

SEVERITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN TURKEY & SUPPORT TO TURKISH MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



Since the attempted coup of July 15, 2016 the government of Turkey has been taking strict measures to silence dissidents in other countries from various ideologies recently. The Gulen Movement (a.k.a "Hizmet Movement", meaning service in Turkish), has been the main target since 2013. The Turkish government accused Fethullah Gulen and his sympathizers for having connection with the failed coup. Gulen has repeatedly dismissed any involvement in the coup attempt. Foreign intelligence units have noted that there is no evidence that shows Gulen's involvement.

Alleged supporters of the Movement in Turkey have been dealing with arrest, imprisonment, torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, confiscation and passport seizure. After the failed coup, more than 130,000 people have been arbitrary detained and more than 60,000 people have been arrested with no compelling evidence of any criminal activity.



Nonetheless, there are 17,000 women in jail and 1914 children, where 688 are babies under age of six. There have also been several cases where women who just gave birth have been put in prison with their few days old babies.



Moreover, more than 4,400 judges and prosecutors have been dismissed. The government has also seized 3,003 schools, dormitories and universities. The gov't has also confiscated more than 800 companies worth more than \$10 Bln.



All independent media in Turkey have been shut down and confiscated by the government. According to Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Turkey is the leading country to imprison most journalists. Turkey has arrested 319 journalists since the coup.





Many students have been imprisoned for their critical tweets. 70 thousand students are currently in jail in Turkey.



People are also arrested for downloading an encrypted messaging phone application called ByLock. Turkey has also put the Amnesty International's Turkey head, Taner Kiliç in jail for having downloaded ByLock.



Freedom House concluded that democratic principles such as election integrity and freedom of the press, political and civil rights have severely downgraded in Turkey that is no longer 'a free country'.

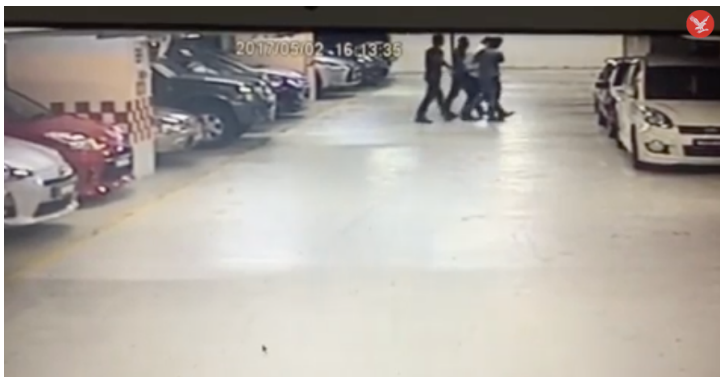


Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported in its recent "World Report 2018" that innocent people are imprisoned with no substantial evidence, inalienable rights have been taken away, and that there are more than 2,200 cases of torture and ill-treatment.



Due to increasingly severe human rights violations in Turkey, families have chosen to leave their country to seek safe haven. Unfortunately not everyone successfully reaches their .

Greek authorities have found bodies of five members of the Maden family, including three children, short time ago on the Greek Island of Lesbos.



Regrettably Turkish government's actions against the Gulen Movement are not limited to Turkish borders but are also extraterritorial. There are many examples of abductions and physical violence incidents in several countries.



Families who have successfully reached the United States by escaping the oppression of the Turkish government are now facing new challenges. Most of the families have left everything behind in Turkey; jobs, houses, education, relatives. The Turkish government has also blocked their bank accounts.

You could help by:

- 1) Personally providing donations to these individuals,
- 2) Donating through human rights organizations like Embrace Relief or Advocates of Silenced Turkey, who focuses on these Turkish nationals,
- 3) Helping them attain legal help and cover legal fees for their asylum applications, with their education fees,
- 4) Sending support letters regarding the persecution of these Gulen sympathizers to relevant bodies such as the State Department, embassies and the European Court of Human Rights,
- 5) Creating awareness using social media and encourage other human rights and humanitarian aid organizations to create campaigns on behalf of these individuals.

Given their circumstance, we hope that you can help these people through your support. Every bit of help will aggregate to make a big difference.

