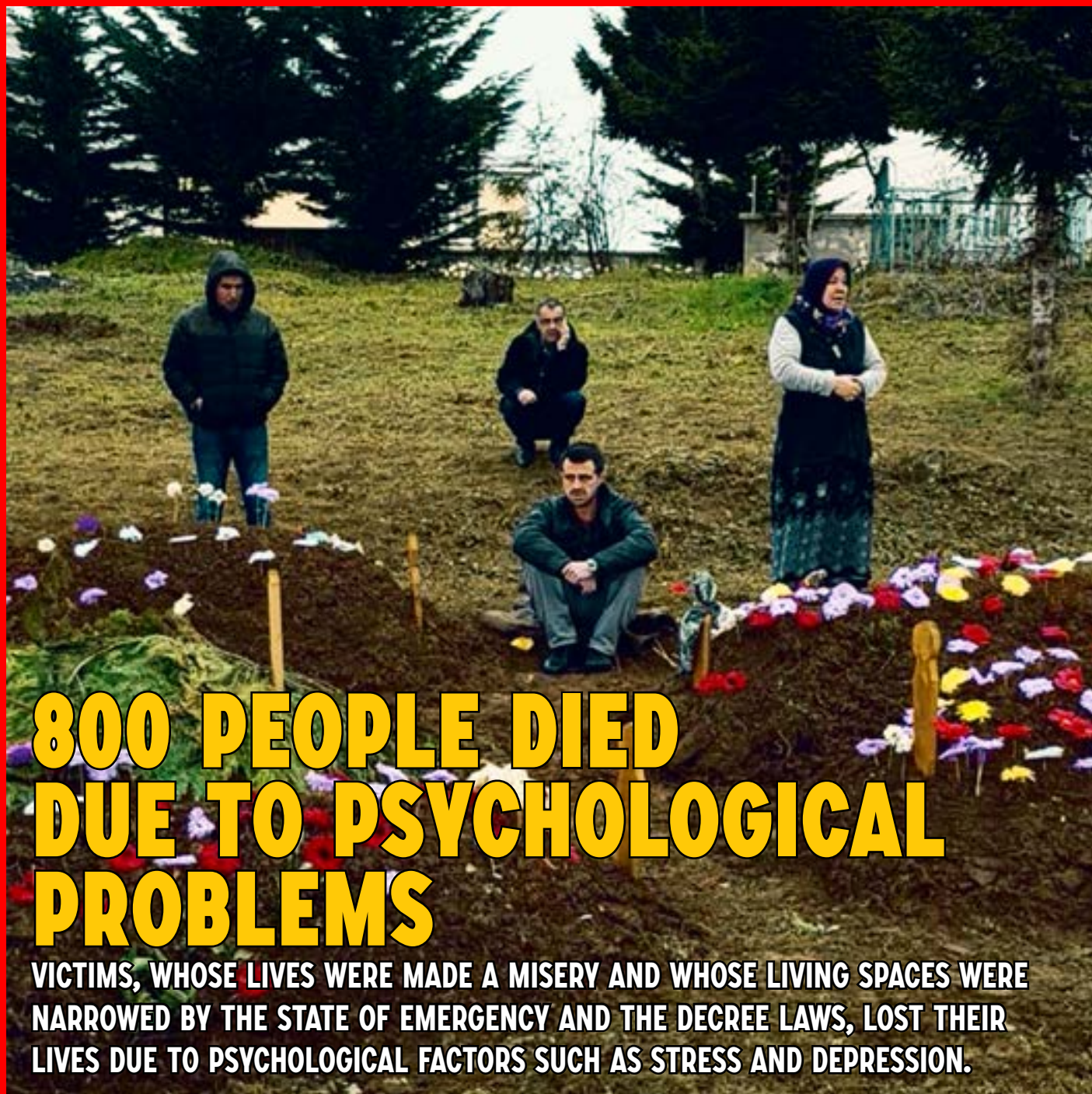
ACCORDING TO A RECENT STUDY BY A HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION, THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS IN TURKISH PRISONS STRUGGLING WITH SERIOUS ILLNESSES WAS 1,605. OF THESE 600, FOUR OF THEM WERE MEDICALLY UNABLE TO STAY IN PRISON. THE REAL NUMBERS ARE CERTAINLY MUCH HIGHER THAN THAT. THE POLITICAL WILL IN TURKEY IS COMPLETELY INDIFFERENT TO THIS INHUMANE SITUATION IN PRISONS AND IGNORES THE PRISONERS RIGHT TO LIFE.





# **36 PEOPLE DROWNED WHILE TRYING TO CROSS THE BORDER**

**36 PEOPLE WHO TRIED TO FLEE THE COUNTRY TO SAVE THEMSELVES FROM THE INHUMANE PRACTICES THEY WERE SUBJECTED TO IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES SUCH AS INTENSE PRESSURE, SOCIAL ISOLATION, IMPRISONMENT AND TORTURE LOST THEIR LIVES BY DROWNING IN THE WATERS OF THE MERIC RIVER AND THE AEGEAN SEA. MOST OF THEM WERE SMALL CHILDREN.**



# 800 PEOPLE DIED DUE TO PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

VICTIMS, WHOSE LIVES WERE MADE A MISERY AND WHOSE LIVING SPACES WERE NARROWED BY THE STATE OF EMERGENCY AND THE DECREE LAWS, LOST THEIR LIVES DUE TO PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS SUCH AS STRESS AND DEPRESSION.





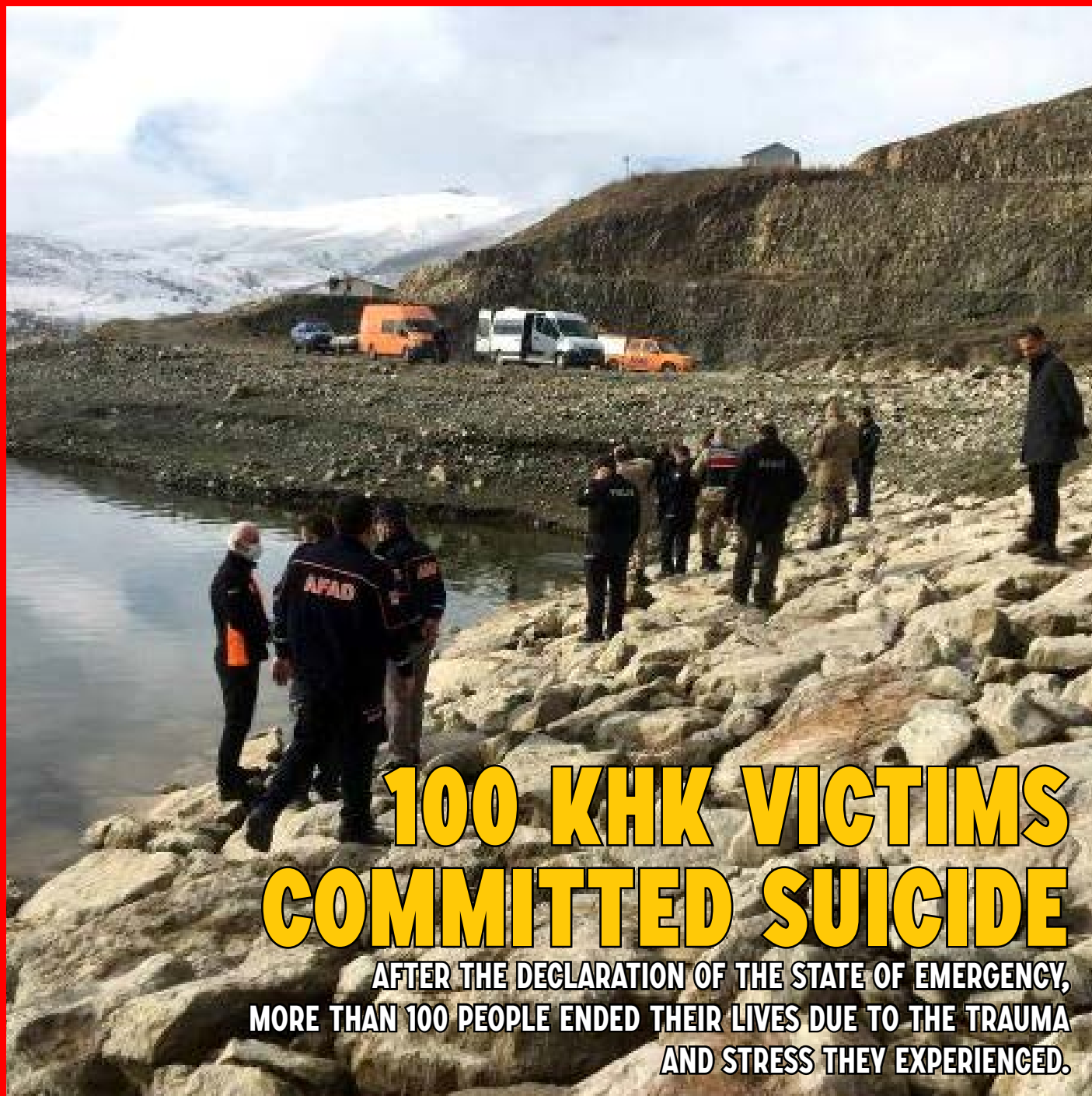
# 17,000 FEMALE PRISONERS

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TURKEY'S HISTORY, MORE THAN 17,000 WOMEN WERE ARRESTED FOR POLITICAL REASONS.



# 3,000 YOUNG CHILDREN GREW UP IN PRISON

MORE THAN 3,000 CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 WERE IMPRISONED WITH THEIR MOTHERS, MOST OF WHOM WERE DETAINED FOR POLITICAL REASONS. AT ONE POINT, ABOUT 900 HUNDRED BABIES WERE GROWING UP IN THE DARK WARDS OF TURKISH PRISONS.



# 100 KHK VICTIMS COMMITTED SUICIDE

AFTER THE DECLARATION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY,  
MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE ENDED THEIR LIVES DUE TO THE TRAUMA  
AND STRESS THEY EXPERIENCED.





# **23,427 ACADEMICS WERE EXPELLED**

**A TOTAL OF 23,427 ACADEMICS EITHER LOST THEIR RIGHT TO BE PROMOTED OR WERE EXPELLED. OF THESE, 406 WERE EXPELLED FOR SIGNING A DECLARATION CALLING FOR PEACE, AND 3,041 FOR WORKING IN CLOSED UNIVERSITIES. 7,508 ACADEMICS AND SCIENTISTS WERE CUT OFF FROM ACADEMIC LIFE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY WERE AFFILIATED WITH CERTAIN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL GROUPS.**







Özel Selçuklu  
**Abdullah Aymaz**  
Ortaokulu

# **5,728 INSTITUTIONS WERE DEACTIVATED**

**5,728 INSTITUTIONS WERE CLOSED AND MORE THAN 40,000  
PEOPLE WORKING IN THESE INSTITUTIONS WERE DISMISSED WITHOUT  
ANY RIGHTS OR COMPENSATION.**





# 560 FOUNDATIONS CLOSED

560 FOUNDATIONS, ALL OPERATING IN FIELDS SUCH AS  
EDUCATION, SOCIAL COOPERATION AND SOLIDARITY,  
WERE CLOSED DOWN DESPITE THEIR LEGAL IMMUNITY.



# 29 LABOR UNIONS SHUT DOWN

29 UNIONS WERE CLOSED. EVEN BEING A MEMBER OF THESE  
UNIONS WAS CONSIDERED A CRIME.





# 33 TV CHANNELS WERE EXCLUDED

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS HAS BEEN SEVERELY DAMAGED.  
33 TELEVISION CHANNELS WERE SHUT DOWN WITH THE DECREE LAWS THAT  
WERE EXCLUDED FROM JUDICIAL REVIEW.



# 33 RADIO MUTED

THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT ALLOW OPPOSITION TO IT, EVEN WITH THE RADIO. 34 RADIO CHANNELS WERE SHUT DOWN, AGAIN THROUGH STATUTORY DECREES.





# 90 NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE INTENSIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE OPERATION OF INTIMIDATION AGAINST THE MEDIA, 90 PUBLICATIONS, INCLUDING TURKEY'S BEST-SELLING AND MOST FOLLOWED NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES, WERE FORCIBLY OCCUPIED AND CLOSED DESPITE ALL CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES.





# 44 JOURNALISTS WERE TRIED TO BE INTIMIDATED WITH PHYSICAL ATTACKS

NOT ONLY INSTITUTIONS, BUT ALSO JOURNALISTS WHO STRUGGLED AGAINST GREAT DIFFICULTIES SUFFERED FROM ATTACKS ON THE MEDIA. DURING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY AND THE PERIOD THAT FOLLOWED, 44 JOURNALISTS WERE PHYSICALLY ATTACKED.



# **57 JOURNALISTS WERE DETAINED FOR DAYS DURING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY**

**THE 57 JOURNALISTS, WHO WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY  
DISREGARDING THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND PRESS,  
WERE DETAINED FOR 144 DAYS.**





# 6 JOURNALISTS WERE SUBJECTED TO SEVERE TORTURE IN CUSTODY

6 JOURNALISTS WERE BEATEN, TORTURED AND SUBJECTED TO  
INHUMANE PRACTICES WHILE IN CUSTODY.





# **MORE THAN 43 JOURNALISTS ARE STILL IMPRISONED**

**TURKEY RANKS AMONG THE HIGHEST IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS IN PRISON, ALONG WITH COUNTRIES SUCH AS CHINA AND NORTH KOREA. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, AS OF THE END OF 2018, A TOTAL OF 130 JOURNALISTS WERE IN PRISON IN THE MEMBER STATES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, AND 110 OF THESE JOURNALISTS WERE IN TURKEY ALONE. WHILE MOST OF THEM WERE RELEASED PENDING TRIAL, 43 JOURNALISTS ARE STILL IN PRISON.**



# 1,604 PRIMARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS WERE SEIZED

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WERE ALSO THE TARGET OF THE SOCIAL GENOCIDE CARRIED OUT BY THE POLITICAL POWER IN TURKEY. WITH THE DECREE LAWS, THE DOORS OF 1,604 HIGH SCHOOLS, PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS WERE LOCKED.

# F E M

D E R S H A N E L E R i

## 360 PREP SCHOOLS CLOSED

WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE PERSECUTION CARRIED OUT BY THE POLITICAL ISLAMIST GOVERNMENT SINCE 2013, WHEN THEIR CORRUPTION WAS EXPOSED, EDUCATION WAS THEIR PRIMARY TARGET. PRIVATE PREP SCHOOLS THAT PREPARE CHILDREN FOR UNIVERSITY WERE THE FIRST PLACES THE GOVERNMENT ATTACKED. THE DOORS OF 360 PRIVATE PREP COURSES AND STUDY CENTERS WERE WIDE SHUT, THEIR ASSETS WERE SEIZED.







# 15 PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES WERE SEIZED

15 PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES, EACH OF WHICH HAS DISTINGUISHED ITSELF IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, INCLUDING TURKEY'S MOST RESPECTED UNIVERSITIES, WERE CLOSED OVERNIGHT BY DECREES HAVING THE FORCE OF LAW. THE VESTED RIGHTS OF THE STUDENTS WERE IGNORED AND THEY WERE SENT TO STATE UNIVERSITIES, WHICH WERE COMPARATIVELY AT A LOWER LEVEL IN TERMS OF QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND FACILITIES.





naksan  
HOLDING

# 985 COMPANIES ILLEGALLY SEIZED

JUST USING THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THEIR OWNERS AND MANAGERS AS AN EXCUSE, THE POLITICAL ISLAMIST GOVERNMENT SEIZED 985 COMPANIES ALONG WITH ALL THEIR ASSETS BY SIGNING AN UNPRECEDENTED LAWLESSNESS IN CIVILIZED SOCIETIES.



# **\$30 BILLION OF PEOPLE'S MONEY WAS ILLEGALLY TRANSFERRED TO THE TREASURY**

**THE GOVERNMENT SEIZED THE MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES OF THE PEOPLE IT WRONGFULLY ACCUSED AND IMPRISONED WITH THE REVENGE OPERATIONS. IT EVEN USURPED THE PROPERTY RIGHTS OF THE SUSPECTS' FAMILIES. IN THESE WAYS, PERSONAL AND CORPORATE ACCOUNTS WORTH MORE THAN \$30 BILLION WERE SEIZED.**





## **TRUSTEES HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO 39 HDP MUNICIPALITIES**

**THE POLITICAL ISLAMIST GOVERNMENT INCREASED ITS PRESSURE ON THE KURDISH PEOPLE IN TURKEY BY ENTERING INTO AN ALLIANCE WITH THE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT PARTY, WHICH STANDS OUT WITH ITS RACIST AND XENOPHOBIC STANCE. IN THIS CONTEXT, BY DISREGARDING DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND INSTITUTIONS, TRUSTEES WERE APPOINTED TO 59 MUNICIPALITIES WON BY HDP, THE MOST IMPORTANT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KURDISH POLITICAL MOVEMENT, AND THE ADMINISTRATORS OF THIS PARTY WERE ARRESTED.**





# **309,558 PEOPLE ARE IN JAIL WHILE THE TOTAL CAPACITY OF THE PRISONS IS 233,194**

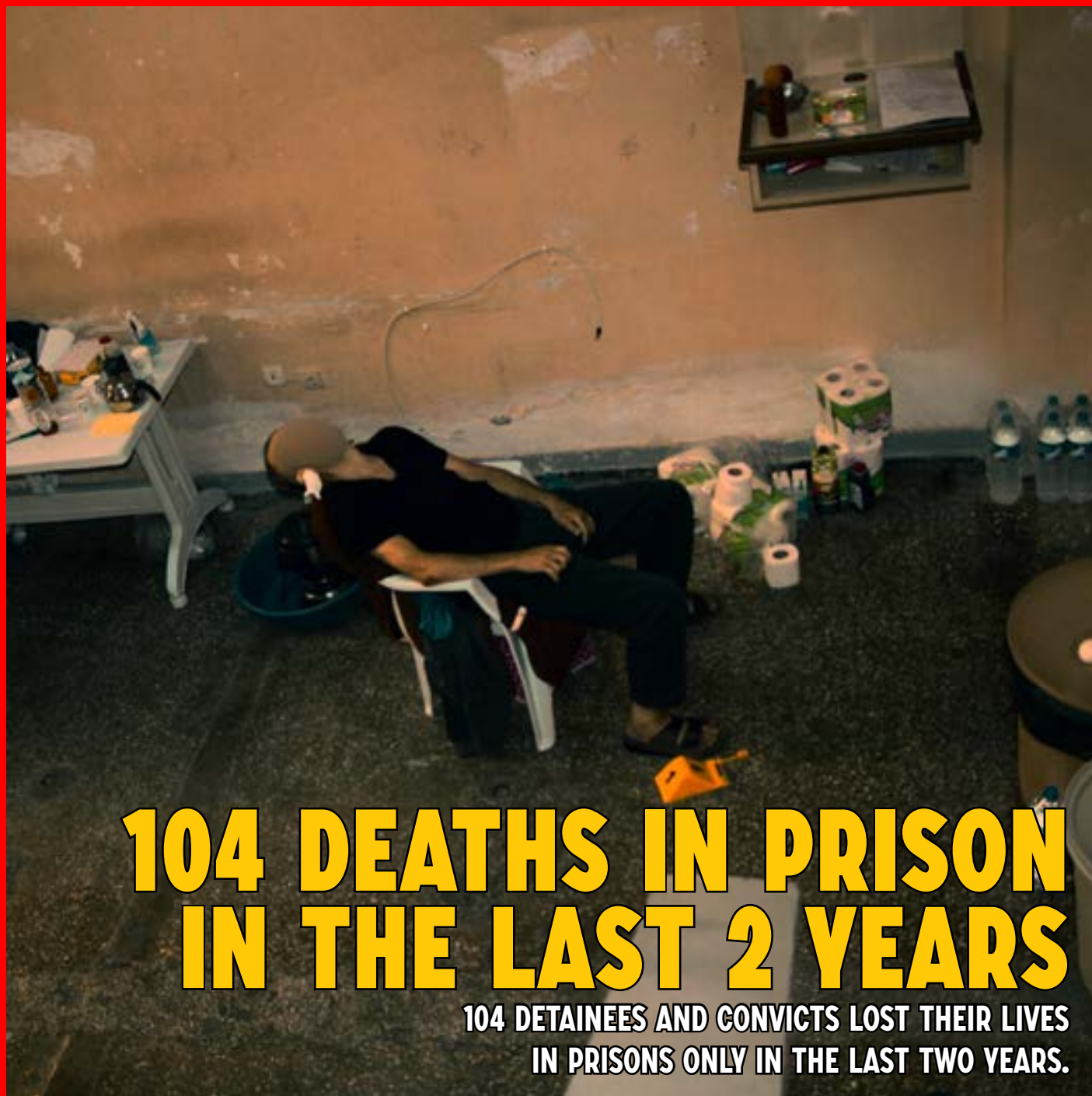
**PRISONS HAVE BECOME OVERCROWDED DUE TO ARBITRARY DETENTIONS AND POLITICAL REVENGE OPERATIONS. DESPITE ITS TOTAL CAPACITY OF 233,194 PEOPLE, THE NUMBER OF DETAINEES AND CONVICTS IN TURKISH PRISONS AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2021 IS 309,558. IN TERMS OF PRISON DENSITY RATIO BY POPULATION, TURKEY RANKED FIRST AMONG COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEMBER STATES WITH ABOUT 3,700 PRISONERS PER 1 MILLION PEOPLE.**



# 227 NEW PRISONS

THE GOVERNMENT BOASTS OF SPENDING 20 BILLION TL TO BUILD 227 NEW PRISONS WHILE COUNTING ITS MAJOR INVESTMENTS. 126 OF THESE PRISONS WERE BUILT AFTER JULY 15, 2016.





# 104 DEATHS IN PRISON IN THE LAST 2 YEARS

104 DETAINEES AND CONVICTS LOST THEIR LIVES  
IN PRISONS ONLY IN THE LAST TWO YEARS.



The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of a Turkish flag that is heavily corroded and rusted. The red field and white crescent and star are visible, but the surface is pitted and discolored. The text is overlaid on the lower portion of the flag.

# **149<sup>TH</sup> OUT OF 179 COUNTRIES IN THE DEMOCRACY INDEX**

**TURKEY RANKED 149<sup>TH</sup> BETWEEN CONGO AND RWANDA IN THE LIBERAL DEMOCRACY INDEX LIST, IN WHICH 179 COUNTRIES WERE EVALUATED, INDICATING GROSS VIOLATIONS OF RIGHTS AND LAWLESSNESS.**







# LIRA LOSES 94 PERCENT OF ITS VALUE IN A DECADE

WHILE 1 DOLLAR WAS ABOUT 1 TL IN 2011, IN 2021 ONLY 6 CENTS COULD BE BOUGHT WITH 1 LIRA. PARALLEL TO THE DEVIATION FROM THE RULE OF LAW, THE VALUE OF THE COUNTRY'S CURRENCY FELL TO ONE 16<sup>TH</sup> IN A DECADE.





# 95<sup>TH</sup> OUT OF 140 COUNTRIES IN EDUCATION QUALITY

TURKEY FELL TO 12<sup>TH</sup> PLACE IN THE WORLD IN TERMS OF INVESTMENT AND TRADE ATTRACTIVENESS AND 73<sup>RD</sup> IN TERMS OF COMPETITIVENESS.

ACCORDING TO THE COMPETITIVENESS REPORT OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM, TURKEY RANKS 95<sup>TH</sup> AMONG 140 COUNTRIES IN GENERAL EDUCATION QUALITY AND 103<sup>RD</sup> IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE.

FORUM'S COMPETITIVENESS REPORT, TURKEY RANKS 95<sup>TH</sup> AMONG 140 COUNTRIES IN THE OVERALL QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND 103<sup>RD</sup> IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE.



# 117<sup>TH</sup> OUT OF 139 COUNTRIES IN THE RULE OF LAW INDEX

RANKING 117<sup>TH</sup> OUT OF 139 COUNTRIES IN THE RULE OF LAW INDEX, TURKEY  
RANKS 69<sup>TH</sup> AMONG 134 COUNTRIES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION.





# 149<sup>TH</sup> OUT OF 163 COUNTRIES IN THE SAFETY RANKING

**TURKEY WAS RANKED 149<sup>TH</sup> OUT OF 163 COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD'S SAFEST COUNTRIES INDEX PREPARED BY THE ECONOMY AND PEACE INSTITUTE. ACCORDING TO THE GLOBAL CRIME INDEX REPORT PUBLISHED IN 2021, TURKEY RANKS 1ST IN EUROPE AND 13<sup>TH</sup> IN THE WORLD IN ORGANIZED CRIME.**



# **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.
- ▷ 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.



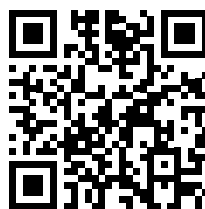
- ▷ **44** journalists were physically attacked.
- ▷ **23** journalists were verbally threatened.
- ▷ **57** journalists were detained for 144 days in total.
- ▷ **6** journalists were beaten in custody.
- ▷ **43** journalists in prison.
- ▷ Trustees were appointed to **59** municipalities that the Kurdish 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.

# DECLINE OF TURKEY

- ▷ Turkey was ranked 149th between Congo and Rwanda in the Liberal Democracy Index list, in which 179 countries were evaluated as an indication of severe rights violations and unlawfulness.
- ▷ Turkey was ranked 153rd among 180 countries in the 2021 press freedom index of Reporters Without Borders.
- ▷ While 1 dollar was approximately 1 TL in 2011, only 6 cents could be bought with 1 lira in 2021. Parallel to the deviation from the rule of law, the value of the country's currency plummeted to one 16th in ten years. Turkey fell 12 places in the world in terms of attractiveness for investments and doing trade and fell to 73rd place in terms of competitiveness.
- ▷ According to the World Economic Forum's Competitiveness Report, Turkey ranks 95th among 140 countries in the overall quality of education and 103rd in mathematics and science.
- ▷ Ranking 117th among 139 countries in the Rule of Law Index, Turkey ranks 69th among 134 countries in terms of fighting against corruption.
- ▷ Turkey was ranked 149th out of 163 countries in the World's Safest Country index prepared by the Institute for Economics and Peace.
- ▷ According to the Global Crime Index report published in 2021, Turkey ranks 1st in Europe in Organized Crime and 13th in the world

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