



THE HUMAN COST OF A DECADE

Turkey's Human Rights Records in Numbers, 2016–2026

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PREFACE

Following the attempted coup of July 15, 2016, a state of emergency was declared in Türkiye. The state of emergency set in motion the most extensive wave of large-scale human rights violations in the country's history. Although it was formally lifted in 2018, the legal and administrative framework established through emergency decree-laws, together with the arbitrary practices that took root during that period, remains effectively in force a decade later. Türkiye also spent 2024 and 2025 under a de facto state-of-emergency regime.

This report seeks to present, in quantitative terms, what has taken place over the ten years since the attempted coup. The data are drawn from the Human Rights Association (İHD), the Human Rights Foundation of Türkiye (TİHV), the Civil Society in the Penal System Association (CİSST), the Union of Platforms for Those Affected by Emergency Decrees, official statements recorded in the proceedings of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, the most recent reports of international organizations, and the documentation work conducted by Advocates of Silenced Turkey (AST).

Numbers, by their nature, can appear stark and impersonal. Yet every figure in this report represents a human life: a teacher dismissed from public service, a baby growing up in prison, a physician stripped of both profession and dignity, or a journalist forced into exile. The data presented below are based on records that could be accessed and documented and therefore reveal only the visible part of a much larger reality. The true scale of the violations is considerably greater.

1. Mass Criminalization: Investigations, Police Custody, and Pretrial Detention

The attempted coup of July 15, 2016, marked one of the most significant turning points in the recent history of the Republic of Türkiye and fundamentally reshaped the country's public sphere. A state of emergency was declared on July 20, 2016. In the period that followed, decree-laws (KHKs) were used on an unprecedented scale. Initially presented as emergency security measures, these decrees soon evolved into instruments that brought about lasting changes to the structure of society and public institutions.

In the aftermath of the attempted coup, millions of people became targets of terrorism-related investigations. Foremost among those targeted was the Gülen (Hizmet) Movement, but Kurds, leftists, and other government critics were also swept into the process. Investigations were often based not on individualized or concrete evidence, but on mass profiling and collective blacklists.

INDICATOR	NUMBER
Estimated number of suspects investigated under Article 314 of the Turkish Penal Code	3.093.084
Persons taken into police custody over alleged links to the Hizmet Movement	390.322
Persons placed in pretrial detention over alleged links to the Hizmet Movement	113.844
Persons subjected to judicial control measures	118.822
Persons released	153.382
Persons currently imprisoned, either convicted or in pretrial detention	11.640
Ongoing criminal trials	24.000
Ongoing criminal investigations	58.000

Under the state of emergency, a total of 131,922 measures were imposed, including the dismissal of 125,678 individuals from public service.¹ The State of Emergency Measures Inquiry Commission, established in 2017 to review applications challenging these measures, issued decisions on all 127,292 applications submitted to it by the time its mandate expired on January 22, 2023. Of these, 17,960 were

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State of Emergency Measures Inquiry Commission, *Activity Report*, January 2023 (ohalkomisyonu.tccb.gov.tr).

accepted and 109,332 were rejected.² In other words, approximately 86 percent of applications were rejected, leaving reinstatement as an exceptional outcome. Presented before the European Court of Human Rights as an effective domestic remedy, the Commission saw its original two-year mandate repeatedly extended in one-year increments, ultimately operating for six years and leaving affected individuals in prolonged legal uncertainty.³

The Commission's jurisdiction was limited to measures imposed directly through decree-laws during the state of emergency.⁴ Yet, during the plenary session of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye on January 22, 2026, a statement made on behalf of the governing party reported that the total number of people dismissed from public service had reached 162,239, while 24,368 had been reinstated.⁵ The gap of approximately 36,500 between these two sets of official figures indicates that dismissals continued even after the formal end of the state of emergency in 2018. Under Provisional Article 35, added to Decree-Law No. 375 by Law No. 7145, the authority granted to public institutions to dismiss personnel was repeatedly extended. This was compounded by the removal from office of judges and prosecutors through decisions of the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors/ Board of Judges and Prosecutors (HSYK/HSK), as well as by administrative decisions taken pursuant to Decree-Law No. 667.

According to the same statement, only approximately 3,000 reinstatements resulted from court decisions. This means that those who were able to return to public service through judicial proceedings accounted for only about 2 percent of all those dismissed. The same speech further argued that individuals who had been acquitted in criminal proceedings or against whom decisions of non-prosecution had been issued were not necessarily entitled to reinstatement in public service, relying on the duty of loyalty set out in Article 129 of the Constitution and Article 6 of Civil Servants Law No. 657. This position demonstrates, at the official level, that the dismissal regime has been institutionalized independently of the outcome of criminal proceedings and that the presumption of innocence has not been given effect in the administrative process.

² The number of applications is current as of December 31, 2022. Source: State of Emergency Measures Inquiry Commission, *Activity Report*, January 2023; see also Medyascope, January 12, 2023, and Euronews Türkçe, January 20, 2023.

³ The Commission was established on January 23, 2017, under Decree-Law No. 685 and began its work on May 22, 2017. Its mandate, initially set at two years under Law No. 7075, was extended repeatedly in one-year increments by presidential decisions.

⁴ Article 2 of Law No. 7075. The Commission's jurisdiction was limited to dismissals from public service, termination of student status, revocation of the ranks of retired personnel, and the closure of institutions.

⁵ Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, Plenary Minutes, 28th Legislative Term, 4th Legislative Year, 50th Sitting, January 22, 2026; speech by Ali Özkaya (Afyonkarahisar) on behalf of the AK Party Group.

2. Dismissals by Emergency Decree: “Civil Death”

Dismissals carried out through emergency decree-laws did far more than deprive individuals of their jobs. Those dismissed also lost their passports, social security protections, opportunities for employment even in the private sector, and their social standing. The result was a severe form of economic and social exclusion that came to be described as “civil death.”

According to official figures announced by the governing party in the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye on January 22, 2026, a total of 162,239 people were dismissed from public service. Of these, 24,368 were reinstated. Approximately 3,000 reinstatements were ordered by courts, while the remainder resulted from decisions of the State of Emergency Measures Inquiry Commission. Accordingly, approximately 137,871 people remain excluded from public service.

Indicator	Number
Dismissed public employees	162.239
Reinstated public employees ⁶	24.368
Women among those dismissed	40.500
Estimated total number of individuals affected by emergency decrees, including the private sector	500.000

Data compiled by the Union of Platforms for Those Affected by Emergency Decrees from lists published in the Official Gazette cover 42 separate emergency decree-laws and HSYK/HSK decisions and identify 134,258 individuals. The discrepancy between this figure and the official total is largely attributable to administrative dismissal decisions taken by public institutions under the authority granted by Decree-Law No. 667, many of which were never publicly disclosed. The number of people dismissed through such decisions is estimated to exceed 500,000. The tables below are based on dismissals for which lists of names were officially published.

Top 10 Public Institutions with the Highest Number of Dismissals

#	Institution	Number of Dismissals
1	Ministry of National Education	34.393
2	General Directorate of Security	31.209
3	Ministry of Justice	11.604
4	Ministry of Health	7.755
5	Higher Education Institutions (Universities) ⁷	7.508
6	Land Forces Command	6.837
7	Local Governments	4.219
8	Gendarmerie General Command	4.105
9	Air Force Command ⁸	3.964
10	Presidency of Religious Affairs	3.330

⁷ This figure represents a total of 6,081 academic staff and 1,427 administrative staff dismissed from public universities under 12 emergency decree-laws. It does not include the 3,011 employees who lost their jobs at 15 foundation universities closed under Decree-Law No. 667.

⁸ The Naval Forces Command (2,400) falls just outside the top 10. If the Land, Air, and Naval Forces are counted as a single institution—the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF)—the TAF would rank third, with a total of 13,201 dismissals. Judges and prosecutors were dismissed through decisions of the HSYK/HSK (see Section 3). Source: Union of Platforms for Those Affected by Emergency Decrees; Human Rights Joint Platform / bianet (July 9, 2018).

Top 10 Professions by Most Number of Dismissals

#	Profession	Number of Dismissed
1	Teacher	34.063
2	Police Officer ⁹	31.209
3	Military Personnel ¹⁰	17.482
4	Academic	6.081
5	Civil Servant	4.363
6	Court Clerk	3.116
7	Judge	3.035
8	Engineer	2.271
9	Correctional Officer	2.187
10	Prosecutor ¹¹	1.525

Dismissals from the General Directorate of Security, by Rank

Rank/ Status	Dismissed
Police Director	1.804
Police Superintendent	877
Commissioner	5.696
Senior Police Officer	631
Police Officer	22.201

The number of police directors dismissed corresponds to approximately 35.4% of all police directors serving within the General Directorate of Security. In other words, more than one-third of the existing senior management cadre was dismissed.

⁹ This figure represents the combined total of police officers (21,424) and deputy commissioners (4,885). Other ranks, including commissioners, chief commissioners, police superintendents, and police directors, are not included..

¹⁰ This figure represents the combined total of commissioned officers (8,775) and non-commissioned officers/specialist sergeants (8,707).

¹¹ This is a calculated estimate, derived by subtracting 3,035 judges from the HSK-reported total of 4,560 judges and prosecutors dismissed. Source: Union of Platforms for Those Affected by Emergency Decrees; Human Rights Joint Platform / bianet for the number of academics; and the HSK statement for the total number of judges and prosecutors dismissed.

Consistency Between Institutional and Professional Data

The two tables complement one another but are based on different units of classification. The institutional table classifies dismissals according to the institution from which an individual was dismissed, whereas the professional table classifies them according to occupational title. Of the 34,393 dismissals from the Ministry of National Education, 34,063 involved teachers, with the remainder consisting of administrative personnel.

Of the 31,209 dismissals from the General Directorate of Security, 28,528 involved police officers and deputy commissioners. The difference is accounted for by higher-ranking personnel—including commissioners, chief commissioners, police superintendents, and police directors—as well as civilian staff.

The figures concerning members of the judiciary require further explanation. Judges and prosecutors were not dismissed through emergency decree-laws, but rather through decisions of the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors (HSYK) and its successor, the Board of Judges and Prosecutors (HSK). In the institutional table, these individuals are included under the Ministry of Justice. The figure of 11,604 attributed to the Ministry therefore includes judges and prosecutors, as well as occupational groups such as court clerks (3,116) and correctional officers (2,187). The figures of 3,035 judges and 1,525 prosecutors shown in the professional table reflect counts compiled from lists published in the Official Gazette.

Passport Cancellations

Dismissals were often accompanied by restrictions on freedom of movement. According to AST documentation, a total of 234,419 passports were canceled after July 15, 2016. The Stockholm Center for Freedom (SCF), meanwhile, reported that approximately 155,000 passports had been seized.

Article 23 of the Constitution of the Republic of Türkiye guarantees freedom of movement as a fundamental right. It also provides that a citizen's right to leave the country may be restricted on the grounds of a criminal investigation or prosecution only by court order. Yet during the state of emergency, the passports of large numbers of people were canceled or placed under restrictions through administrative action.

These measures affected far more than freedom of movement. They also had serious consequences for family reunification, education, employment, and professional life. Many people whose passports had been canceled lost their lives in the Meric (Maritsa) River or the Aegean Sea while attempting to leave the country through irregular routes.

3. The Collapse of the Judiciary

Following the attempted coup, 4,560 judges and prosecutors were dismissed through decisions of the HSYK/HSK—roughly one-third of all judges and prosecutors in Türkiye. A significant number of those dismissed were taken into police custody and placed in pretrial detention.

Indicator	Number
Share of judges and prosecutors dismissed	% 34
Judges dismissed by HSYK/HSK decision	3.035
Prosecutors dismissed by HSYK/HSK decision	1.525

The vacant positions were quickly filled with government-aligned appointees, seriously undermining judicial independence. Lawyers also came under intense pressure. According to the Arrested Lawyers Initiative, more than 1,500 lawyers were prosecuted, 14 bar association presidents were targeted, and 274 lawyers were convicted of membership in an armed terrorist organization. In addition, 34 lawyers' associations were shut down by emergency decree-laws.

4. Academia and Education

Education was among the sectors hit hardest by the dismissals and closures. Thousands of academics were dismissed or lost their jobs when their universities were shut down. Fifteen private universities were closed overnight.

Indicator	Number
Academics dismissed from public universities by emergency decree	6.081
University administrative staff dismissed by emergency decree	1.427
Foundation universities closed	15
Academic staff at the 15 closed universities (2015–2016)	3.011
Students forced to transfer due to university closures	60.000
Books destroyed	301.878
Textbooks reprinted	1.8 million

During the state of emergency, 12 emergency decree-laws resulted in the dismissal of a total of 7,508 people from higher education institutions, including 6,081 academics and 1,427 administrative staff. In addition, 3,011 staff members indirectly lost their jobs as a result of the closure of 15 universities under Decree-Law No. 667.

The breakdown of dismissed academics by academic title shows that the practice extended across nearly every level of the academic profession:

Title	Rate
Professor and Associate Professor	%29,4
Assistant Professor	%27,6
Research Assistant	%27,5
Lecturer	%10,9
Instructor	%3,2
Specialist	%1,4

According to the Ministry of National Education, 301,878 books were destroyed on the grounds that they contained material associated with the Gülen Movement. In addition, 1.8 million textbooks were reprinted because they contained the word “Pennsylvania.”

5. Freedom of the Press and Expression

Following the attempted coup, a total of 249 media and publishing outlets were shut down by emergency decree-laws:

Type of Outlet	Number
Newspaper	53
Radio Station	37
Television Station	34
Publishing House	29
Magazine	90
News Agency	6

At one point, Türkiye had the highest number of imprisoned journalists in the world.

Media and Censorship: Cumulative Data (2014–2026)

Type of Measure / Sanction	2014–2026 Cumulative Total / Current Status	Notes and Period Covered
Bans / Confiscations of Posters, Magazines, and Books	303+	Covers printed materials confiscated under state-of-emergency decree-laws and, subsequently, by criminal judgeships of peace.
Closures of Newspapers and Print Media Outlets	71+	Primarily includes national and local newspapers that were directly shut down under state-of-emergency decree-laws.
Press Card Revocation / Non-Renewal	3802	Covers mass cancellations during the abolition of the Directorate General of Press and Information (BYEGM) and the subsequent regulatory changes introduced by the Directorate of Communications.
Journalists Taken into Police Custody	583	Cumulative total for the period from 2016 through August 2026. Comparable data for 2024 are unavailable.

Journalists Subjected to Physical Assault	354	Cumulative total for the period from 2016 through August 2026.
TV Channels Sanctioned by RTÜK	902	Cumulative total for the 2016–2026 period, including the aggregate number of individual sanctions imposed on TV channels between 2024 and 2026.
RTÜK-Ordered Screen Blackouts / Broadcasting Suspensions	62+	Total number of broadcasting suspension sanctions imposed in 2025 (21 times) and during the first eight months of 2026 (41 times).
Websites / Domains Blocked from Access	1.264.506	Cumulative number of access-blocking measures as of the end of 2024. In 2023 alone, 240,857 domain names were blocked.
RSF World Press Freedom Index	163/180	Türkiye's ranking in the 2026 RSF World Press Freedom Index. Türkiye ranked 159th in 2025.

Pressure on Journalists: Cumulative Data, 2016–2026

Indicator	2016–2026 Total
Journalists Taken into Police Custody	583
Journalists Subjected to Physical Assault	354
TV Channels Sanctioned by RTÜK (Radio and Television Supreme Council)	902

The number of journalists in detention is not added up across years, as it reflects the number held at a given point in time rather than the total for an entire year. The figure peaked at 131 in 2016, fell to 18 in 2020 and 9 in 2022, and rose again to 43 in 2026. Throughout 2026, the number of journalists in prison, including both those in pretrial detention and those serving sentences, fluctuated between 12 and 43 as a result of periodic releases and new detentions.

In addition, nearly 90 journalists were subjected to verbal or written threats in 2025, while six journalists reported being physically assaulted while in police custody during the first eight months of 2026.

RTUK Sanctions

The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) imposed fines, broadcasting suspensions, and license revocations on outlets known for critical or opposition-oriented coverage.

Administrative fines. In 2025, RTÜK imposed administrative fines totaling more than TRY 92.7 million (approximately US\$2.3 million at the exchange rate at the time). The channels receiving the highest number of penalties were NOW TV, SZC TV, TELE1, Halk TV, and Flash Haber. By August 2026, broadcasters had been fined more than TRY 7.5 million in administrative penalties.

Screen blackouts, broadcasting suspensions, and licensing decisions. In 2025, television channels were ordered to suspend broadcasting a total of 21 times. SZC TV was taken off the air for 10 days, while TELE1 was subjected to a five-day blackout. In addition, the terrestrial broadcasting license of Açık Radyo, which had been on the air for 30 years, was revoked. During the first eight months of 2026, RTÜK issued a total of 41 broadcasting suspension orders.

Digital Censorship and International Assessments

Censorship also extended into the digital sphere. According to EngelliWeb data compiled by the Freedom of Expression Association (İFÖD), access from Türkiye to 240,857 domains and subdomains was blocked in 2023 alone. This figure represents new access restrictions imposed during that year.

Cumulatively, the number of websites and domains blocked from access from Türkiye exceeded one million in the first quarter of 2024, reaching 1,043,312, and rose to 1,264,506 by the end of the year.

In Reporters Without Borders’ (RSF) 2026 World Press Freedom Index, Türkiye fell to 163rd place out of 180 countries, down from 159th in 2025. According to RSF, approximately 90 percent of the country’s national media is under direct or indirect government control.

Indicator	Value
RSF World Press Freedom Index Ranking (2026)	163 / 180
Share of National Media Under Government Control	% 90

August–September 2026: Wave of Mass Access

Restrictions

Censorship took a different form during the summer of 2026. Instead of removing individual items of content, hundreds of accounts and domain names were increasingly blocked at once through single court orders. Decisions issued in investigations targeting religious communities and LGBTI+ organizations were justified on the grounds of “protecting national security and public order.”

Investigation and Decision	Scope of Access Restrictions
Furkan Movement — Adana 6th Criminal Judgeship of Peace, August 19, 2026 (2026/10173)	143 X accounts, 91 Instagram accounts, 79 TikTok accounts, 15 Facebook accounts, 14 YouTube accounts, and 7 websites were blocked.
“Alihan Kuriş” Investigation (Süleymancılar) — Ankara, August 2026	Access to 712 URLs was blocked or the content was removed; the “Süleymanlı Haber” website was also blocked.
“Ailem Güvende” — Istanbul 7th Criminal Judgeship of Peace, September 12, 2026 (2026/9559)	Websites and social media accounts belonging to numerous LGBTI+ associations, media outlets, student groups, and activists were blocked; a total of 73 accounts and websites were affected.

These decisions show that the scope of shutdown powers expanded beyond associations and media outlets to include individual accounts as well.

6. Prisons: Overcrowding and Prisoners’ Rights

As a result of arbitrary detentions and politically charged prosecutions, Türkiye’s prisons are experiencing the most severe overcrowding in their history. According to the latest figures released by CİSST, as of August 2026, the situation is as follows:

Indicator	Number
Total Prisoner Population	433.520
Official Capacity	304.278
Occupancy Rate	%142,5
Number of Prisons	402
Pretrial Detainees Not Yet Convicted	65.227
Women Prisoners	21.212
Babies and Children Aged 0–6 Staying in Prison with Their Mothers	883
Child Prisoners Aged 12–18 (232 Girls)	4.636

Prisoners with health conditions are among the most vulnerable groups in the prison system. According to findings published by the Human Rights Association (İHD) in April 2022, there were 1,517 ill prisoners in Türkiye's prisons, 651 of whom were seriously ill. CİSST, meanwhile, was able to document 1,009 ill prisoners between 2015 and 2024. Because the Ministry of Justice does not disclose data on ill prisoners, citing it as "internal institutional information," the actual number is believed to be considerably higher. The daily food allowance per prisoner is only TRY 144 for adults.

Türkiye does not regularly disclose the number of prisoners serving aggravated life sentences. According to the response to a freedom-of-information request submitted by CİSST in 2014, the figure stood at 1,453 at that time. According to the Council of Europe's 2025 SPACE I report, however, a total of 13,050 prisoners in Türkiye are serving either life sentences or aggravated life sentences.

7. Torture and ill-Treatment

Torture and ill-treatment have become one of the most pressing human rights problems in Türkiye. The policy of impunity remains one of the greatest obstacles to combating torture. Such practices have become widespread not only in detention centers, but also in police vehicles, on public streets, and during interventions against peaceful demonstrations.

Indicator	Nmber
People Who Applied to TİHV in 2024 Due to Torture (Youngest Applicant: Age 5)	722
Total Applications to TİHV Since Its Establishment in 1990	21.894
People Taken into Police Custody Amid Torture/Ill-Treatment During Interventions Against Peaceful Protests in 2024 (Including 81 Children)	2.805

According to a joint assessment by the Human Rights Association (İHD) and the Human Rights Foundation of Türkiye (TİHV), in 2024 alone, 2,805 people—including 81 children—were taken into police custody through practices amounting to torture and ill-treatment during interventions against peaceful assemblies and demonstrations. Torture was reported most frequently at police headquarters, in police vehicles, and on the streets.

8. Enforced Disappearances and Cross-Border Operations

Following the attempted coup, enforced disappearances—one of the dark practices associated with the 1990s—once again came to the fore. Opposition groups and human rights organizations reported that at least 128 people were abducted or subjected to enforced disappearance. Most of the victims were dismissed public servants linked to the Gülen Movement. Some resurfaced days later bearing severe signs of torture, while others remain missing.

Indicator ¹²	Number
Alleged Cases of Enforced Disappearance or Abduction	128
Persons Handed Over to Turkish Authorities from Various Countries	126

9. Civil Society Organizations Shut Down

Emergency decree-laws were used to shut down not only public institutions, but also associations, foundations, trade unions, private schools, student dormitories, hospitals, and media organizations, without judicial review. Even membership in these organizations was treated as a criminal offense.

Type of Institution Shut Down ⁿ	Number
Association	1.598
Foundation	560
Trade Union	29
Television Channel	34
Radio Station	37
Newspaper	53
Magazine	90
University	15
Primary and Secondary Education Institution	1.604
Student Dormitory	847
Company (Seized)	985

12 Source: UK Home Office, *Country Policy and Information Note: Gülenist Movement, Turkey* (February 2022).

2026: A New Wave of Dismantling Through Trustee Appointed Seizures

Although the emergency-decree period had formally ended, the practice of dismantling civil society continued through similar means: mass detentions, asset seizures, and the appointment of government trustees. In the summer of 2026, three successive waves of investigations simultaneously targeted religious communities and rights organizations.

Indicator	Number
Individuals and Entities Subject to Legal Action in the “Ailem Güvende” Operations (15 Provinces)	162 individuals, 9 associations, 13 businesses
Individuals Arrested in the “Alihan Kuriş” Investigation	81 individuals
Entities Seized in the Same Investigation	50 companies, 4 associations

Süleymancılar (“Alihan Kuriş” investigation): On August 13, 2026, the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office launched an investigation into the Süleymancılar religious community under the designation “Alihan Kuriş criminal organization for financial gain.” As part of the investigation, searches were carried out at 123 addresses across 17 provinces. By August 29, 2026, legal proceedings had been initiated against 124 people; 81 had been placed in pretrial detention; 50 companies and four associations had been seized; and trustees had been appointed to manage the companies. Citing reports by the Financial Crimes Investigation Board (MASAK), prosecutors alleged that more than TRY 100 billion had been transferred abroad through individuals and companies linked to the group.

Furkan Movement: On August 19, 2026, the Adana Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office carried out operations at 49 addresses across six provinces targeting the Furkan Foundation and the Furkan Movement. Management trustees were appointed to five companies. On August 22–23, 2026, 35 people, including Alparslan Kuytul and his wife, were placed in pretrial detention, while 18 others were released under judicial control measures. The movement argued that the operation was political rather than legal, pointing to 136 previous acquittals of its members. In 2018, three associations linked to the movement had been shut down under Decree-Law No. 701, and Kuytul and two foundation executives were acquitted in 2020 in the ensuing criminal case.

“Ailem Güvende” operations: On September 12–13, 2026, coordinated operations targeting LGBTI+ rights organizations and individuals were carried out across 15 provinces under the coordination of the chief public prosecutors’ offices in Istanbul, Ankara, İzmir, Aydın, and Mersin. According to a statement by the Ministry of Justice, legal proceedings were initiated against 162 people, nine associations, and 13 businesses. In Ankara, members of the executive and supervisory boards of the Kaos GL Association, including substitute members, were taken into police custody during nighttime raids on their homes, and the association’s office was searched. Authorities also announced that funds allegedly transferred to the associations from abroad were being investigated.

International reactions: The European Parliament’s Türkiye Rapporteur, along with United Nations special rapporteurs on human rights defenders and freedom of assembly, described the operations as an escalation of repression in Türkiye and called for the release of those detained. The Turkish Medical Association and the Psychiatric Association of Türkiye noted that organizations working in the field of HIV had also been targeted and stated that the measures posed a direct threat to the right to health.

10. Seized Assets

The government seized the movable and immovable property of individuals it had placed in pretrial detention or dismissed from public service. In many cases, the property rights of suspects’ family members were also violated. According to estimates based on data from the Savings Deposit Insurance Fund (TMSF), the net value of the seized assets is approximately US\$30–32 billion.

Number of Companies Seized and Their Assets, 2016–2026

Indicator	Value
Companies Unlawfully Seized	2429
Estimated Net Value of Seized Assets	~ \$32 billion

11. Right to Life, Deaths, and Suicides

During the state of emergency, 101 people affected by emergency decrees died by suicide amid trauma, stress, and depression. Over the past ten years, a total of 1,362 people affected by emergency decrees have died from causes linked to the consequences of the state of emergency.

Indicator	Number
People Affected by Emergency Decrees Who Died by Suicide	101
Deaths in Prison Among People Affected by Emergency Decrees	158
People Who Drowned While Attempting to Cross the Border (Mostly Children)	37

The right-to-life picture in Türkiye is not limited to post-coup repression. According to the Human Rights Association's (İHD) 2024 report, at least 6,094 people were killed and 434 were injured as a result of various causes, including armed conflict, workplace deaths, gender-based violence, and official error or negligence. This figure is a separate overall indicator and is not included in the data above concerning people affected by emergency decrees.

12. Türkiye's Decline in International Indices

The developments of the past decade have also been reflected in international indices. Türkiye's departure from the rule of law has steadily pushed the country downward in rankings on press freedom, democracy, security, and judicial independence.

Index	Year	Türkiye's Ranking	Number of Countries Evaluated
RSF World Press Freedom Index	2016	151	180
RSF World Press Freedom Index	2026	163	180
Liberal Democracy Index (V-Dem)	2026	149	179
Rule of Law Index (WJP)	2021	117	139
World's Safest Countries Index	2026	136	163
Quality of Education (WEF)	2019	95	140

When RSF published its first index in 2002, Türkiye ranked 100th out of 139 countries. Since then, its position has steadily declined, falling to 163rd out of 180 countries in 2026. RSF places Türkiye in the “very serious” category. These rankings provide a concrete measure of the country’s departure from the rule of law and human rights.

Conclusion

The ten years since July 15, 2016, have become a case study in how high the cost of moving away from the rule of law can be. More than two million people were investigated. According to official figures, 162,239 public servants were dismissed, and hundreds of thousands of people were stripped of their jobs and dignity. Tens of thousands were placed in pretrial detention. Children grew up in prisons, sick prisoners were unable to receive treatment, journalists were silenced, and civil society organizations were shut down.

Although the state of emergency has formally ended, the system it created remains in place in practice. The figures presented in this report are limited to the records that could be accessed and represent only the visible tip of the iceberg.

As Advocates of Silenced Turkey, we will continue to document this reality and give voice to the silent cries until universal human rights and democratic governance are re-established as the highest principles of the Republic of Türkiye.

Sources

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Note: Some numerical discrepancies exist among the sources. This report relies on official statements and the most recent data available from the organizations cited above; where figures differ, both values have been provided. The figures are based on records that could be accessed. The true scale of the violations is greater.

Note on the Data

The quantitative data presented in this study were compiled from accessible official records, reports by national and international organizations, civil society research, academic publications, and open-source materials. In areas where comprehensive and publicly available official statistics for the period under review were not available, data from multiple sources were compared and used together. For some of the issues covered in this report, public institutions did not publish regular, comprehensive, and publicly accessible official statistics for the period examined. As a result, data from different sources were compared and, to the extent possible, cross-checked before being used. Accordingly, different sources may report different figures for the same issue, and some of the data may reflect the numbers that could be identified and verified from the available sources rather than definitive or final totals. The data presented in this report therefore constitute a compilation based on the sources available at the time the study was prepared. For this reason, some figures may vary depending on the source and should not necessarily be interpreted as definitive official totals. The data presented in this report constitute a compilation based on sources available at the time the study was prepared.

