



# Turkey COI Presentation

RAIO Research Unit

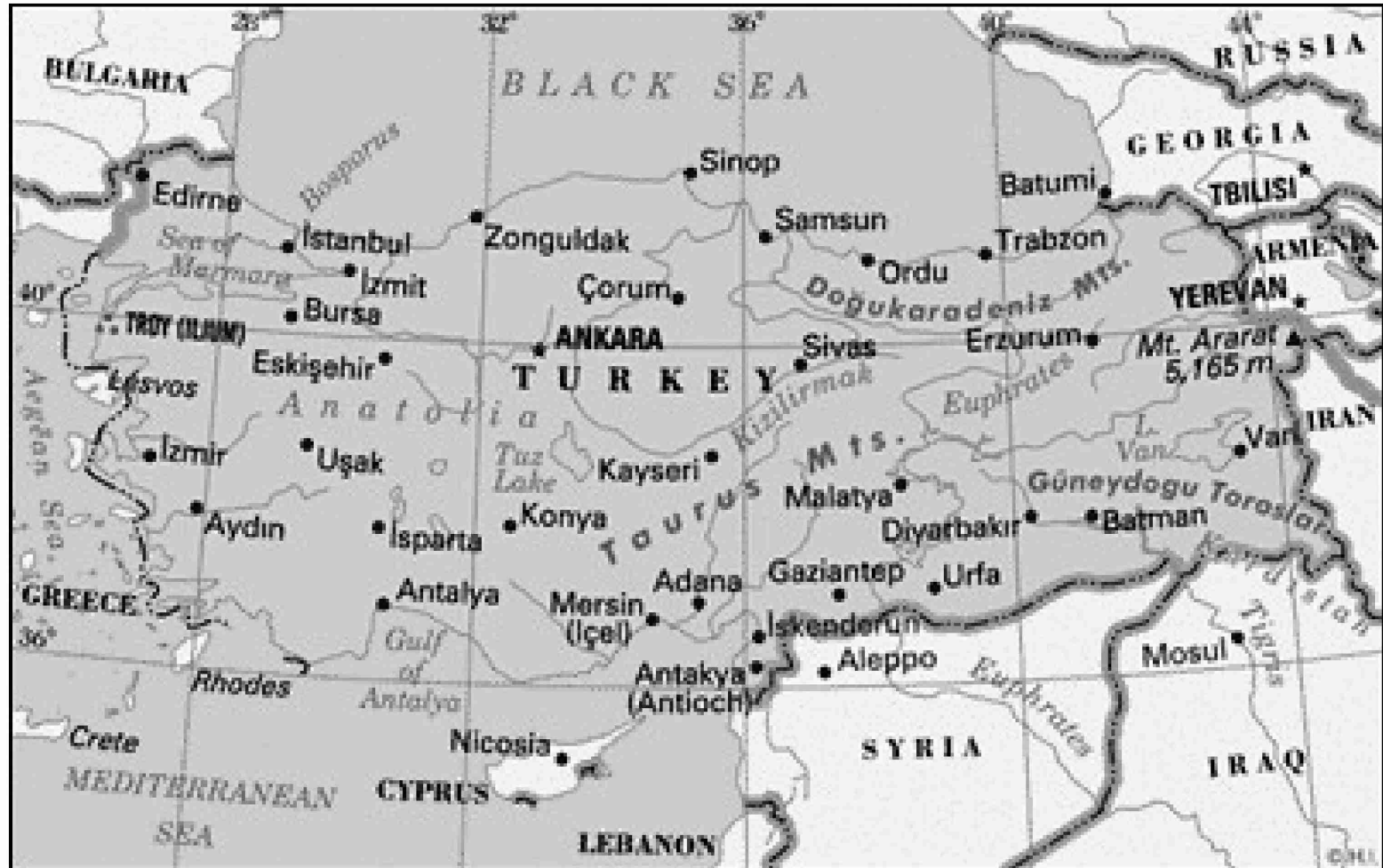
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# Turkey and Neighboring Countries



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# Religion in Turkey

- Muslim 99.8% (mostly Sunni ~80%), other 0.2% (mostly Christians and Jews)
- The category of Muslim here is very broad in Turkish Law and includes:
  - Sufi – The main orders include Mevlevis, Naqshbandi, Bektashi, Halveti-Jerrahi Order/Çerrahi tarikat, Qadirriyah but the teachings of Said Nursi and Fethüllağ Gülen fall under the Sufi tradition writ large
  - Alevis
  - Ja'afaris/Caferis
  - Additionally there are approximately 10,000 Baha'i in Turkey



# Treaty of Lausanne implications for minorities- religious and ethnic

- The treaty was signed on 24th of July 1923
- The status of minorities in Turkey has been internationally certified by the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne, according to which there are legally ***only non-Muslim minorities in Turkey***
- The treaty guarantees special protection for rights such as private education for officially designated minorities. Minorities include (non-exhaustive): Greek Orthodox Christians and Armenian Christians
- Not included (non-exhaustive): Caferis, Alevis, Syriac Christians, Kurds and Roma



# A brief history of Turkish Secularism

- The Ottoman Empire was officially dissolved in 1922, and in July 1923 the modern state of Turkey was officially recognized
- 1928 - Turkey becomes secular: clause retaining Islam as state religion removed from constitution.
- The military has long seen itself as the "guardian of Turkish democracy", which it defines as the staunchly secular state created by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the modern Turkish republic. It has directly intervened three times in Turkish politics, and in 1997 it carried out what some scholars describe as a "postmodern coup".



# Ja'afaris/Caferis in Turkey

- There are approximately 3 million Caferis in Turkey today
- The Caferi presence in Turkey is a result of the fact that their historical homeland in the province of Igadir was transferred from Russia to Turkey when the borders of the latter were drawn. Most Caferis are ethnically Azerbaijani Turks. However, they define themselves primarily as a religious group belonging to Shi'a Islam.
- While the state allocates substantial funds to provide religious services for Sunni Muslims: to pay the salaries of imams, construct mosques and oversee pilgrimage, it does not provide any funding to non-Sunni Muslims
- the religious affairs of all Muslims are subjugated to state control through the Diyanet. Caferis are not permitted to have representation in this institution



# Alevi In Turkey

- Alevism is considered to be a branch of Shi'a Islam and the name is thought to mean "adherent of Ali". Due to name similarities misconceptions have existed in the past that Alevi in Turkey and Alawites in Syria are the same religion. However, Alevism and Alawism are separate and distinct sets of beliefs.
- Alevi are the largest minority religion in Turkey, but they are viewed by the Turkish government to be a heterodox Muslim 'sect' rather than a different religion
- The relationship between the Alevi and the Government of Turkey is contentious and has a very violent history. Historically the Alevi community were marginalized under the Ottoman Empire. A majority of Alevi are Kurdish.
- Despite the Alevi history of persecution, since 2007 when Prime Minister Erdogan announced the "year of opening" with the Alevi community the status of Alevi in Turkey the physical security and religious freedom of the Alevi has improved



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# Armenian Christians in Turkey

- The Armenian Apostolic Church is an Eastern Orthodox Church, the largest Christian denomination in Turkey
- The population is unknown with estimates ranging up to 70,000. The vast majority live in Istanbul
- From approximately 1915-1918 the Ottoman Empire carried out an act that the US Government has not recognized legally as genocide but that many parties have described as a genocide
- Armenians today report experiencing of discrimination in society
- Armenians in Turkey have been killed in recent years, most notably the 2007 assassination of Hrant Dink but other notable cases include Sevag Balikci (killed by fellow soldiers in military service) and Maritsa Kucuk (85- year old stabbed in front of her home in Istanbul)





# Jehovah's Witnesses in Turkey

**MAY 24, 2016** — The ECHR rules that Turkey must recognize Kingdom Halls as “places of worship”

**JULY 31, 2007** — Government grants legal registration to Jehovah's Witnesses

**JUNE 19, 1985** — Supreme Court decision acknowledges Jehovah's Witnesses as a religious group

**DECEMBER 2, 1981** — A military court in Istanbul declares that Jehovah's Witnesses are an accepted religion

**APRIL 17, 1973** — Military Supreme Court decides that becoming one of Jehovah's Witnesses is illegal

**EARLY 1930's** — First group of Jehovah's Witnesses organizes for worship



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# Judaism in Turkey

- between 15,500 and 21,000 Jews in Turkey as of 2002. The majority of Turkish Jews live in Istanbul, but there is also a Jewish community in Izmir. Small Jewish communities exist in Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Canakkale, Iskenderun, and Kirklareli.
- In 1986, Jewish worshippers in Istanbul were murdered by terrorists, and a pattern of emigration to countries such as Israel and the United States in successive decades saw the Jewish community in Turkey shrink
- In 2015, Hanukkah was celebrated with an open display for the first time, with Turkish President Erdoğan sent his regards to the community



# Ethnic Groups in Turkey

- Major Ethnic Groups in Turkey include:
- Turks
- Kurds
- Laz
- Caucasians (Abkhazians, Chechens, Circassians, Daghistanis, Ossetians and various Turkic groups)
- Romani



# Romani People in Turkey

- Roma live all across Turkey and, in terms of absolute numbers, are not concentrated in any particular region
- The population of Roma and similar social groups in Turkey is between 2 million and 5 million: their exact numbers remain unknown as most Roma live in overcrowded households and many do not have identity cards.
- There are three main groups of Roma in Turkey: the Dom who live in south-east Anatolia, the Lom who live in northeast Anatolia, and the Rom who live in western Anatolia.
- Roma in Turkey have suffered a long history of exclusion, discrimination and negative stereotypes
- There has been an uptick in violence against Romani people since 2010, including by Turkish state actors
- The majority of Romani people continue to be subjected to discrimination especially with regards education, employment and



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# LGBT+ Issues in Turkey

- LGBT+ relationships are not banned in Turkey, but members of the LGBTI+ community face scores of legal restrictions and hostility from society, with same-sex marriage still not recognized.
- Homophobia and transphobia are widespread in a country where LGBT+ pride marches have been banned since 2016.
- LGBT+ pride marches were originally banned under emergency law after the 2016 Coup attempt. Despite Emergency law ending in July 2018, Turkish courts have found ways to extend the ban.
- On 23 May 2018, the Turkish Constitutional Court ruled that calling LGBT+ people perverts on media cannot be considered hate speech, as it falls under freedom of expression



# Said Nursi

Aziz Üstad Bediüzzaman Said Nursi (1876-1960) was a Kurdish Islamic modernist who founded the nondenominational Nur Movement (Nurçuluk), which advocated for a reinterpretation of Islam according to the needs of a modern society. Nursi was born in Eastern Turkey and was a member of a Naqshbandi brotherhood. In 1907 he began advocating for the creation of an academic curriculum integrating religious and secular sciences. He became a member of the Young Turks and participated actively in the constitutional reform movement. At various times, Nursi was arrested on accusations of participating in or encouraging rebellions against the government. While in prison he began to write the highly influential *Risale-i Nur* (“Epistles of Light”), an expansive commentary on the Qur’an.



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# The Nur Movement

- The Nur Movement spread rapidly in the wake of the dissolution of Sufi brotherhoods in 1925. Its members, organized into “reading circles,” understood Islam as a self-disciplining and moralizing force capable of transforming Turkish society. They sought—and seek—to revive Islam in Turkey by reconciling it with modern sciences, and have been adept at using mass communication as a vehicle for Nursi’s ideas.
- Nursi’s death in 1960 and later political and economic disagreements along regional, socioeconomic, generational, and ethnic lines led to a fragmentation of the movement. Of the groups to emerge, the strongest and most influential by far is the Gülen Movement of Fethullah Gülen, which has explicitly embraced political engagement.



# Fethullah Gülen



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# Hizmet/The Gülen Movement

- “A healthy modern society has three attributes and these three things are the strength of Democracy

- 1) Communal Harmony
- 2) Hard Work
- 3) Productivity

Gülen exhorts his followers to strengthen their nation and to embrace the larger family of Humanity through three spiritual devices

- 1) Modesty
- 2) Tolerance
- 3) Devotion of the self to Humanity”



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# Alliance for Shared Values

“Inspired by the work of Mr. Fethullah Gulen, the Alliance for Shared Values is an umbrella non-profit organization serving as a voice for civic, culture and service organizations around the U.S dedicated to promoting community service, education and interfaith dialogue. The Alliance’s member organizations are founded by individuals who are participants in the Hizmet social initiative. The Alliance works with people and organizations of all backgrounds and faiths to promote greater understanding, cooperate on meaningful projects, and build stronger bonds”



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# Gülen inspired Schools

- “Inspired” by Gülen and his teaching
- Focus on setting an example through actions
- Religion is only taught in schools if mandated through local law
- Schools mainly focus on math and science as part of the legacy of the Nur movement/reaction to Auguste Comte
- Frequently accompanied by an ‘Isik Evi’ or lighthouse – dormitory
- Lighthouses are overseen by Agabey’s (Abi/ Abla – Older Brother/Sister)



# TÜSİAD - Turkish Industry and Business Association

- Formed in 1971 to better express the interests of industrial capital in Turkey
- Took on more expansive role in society after 1980 coup
- TÜSİAD represented small to medium enterprises and collected them to a larger set of relationship with power centers. GIS and Gülen Movement media served as promoters for these organizations
- Some leaders of these enterprises subsequently invested in the success and continued expansion of GIS and Gülen Movement- affiliated media



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# Erdogan/Justice and Development Party



- 2002 - Erdogan's Islamic-rooted Justice and Development Party sweeps to power parliamentary elections
- Although party leader, he is prevented from becoming prime minister because of a conviction for inciting religious hatred when he was mayor of Istanbul.

- From 2002 to 2004 Ankara adopts a broad range of democratic reforms, including allowing Kurdish-language broadcasts on public television and abolishing the death penalty.
- August 2007- lawmakers elect foreign minister Abdullah Gul as president, the first time an Islamic-rooted candidate is named for this position



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# Erdogan/Justice and Development Party

- March 15, 2011 - In 2011, Turkey sides with majority Sunni rebels in neighboring Syria who launched a revolt against the government of Bashar al-Assad.
- May 2013 - Security forces crack down on demonstrators who staged a rally against government plans to redevelop a park near Istanbul's Taksim square. The protest quickly grows into nationwide demonstrations against Erdogan.
- August 2014- Erdogan is elected president with 52 percent of a vote held for the first time by universal suffrage.
- July 2015- Ankara launches a renewed military crackdown on Kurdish separatists, the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK)
- July 16, 2016 - a failed coup by a rogue faction of the army kills 249.



# September 12, 1980 Coup d'état

- -The senior command of the army Evren overthrew the government.
- The coup followed a resurgence of street fighting between leftists and nationalists. Leading politicians were arrested. Parliament, political parties and trade unions were dissolved.
- Many Turks, fed up with insecurity caused by rival gunmen in the late 1970s, welcomed the military takeover.
- A provisional constitution that gave almost unlimited power to military commanders was implemented.
- While the coup was bloodless, at least 50 people were later executed and around half a million were detained. Many were tortured and hundreds died in custody.
- Political life was halted for three years and many civil liberties were suspended.



# Saturday Mothers & Disappearances



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# Ergenekon

- The alleged network of secularist ultra-nationalists, Ergenekon, draws its name from a mythical Central Asian valley where Turks are said to have been saved from annihilation by a wolf that led them past their enemies to freedom.
- The network was said to have been linked to the "deep state", hardliner secularists in key areas of the Turkish establishment who are believed to have wielded considerable influence in political life in recent decades.
- Just before the final verdict, there were 275 defendants, 66 of whom were in custody, and the case has included 23 indictments.
- Opposition members of parliament, academics, politicians and journalists were also among those on trial. Prosecutors charged that the network planned assassinations and bomb attacks to stir up unrest and pave the way for a military coup.



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# Ergenekon

- Following five years of legal proceedings, the court delivered 17 life sentences to formerly prominent figures of the military establishment, along with politicians, academics and journalists.
- The case has ended almost half a century of military domination and created conditions for an increased monopolization of power by the civilian government.
- The Ergenekon case, along with several similar cases focusing on alleged anti-government plots, has profoundly changed the scene for Turkish politics by significantly reducing the possibility of military interference in politics.
- Within five years, the Ergenekon case has transformed people's perceptions of the government from one regarded as largely progressive, to one regarded as authoritarian. The Ergenekon trial and the legal reforms around it have brought to an end the Kemalist model of checks and balances between different pillars of authority within Turkey.



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# Sledgehammer Trial

- The alleged Sledgehammer plot dates back to 2003, months after the November 2002 elections, when Prime Minister Erdogan's Islamist-rooted AK Party won 363 seats in the 550-seat parliament. Its success fueled speculation that the secularist military, which staged three coups between 1960-1980, could once again intervene in Turkish politics.
- The trial was partly focused on a military seminar attended by the defendants which prosecutors said was part of a plot to oust the government.
- Defendants and their lawyers have said the evidence against them was fabricated, and that a war game used at the seminar had nothing to do with the alleged Sledgehammer plot to overthrow the government, which they maintain was a forgery.
- A court in Silivri handed prison terms to more than 300 serving and retired army officers out of some 360 who were on trial in Sept 2012



# Gezi Park Protests summer 2013



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# 16 July 2016 Coup Attempt Timeline

- 19:30 - Reports that two major bridges over the Bosphorus in Istanbul are closed, causing major traffic congestion. Army units are seen moving through the city.
- 19:50 - Fighter jets and helicopters are reported in the sky over the capital, Ankara. Helicopters seen over Istanbul.
- 20:00 - Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim announces that unsanctioned "military activity" is under way.
- 21:15 - Statement read on state-owned TRT says military has "completely taken over the administration of the country to reinstate constitutional order".
- 23:50 - Explosions heard in Istanbul. Prime Minister Yildirim says situation under control in the country, and blames supporters of the exiled preacher, Gulen.



# 16 July 2016 Coup Attempt Timeline

- 00:20 - Erdogan arrives in Istanbul's Ataturk Airport .
- 00:30 - Reports of more explosions at parliament buildings in Ankara while troops are reported to have started to surrender in locations in Istanbul. Turkish Interior Minister Efkan Ala says the coup attempt has been "neutralised".
- 00:45 - Soldiers surrender weapons in Istanbul's central Taksim Square after being surrounded by armed police units loyal to the government.
- 02:00 - The president's office says at least 60 people killed and around 130 anti-government forces arrested.
- Daybreak - Images are broadcast of scores of troops with arms raised surrendering on a bridge in Istanbul. The government says more than 700 have been arrested and the coup attempt has failed



# Anti-Terrorism Law No. 7145 July 24, 2018

- From the night of the Coup until July 18, 2018 Turkey was under an official State of Emergency
- July 24, 2018 - Parliament passed the new Anti-terror Law No. 7145
- The regulations, which apply for three years, grant broader authority to local governors, including the ability to ban public gatherings, extend detention periods.
- The new legislation allows authorities to control who can enter and exit an area for 15 days for reasons of security, while suspects can be held without charge for 48 hours or up to four days if there are multiple offences.
- It also authorizes the government to dismiss personnel of Turkish Armed Forces, police and gendarmerie departments, public servants and workers if they are found linked to a terror organization.
- The opposition had criticized the draft legislation as a ploy to make "emergency rule permanent".



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# Challenges of Applying for a Turkish Passport/Passport Renewal

- 16- Can I apply for a passport on behalf of someone else with a power of attorney?
- Since biometric data is taken for the passport application, an application must be made in person.
- 49- How can I apply for a child's passport if any of the parents is detained in prison?
- For issuing passports to the child by the detained parent; the consent issued by the prison directorate and approved by the public prosecutor's office or notary public must be submitted by the parent coming to the application.
- 50- How can I apply for a child's passport if any of the parents is convicted?
- The child's passport application is made by the other parent because the convicts are limited. Indicates the status of the convicted parent and the prison prosecutor's office.





# The Treatment of Family members of Hizmet followers

- Fethullah Gülen's family members are being arrested and imprisoned
- Other prominent Turks who follow Gülen's teaching have had family member arrest, most prominently NBA star Enes Kanter
- The Hizmet Movement's official media is reporting many family members of those in the Movement being targeted
- COI supports that people are being coerced into accusing family members of being Hizmet under interrogation
- COI supports that once a family member is accused of being in Hizmet that family members of Hizmet followers are being assumed to be Hizmet, unless proven otherwise



# Extended Family of Hizmet supporters

“This extremely vague wording was intended to allow the authorities to ensnare the greatest number of people in their dragnet. Among the activities treated by prosecuting authorities as clear evidence of “having acted in union with” an outlawed group were: having a bank account with the Bank Asya, a bank the government said was a Gülenist bank; sending children to a Gülenist school; participating in religious conversation groups run by the Gülen movement; working for an institution such as a private school or hospital run by Gülen followers; staying in a student hostel run by Gülen followers; downloading particular cell phone encryption communication applications—principally ByLock—alleged to be have been widespread among Gülen followers; evidence of bank transfers of money which could be charitable donations to Gülen movement institutions or private accounts; and having close relatives connected with the movement.”



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# Bank Aysa

- Turkish authorities seized Bank Aysa in Feb 2015
- Closed permanently on 22 July 2016
- Overseeing a former school teacher's indictment, Supreme Court of Appeals ruled that money deposits to Bank Asya in Sept - Dec of 2014 by former teachers who had previously been associated with the movement, could be submitted as evidence of ties to the organization. The court ruled that these bank accounts could also be submitted as evidence of "aiding and abetting a terrorist organization," a crime punishable by decades behind bars.



# Turkish Entry and Exit Procedures

- “Although Article 23 of the Constitution states that a citizen’s freedom to leave the country may be restricted on account of civic obligations, or criminal investigation or prosecution, Turkey does not generally require its citizens to obtain an exit permit to leave the country. Under the state of emergency, authorities have cancelled the passports of large numbers of people alleged to be associated with the Gulen movement, and their family members” . DFAT (2018 report) assesses that the range of information databases and sophisticated identity systems would make it very difficult to leave the country via an airport without legal documentation. Local sources report, however, that it is possible for Turks to leave the country for Europe either overland or via boat without coming to official attention.



# Military Service in Turkey

- President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on June 25 2019 signed into law sweeping changes in the Turkish military system, cutting men's mandatory military service period in half, as well as making paid military service permanent.
- With the new system, the period of conscription is reduced from 12 months to six months for private and non-commissioned soldiers, and at least one month of basic military training is required for all male Turkish citizens.
- Under the new law, male Turkish citizens, over the age of 20, will be required to undergo a one-month-long military training. They can obtain an exemption from the remaining five months of their mandatory service by paying 31,000 Turkish Liras (about \$5,380).
- The president is authorized to alter the duration of mandatory military service, if he deems it necessary, but conscripted service will not be less than six months.
- Citizens currently in military service will have the chance for an early discharge.



# Military Service before June 2019

- Article 2 (as amended) of Law No. 1111 of 1927 states that ‘Military [eligibility] age for every man shall be according to his age recorded in his basic citizenship register and shall begin on 1st January of the year when he reaches the age of 20 and shall end on 1st January of the year when he reaches the age of 41.
- The length of military service was reduced from 15 to 12 months as of January 2014
- In the conscription system the draftees serve in different forms in the military. The first one is the service in enlisted status. This status is applied to the draftees who have two-year occupational college or lower degree of education. The service period for these draftees is 12 months. ‘The second form is the service in officer status. It's applied to the draftees who have four-year college or higher degree of education. The length [sic] of service is 12 months, and these personnel serve in the rank of 3rd Lt.

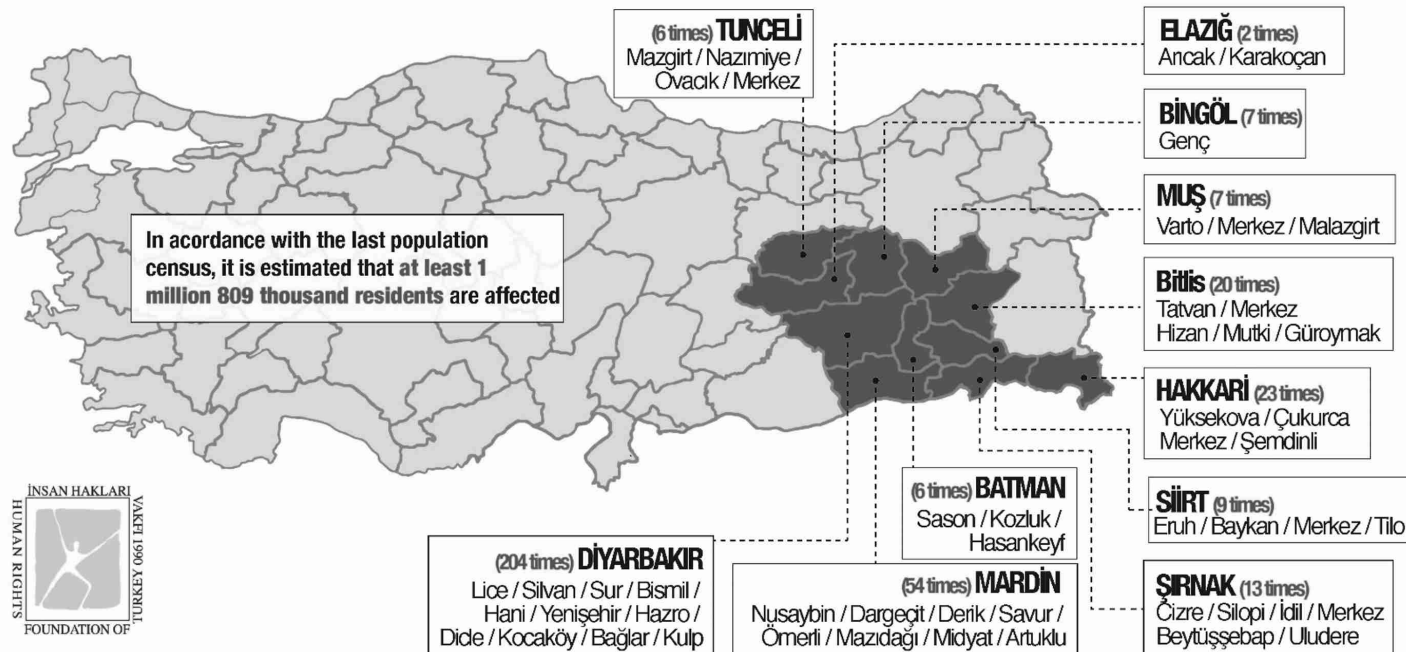


# Military - Human Rights Violations

## MAP OF THE CURFEWS IN TURKEY 16 AUGUST 2015 - 1 JANUARY 2019

**There has been at least 351 round the-clock and/or open-ended curfews in at least 51 districts of 11 cities in southeastern Turkey.**

Also there has been at least 23 curfews declared in various villages and flatlands of Hakkari and Bitlis with limitations on time.



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# Military – PKK

3:48 PM Tue Aug 27

crisisgroup.org

44%



AT LEAST

## 4,551

people have been killed in clashes or  
terror attacks since 20 July 2015.

This includes:

### 478

CIVILIANS

Confirmed by Crisis Group as non-combatants, the overwhelming majority of these individuals have been killed in urban clashes in the south east or in PKK bomb attacks in metropolitan centres. (Crisis Group includes only named fatalities confirmed through its open-source methodology).

### 1,194

STATE SECURITY FORCE MEMBERS

Fatalities include soldiers, police officers and village guards (paramilitary groups comprised of ethnic Kurds, armed and paid by the Turkish state). For a detailed breakdown of state security force fatalities, see below.

### 223

INDIVIDUALS OF UNKNOWN  
AFFILIATION

Individuals aged 16-35 killed in areas of clashes, overwhelmingly in urban curfew zones who cannot be confirmed as either civilians or combatants. These individuals cannot be positively identified as civilians or members of plainclothes PKK youth militias due to the blurred line between civilian and militant in an urban conflict setting.

### 2,656

PKK MILITANTS

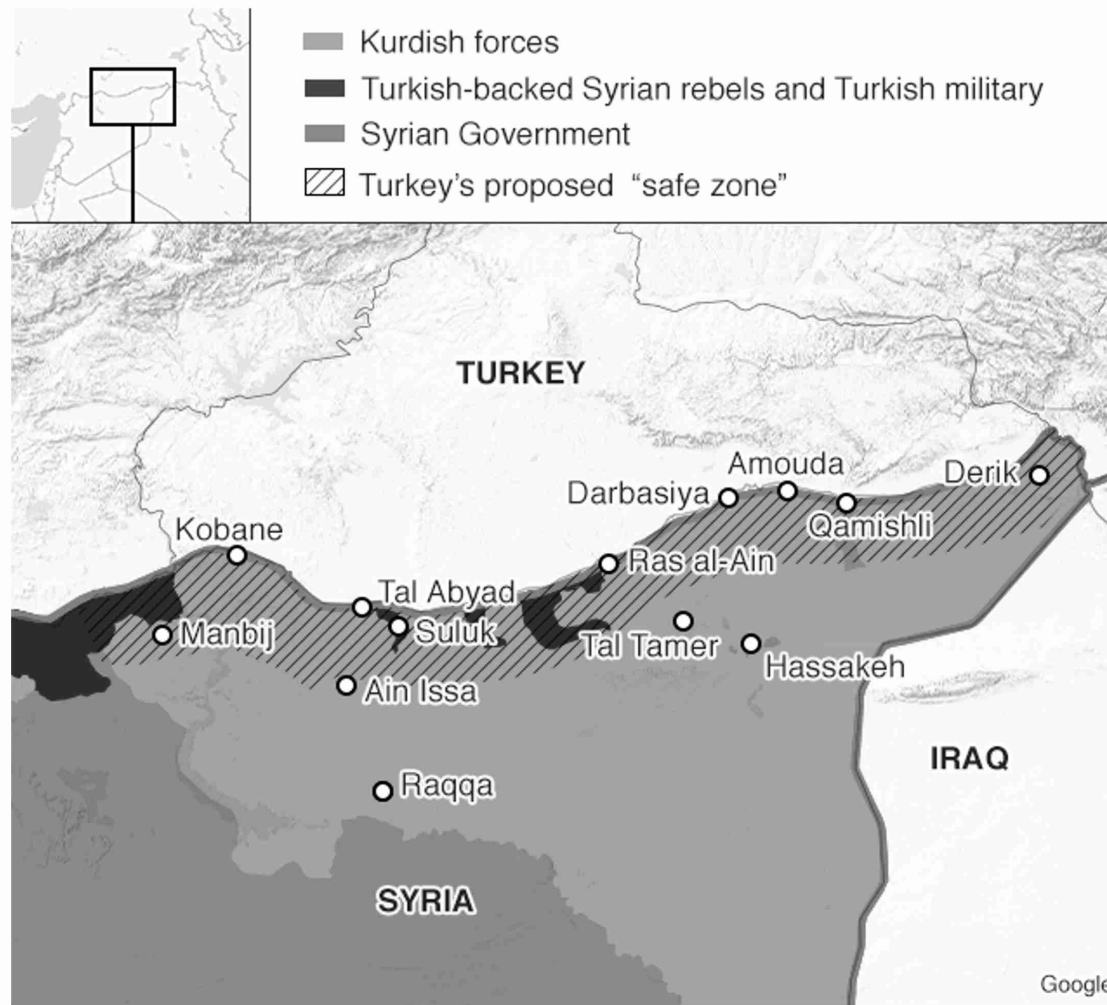
Members of the PKK and affiliates active in Turkey. Crisis Group assumes that total PKK fatalities are higher than this public tally. Ankara says that more than ten thousand militants have been "neutralised" (either killed, captured or surrendered) since the resumption of hostilities in July 2015. Crisis Group figures should not be seen as a refutation of fatality claims made by the Turkish government. See "Methodology and Terminology" section.



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# Recent Turkish Military Operations in Syria



Source: Conflict Monitor by IHS Markit, Reach, 14 October 2019

BBC



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# The affect of Turkish military presence on civilians in Afrin



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# Allegations of HRVs by Turkish Military in Syria

- In March 2018 Turkey and Turkish-backed armed groups captured the region of Afrin on March 18 in a campaign that lasted over two months. During the operation, hundreds of civilians were killed and thousands more displaced.
- Arbitrary arrests and looting have become widespread in the northwestern Syrian town of Afrin after it was captured by Turkish military and its Syrian Islamist allies from Syrian Kurdish forces a year ago
- Violation include arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, and confiscation of property and looting to which Turkey's armed forces have turned a blind eye.
- Some of these groups, and Turkish armed forces themselves, also have taken over schools, disrupting the education of thousands.



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# Recent Turkish Military Operations in Iraq

- According to the US State Department the PKK has “(a)pproximately 4,000 to 5,000 members; 3,000 to 3,500 of which are located in northern Iraq”
- On 25 March 2017, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Sunday that Turkey had begun military operations in the Sinjar region of Iraq
- In late May/Early July Turkey launched Claw 1 and Claw 2 respectively in Hakurk area combating PKK
- Since the assassination on 17 July of the Turkish Diplomat in Erbil, the KRG has been giving support to Ankara to fight the PKK. This included allowing an airstrike over Qandil
- June 2020 Operation Claw-Tiger was announced. Aug 2020 Turkish air raid mistakenly killed senior Iraqi military leaders in the KRI



# Tier I Terrorist Groups active in Turkey

- KURDISTAN WORKERS' PARTY (PKK)
- REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE'S LIBERATION PARTY/FRONT



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# Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)

- Founded by Abdullah Ocalan in 1978 as a Marxist-Leninist separatist organization, the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) was designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization on October 8, 1997. The group, composed primarily of Turkish Kurds, launched a campaign of violence in 1984. The PKK's original goal was to establish an independent Kurdish state in southeastern Turkey.
- In the early 1990s, the PKK moved beyond rural-based insurgent activities to include urban terrorism. Anatolia became the scene of significant violence, with some estimates suggesting at least 40,000 casualties
- Following his capture in 1999, Ocalan announced a "peace initiative," ordering members to refrain from violence and requesting dialogue with Ankara on Kurdish issues. The PKK foreswore violence until June 2004.



# Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) Continued

- From 2004-2009 internal power struggles inside of the PKK resulted in an end to the ceasefire
- In 2009, the Turkish government and the PKK resumed peace negotiations, but talks broke down after the PKK carried out an attack in July 2011 that left 13 Turkish soldiers dead.
- Since 2015, the group has been responsible for the deaths of over 1,200 Turkish security officials and civilians
- The PKK consists of approximately 4,000 to 5,000 members, 3,000 to 3,500 of which are located in northern Iraq.
- In March 2018, Turkey started military campaigns in Sinjar against the PKK. In May and July the Turkish Military have begun Claw 1 and 2 campaigns in Northern Iraq against the PKK



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# Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/ Front

- Designated October 8, 1997
- It is a splinter faction of Dev Genc (Revolutionary Youth)
- The group advocates a Marxist-Leninist ideology and opposes the United States, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and Turkish establishments.
- DHKP/C is located in Turkey, primarily in Adana, Ankara, Istanbul, and Izmir.
- The group is small but active and conducts many high profile attacks





# HDP - Peoples' Democratic Party

- HDP says their party promotes democratic rule, social equality, human rights, and social welfare, apparently seeking to attract liberal votes in the western part of the country, and votes from non-Kurdish minorities, in addition to its Kurdish voter base
- Critics and government officials say the party does not put enough effort to influence the PKK to lay down weapons. Some even say that the HDP officials usually act under pressure from the outlawed group.
- In June 2018, early results from Turkey's much-anticipated snap elections show the HDP having won over 11 percent (11.4), comfortably surpassing the 10 percent threshold required for a party to enter Parliament. HDP first passed the threshold in 2016, but a new election put them under the threshold again.



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# Selahattin Demirtaş



- Selahattin Demirtaş is a former co-chair of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP)
- He was arrested in June 2016, he has been charged with dozens of crimes – most relating to PKK support
- He came third in the June 2018 presidential election while behind bars
- He has been sentenced to 4 years and eight months in prison for spreading 'terrorist propaganda'

- Demirtaş is facing additional charges that could result in a sentence as long as 142 years
- While in prison he wrote a melancholy book of short stories that became a bestseller in Turkey and is being published by the actor Sarah Jessica Parker's new literary imprint in the United States.



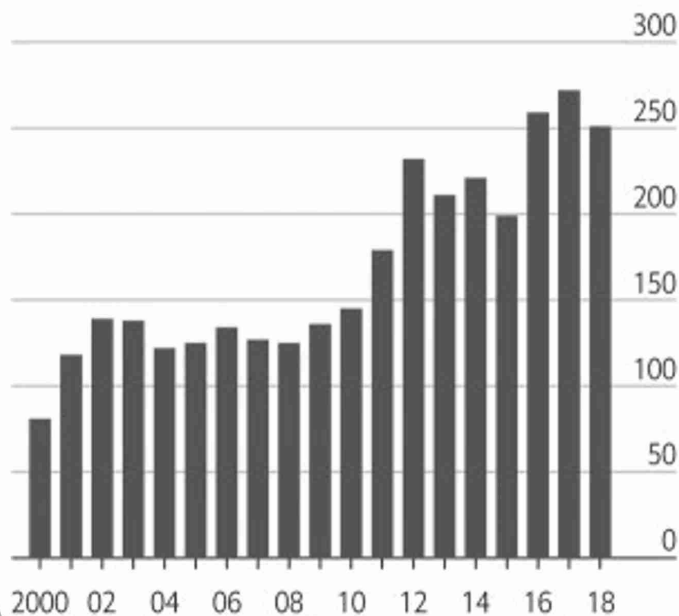
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# Persecution of Journalists

- 2016, 2017 & 2018- Turkey has imprisoned more Journalists than any other country.
- The Annual Prison Census found that on Dec 1 2018, 251 journalists were in jails around the world for charges related to their work -- 68 in Turkey, 47 in China and 25 in Egypt.

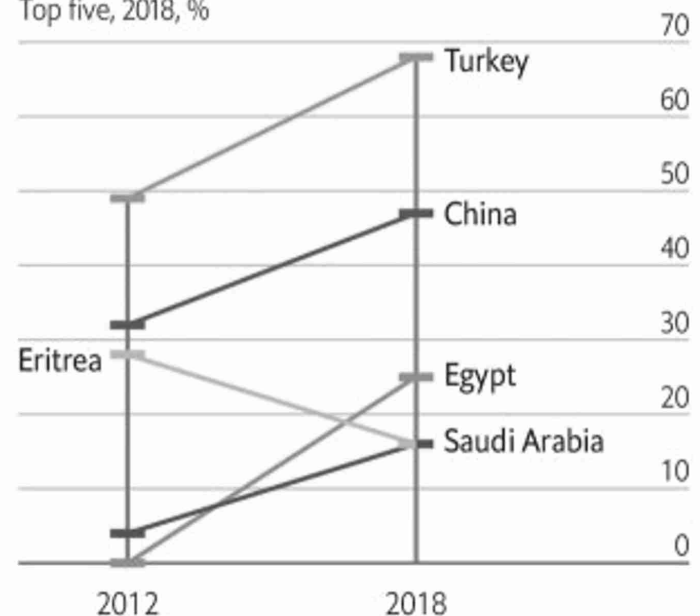
## The penitentiary is mightier

Journalists imprisoned worldwide



Journalists imprisoned by country of incarceration

Top five, 2018, %



Source: Committee to Protect Journalists

The Economist