

TURKEY WIDENS POST-COUP PURGE

134,194

got fired

100,155

detained

50,142

arrested

2,099

schools, dormitories,
universities shut down

4,317

judges, prosecutors
dismissed

7,317

academics lost jobs

231

journalist arrested

149

media outlets shut down

since July 15, 2016
as of April 27, 2017

Human Tragedies of Turkey's Purge



Gokhan Acikkollu
High School Teacher

Gokhan was detained on July 23, 2016. Where already afflicted with diabetes and suffering from, he was denied access to his medicines for six days. After 13 days in custody, Gokhan was found dead in his prison cell on August 5, 2016.



Mustafa Torer
Businessman

Mustafa was among the 45,000, persecuted by the government, following the coup attempt. He was taken into Iskenderun jailhouse. Under severe stress and trauma, where already afflicted with diabetes and suffering from, he died of a heart attack.



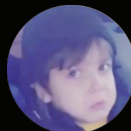
Furkan D.
12-year-old cancer patient

Furkan died of brain cancer several months after Turkish border agents seized his and his parents' passports without any explanation at Istanbul Ataturk Airport, causing the family to abandon their plans to receive cancer treatment abroad.



Bilal Konakçı
Handicapped Veteran

Bilal Konakci, a handicapped veteran who was retired after he lost his right hand and both eyes while trying to dispose of a bomb in 2009, was detained on December 20, 2016.



5 Innocent Children

A video shared on January 23, 2016 on social media showed five children left alone in tears in front of Ankara's Prison after their mother was detained while they were trying to visit their father, who was one of the persecuted, in prison.



Yavuz Bolek
Jailed Police Chief

Yavuz Bolek, a police chief dismissed from his job following corruption probes implicating Erdogan, has cancer and will be soon be struck with paralysis if he isn't given medical attention. His pleas are ignored.

On July 15, 2016, the Turkish people suffered a horrific coup attempt. Since then, human rights violations in Turkey have reached an unprecedented and dangerous high.



More than 115,000 government employees have been fired or dismissed, including prosecutors, judges, teachers and doctors, with no right to appeal. **More than 40,000 have been detained or arrested** while, hundreds of media outlets and newspapers have been taken over, shut down or threatened by the government. According to the watchdog group the Committee to Protect Journalists, **Turkey is the world's leading jailer of journalists** and the country's independent media has been decimated. Opposition civic society groups such as Alevis, pro-Western liberals and Hizmet participants, as well as ethnic Kurds, are under constant pressure and assault. Selahattin Demirtas, **the chairman of Turkey's third largest political party HDP**, has been imprisoned along with other pro-Kurdish parliamentarians.

Meanwhile, Turkey's longstanding role as an ally of the West and a force against terrorism has been severely eroded. Though Turkey has, in recent history, been a stable force in an extremely volatile region – helping provide strategic assets in the fight against terrorism – domestic and foreign policy trends under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan have undermined Turkey's strategic role, posing enormous challenges for the US and its allies.

If the Turkish government's shift toward authoritarianism continues, the US will find itself without a reliable political, economic and security partner in the region. The country's state of emergency – which has been in effect since July 2016 – enables President Erdogan's authoritarian behavior and only worsens this disturbing trend.

You can help by calling or sending an email to Members of Congress representing South Carolina and asking them to call on President Erdogan and the Turkish government to change course, call off the state of emergency and abide by its commitments to human rights, democracy and fundamental freedoms.