



General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 September 2020

English only

Human Rights Council

Forty-fifth session

14 September–2 October 2020

Agenda items 3 and 6

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Universal periodic review

Written statement* submitted by Partners For Transparency, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[20 August 2020]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Arbitrary detention in Turkey

Turkey has lived the worst period in its recent history in recent years, specifically after the coup attempt in July 2016. From obliterating freedoms, imprisoning journalists and media professionals, confiscating newspapers, shutting down television (TV) channels and websites, and imprisoning writers and activists for only their opposition to the government. Since then, human rights violations have increased from arbitrary detention to arbitrary trials, from the closure of media platforms to the permanent closure of civil society organizations.

Instead of opening a fair investigation into this attempt, the Turkish government immediately, in wake of the coup attempt, carried out a thorough purge of all state institutions. In addition, thousands of soldiers who did not participate in this coup attempt were imprisoned and dismissed. Tens of thousands of civilians were arbitrarily arrested and imprisoned, based on groundless charges.

Turkish Interior Minister Suleiman Solio announced in July 2020 that Turkish police had launched 99,660 security campaigns since the coup attempt. It led to the detention and arrests of 282,790 people and the imprisonment of 94,975¹ others. So, Partners for Transparency monitors the recent arbitrary arrests carried out by the Turkish government, relying on relevant testimonies, news and human rights reports.

Arrests of journalists and media professionals

From May to August 15, 2020, Turkish authorities arbitrarily arrested nine journalists and media professionals for flimsy reasons. On August 5, 2020, Turkish police arrested Turkish journalist Jokhan Uzbek, who had previously been dismissed from his job under the emergency law, following his interview at Turkey Now, when he acknowledged that the Turkish government supported the Muslim Brotherhood with \$20 billion to finance terrorist operations in the region². Turkish police arrested opposition journalist Aisha Junai on July 14, 2020, after raiding her home in Kayabınar district of Turkey's Diyarbakir province for no apparent reason³. Meanwhile, Turkish police arrested journalist Sibel Hortaş while covering police attacks on a defense march organized by the Bar Association in front of the Turkish Parliament on July 3, 2020⁴. This coincides with the re-arrest of opposition journalist Jehan Agar without a real legal basis⁵.

On June 8, 2020, Turkish authorities arrested journalist Ismail Dokal and opposition journalist Messer Yıldız, news director of THE UTA TV, on charges of disclosing military information concerning Turkish military intervention in Libya⁶. Turkish security services arrested a reporter for Voice of America after the latter covered the HDP (Peoples' Democratic Party) march. And that's June 17, 2020. On May 17, 2020⁷, a decision was issued to arrest the editor-in-chief of The Turkish magazine Reed, "Hakan Golsven", for speaking about human rights violations in Turkey⁸. On May 23, 2020, Turkish police arrested Turkish journalist Rawayj Dogro on charges of sending financial aid to his friend, who is being held in Turkish prisons⁹.

Arrests of officials and military personnel

Since May 2020, Turkish authorities have arbitrarily detained approximately 143 members of the security services, on the background of their opposition to the policies of the Turkish

¹ <https://bit.ly/3004ZL1> بذكرى الطوارئ مئات الآلاف فصلوا تعسفيًا من العمل في تركيا، تركيا زمان ، يوليو 2020

² بعد حوار مع تركيا الآن الشرطة التركية تدهم منزل الصحفي جوكهان أوزبك، تركيا الآن ، أغسطس 2020 <https://bit.ly/31Ge4ol>.

³ <https://bit.ly/2XO1PEY> شرطة أردوغان تعتقل المتحدثة باسم وكالة ميزوبوتاميا فجرًا، تركيا الآن ، يوليو 2020 ،

⁴ <https://bit.ly/3fMtbBG> تركيا تعتقل صحفية وثقت اعتداءات الشرطة على مسيرة المحامين بأنقرة، تركيا الآن ، يوليو 2020 ،

⁵ <https://bit.ly/2PI3gQL> تركيا تُعيد اعتقال صحفي معارض رغم صدور حكم قضائي بالإفراج عنه، تركيا الآن ، يوليو 2020

⁶ <https://bit.ly/2ByUosT> الصحفيون الأتراك ينتفضون ضد أردوغان الصحافة ليست جريمة، تركيا الآن ، يونيو 2020

⁷ <https://bit.ly/31cqnKa> السلطات التركية تعتقل مراسل صوت أمريكا، الشروق، يونيو 2020 ،

⁸ Hakan Gülseven .Twitter. May 17. <https://bit.ly/2V41618>.

⁹ <https://bit.ly/3dkSOZ7> تركيا تعتقل صحفيًا بتهمة تقديم مساعدات مالية إلى صديقه بالسجن، تركيا الآن ، مايو 2020 ،

government. On July 22, 2020, the Turkish Public Prosecutor's Office issued arrest warrants against 25 members of the Turkish military, including 19 current officers, one dismissed, four retired officers and one retired officer. On June 3, 2020,¹⁰ the Istanbul Public Prosecutor's Office issued an arrest warrant for 118 people, mostly officers from various ranks of the army and security forces, on suspicion of links to the service movement.¹¹ The Turkish authorities are constantly working to silence security officers who object to their policies on charges of joining the service movement.

On July 15, 2020, Turkish police arrested the mayor of Diadin in eastern Turkey's Agri state on charges of joining the service movement without clear evidence¹². The mayor of Agadir, Yasser Akos of the opposition Peoples' Democratic Party, the mayor of Serit, Prevan Helen Isik, deputy mayor Bimandara Turhan, the Mayor of Cortalan, Baran Akgul, and the Mayor of The Baikan region, Ramadan Sarselmaz, were also arrested on the grounds of joining the service movement. All of that Under the Turkish government's policies to replace mayors as opposed to government policies and appoint others loyal to the government in their own right¹³. On May 30, 2020, police arrested the two mayors of Batman province of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) and Mustafa Kobello on charges of joining the service movement¹⁴.

On June 5, 2020, the Turkish government arrested three opposition deputies after parliament dropped their membership: Mp Anis Berberoglu of the Republican People's Party (CHP) and MPs Leila Govin and Musa Faris Oglari of the People's Democratic Party (HDP), parties opposed to the policies of Turkey's ruling party .Because of these deputies' criticism of the policies of the Turkish president within the parliament, this caused their dismissal and subsequent arrest.¹⁵

Arrests of politicians, opinion and expression activists

The Turkish authorities have persisted in policies of arbitrary detention and have become routinely practiced against opponents and opinion activists. The Turkish authorities arbitrarily arrested more than 115 opinion activists, politicians and labor leaders between May and August 2020. On 6 August, Turkish police stormed the Edel Cultural Centre in the Okmeni area of the Group Eurom and arrested six members of the band, Dylan Boyraz, Bhar Kurt, Batul Varane, Aran Erdem, Barish Yuksal and Serjan Topatengi. This is due to the fact that they are preparing a concert against various human rights violations carried out by the Turkish government¹⁶. The politician "Ali Taha On" was arrested while attending the opening ceremony of The Turkish Future Party of Ahmet Daoud Aguila¹⁷. The arrest of the former Batman co-chairman, "Mohamed Demir", on July 22. Turkish judge "Mankasha Oyar" was¹⁸ arrested on charges of joining the service movement on July 10¹⁹.

On July 14, Turkish authorities arrested 12 women leaders of Turkish women's civil society in house raids carried out by police in Turkey's southern province of Diyarbakir. Among those arrested was the spokeswoman of the Free Women's Movement (Aisha Kukan), who criticized the Turkish government's policies in dealing with women²⁰. Turkish police arrested

¹⁰ <https://bit.ly/3fQCfp9>تركيا قرارات اعتقال بحق 25 ضابط بالجيش، تركيا زمان، يوليو 2020،

¹¹ تركيا حملة اعتقالات جديدة لعسكريين بدعوى الانتماء إلى حركة غولن، الشرق الأوسط، يونيو 2020، <https://bit.ly/3dnVXao>.

¹² <https://bit.ly/3iy5bnz>تركيا.. اعتقال رئيسة بلدية كردية وتعيين وصي عليها، تركيا زمان، يوليو 2020،

¹³ تركيا اعتقال رؤساء بلديات لصلتهم المزعومة بحزب العمال الكردستاني الإرهابي، الشرق، مايو 2020، <https://bit.ly/3etI2Ry>.

¹⁴ الشرطة التركية تعتقل رئيسي بلدية باتمان عن حزب الشعوب الديمقراطي، تركيا الآن، مايو 2020، <https://bit.ly/3hNcA2K>.

¹⁵ <https://bit.ly/3eqOCbl>تركيا اعتقال 3 نواب معارضين بعد إسقاط عضويتهم، العربية نت، يونيو 2020،

¹⁶ <https://bit.ly/2PMoi0F>تركيا اعتقال 6 أعضاء بفرقة جروب يوروم الموسيقية، تركيا زمان، يوليو 2020،

¹⁷ <https://bit.ly/3fSxRps>اعتقال زوج مديرة مكتب أمينة أردوغان، تركيا زمان، يوليو 2020،

¹⁸ <https://bit.ly/3gPV5ho>اعتقال الرئيس المشارك السابق لبلدية باتمان التابع لـ«الشعوب الديمقراطي، تركيا الآن، يوليو 2020

¹⁹ <https://bit.ly/3aoIU8Y>تركيا تعتقل قاضية بالمحكمة الجنائية بتهمة الانضمام لحركة فتح الله جولن، تركيا الآن، يوليو 2020

²⁰ Journalist and activists detained in Diyarbakır. Bianet. <https://bit.ly/3gOOHaj>.

nine members of the Youth Council of the People's Democratic Party (HDP) on terrorism-related charges on June 30, 2020.²¹

On June 27, Turkish authorities arbitrarily arrested 44 opposition women leaders, tortured, and abused them²². On June 11th, Turkish police arrested the co-chairman of the People's Democratic Party in the Beshiri region, Hassan Shakar, and his brother, Jantin, for allegedly belonging to terrorist groups²³. On June 7, five officials were arrested and three other pro-Kurdish parties were prosecuted for attacking human rights violations by the Turkish government²⁴.

On June 3rd, Turkish security forces arrested at least 20 opinion activists among participants in a demonstration in Istanbul on the same day to commemorate a young man killed during anti-government protests across the country seven years ago known as the "Gezi Park" protests²⁵. On May 27, Turkish police arrested a member of the Karabaglar municipal council on charges of insulting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on social media²⁶. The Turkish government arrested the father of the late guitarist Ibrahim Jokchik while attending a funeral against his death due to a hunger strike on May 9th. On May 2, Turkish police²⁷ arrested a member of the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) in Beyoglu city, Istanbul province, on charges of insulting the President of the Republic and some state leaders on his social media accounts²⁸.

Recommendations

- Amending Turkey's penal code and the anti-terrorism law, in line with international standards on the right to freedom of expression.
- Consider cases of torture and complaints about detainees being tortured in Turkish prisons, in clear violation of all international conventions.
- Immediate and unconditional release of all people detained for illogical reasons, who are found innocent of all charges against them and hold those responsible for issuing arrest warrants accountable.
- Pressure the Turkish authorities to stop pursuing journalists, opinion activists and politicians opposed to Turkish government policies.
- The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention should visit Turkey and investigate arbitrary detentions, and to ask on the Turkish government to clarify its attitude towards the cases mentioned above.

²¹ <https://bit.ly/3kB3GXA> الشرطة التركية تعتقل 9 أعضاء من حزب الشعوب الديمقراطي، تركيا الآن ، يونيو 2020 ،

²² جريدة تركية: هكذا تعذب شرطة أردوغان القيادات النسائية المعارضة، تركيا الآن ، 27 يونيو 2020 ، .
<https://bit.ly/3dYoOTd>.

²³ <https://bit.ly/2V2eYJh> الشرطة التركية تعتقل نائبين بارزين من حزب الشعوب الديمقراطي، تركيا الآن ، يونيو 2020

²⁴ القبض على 5 مسؤولين بالشعب الديمقراطي وملاحقة 3 ومصادرة كتب وهواتف، تركيا الآن ، يونيو 2020 ،
<https://bit.ly/2YnSsN3>.

²⁵ تركيا حملة اعتقالات جديدة لعسكريين بدعوى الانتماء إلى حركة غولن مرجع سابق ذكر .

²⁶ <https://bit.ly/3hTLpDi> اعتقال نائبة الشعب الجمهوري بإزمير بتهمة إهانة أردوغان، تركيا الآن ، مايو 2020

²⁷ <https://bit.ly/3enI9hq> تركيا تفرق بالقوة جنازة موسيقي معارض وتعتقل والده، ميدل إيست أونلاين، 9 مايو 2020 ،

²⁸ <https://bit.ly/2V7Br7T> اعتقال عضو بالشعب التركي بتهمة إهانة أردوغان، تركيا الآن ، مايو 2020 ،