



REPORT 2022

Stand Up for Human Rights

www.silencedturkey.org







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Produced by Advocates of Silenced Turkey Inc. & AST Publishing



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WORDS FROM THE ADVOCATES

When the Turkish President declared in an infamous speech that "Old Turkey no longer exists. This Turkey is new Turkey", the story of Turkish authoritarianism had once and for all taken on a new character. Since July of 2016, the Turkish government has improperly imprisoned **160,000+** homemakers, teachers, NGO workers, academics, judges, prosecutors and journalists.

Once upon a time, the Republic of Turkey was lauded by insiders and outsiders for constituting a powerful model for democratization. In New Turkey, however, silence against the regime's draconian laws, mass imprisonment, and frequent violations of universal human rights has become the norm.

In a regime which ranks as the worst upholder of the rule-of-law including Eastern Europe & Central Asia, 200+ media outlets have been shut down and **308 journalists** and numerous human rights defenders, politicians, including Ilhan Isbilen, Hidayet Karaca, Buşra Erdal, Selahattin Demirtaş and Osman Kavala are held as political prisoners of the state. As a prominent journalist and recipient of international awards, Ahmet Altan was among the political prisoners who resist the regime's unlawfulness. He was jailed for five years as a result of the crackdown on freedom of expression in Turkey.





We are a group of lawyers, judges, academics, journalists, and hundreds of activists who cherish democratic ideals and universal human rights. We are prisoners of conscience wanted by the Erdogan's regime, relatives of political prisoners, and victims who have lost their jobs, property and even family members to the current administration which has been described as a Mafia State. We are the Advocates of Silenced Turkey.

We, the Advocates, have made it our mission to champion the rights of Silenced Turkey until universal human rights and democratic governance are established and sustained as the utmost priorities of the Republic of Turkey. In this regard, we have been the voice of voiceless people of Turkey by means of more than **200 human rights projects**. We have shared the stories of the victims of grave human rights violations and persecution in Turkey through the personal belongings of them in The Social Genocide exhibition held in over 4 locations so far. We are also sharing the lives and experiences of persecuted people of Turkey with books. Among those books are the life stories of Gokhan Acikkollu and Halime Gulsu who died of torture in during incarceration in Turkey's jails. In order to shed light on hideous assaults and rights violations in jails that women face, we have recently conducted a survey which will be reported to international entities and presented in conferences. Furthermore, as AST, we have been gathering prominent human rights experts to only discuss the human rights issues but also recommend solutions at our signature event, the Freedom Convention. For more work we do as human rights defenders please see this report closely.

Thank you for all the support you do to help us achieve our humanity goals!



AST GIVES A VOICE TO THE VOICELESS

AST holds conventions to bring light to the ongoing conflict and its influences in Turkey and also develops strategies to champion human rights worldwide through panels, discussions, workshops, art and photo exhibitions, and legal training sessions. Among the events we have organized are the **Freedom Convention 2022**, Women as Survivors of Conflicts (within the UN CSW conferences), film festivals, photo exhibitions and book talks! Around **1,880 materials** including; reports, events, infographics and videos have been created in four years.



TAKE ACTION

We stand up for our rights and the rights of others who have been silenced. You can be one of the advocates of silenced Turkey by being a volunteer of AST. You may apply to be a volunteer by emailing **help@silencedturkey.org**



ADVOCATES OF SILENCED TURKEY

Murat Kaval	President and CEO	Ali Tepe	Scholars Rights Watch Coordinator
Hafza Girdap	Executive Director & Spokesperson	Aydogan Vatandas	Media Freedom and Reporter
Hevin Elmas	Finance Assistant	Esma Birlik	Twitter Manager
Nur Cam	APH Project Assistant	Elif Halo	Hope Stories Project Coord.
Zeynep Caliskan	Finance Assistant	Ayse Gul	Kahoot Human Rights Contest Coord.
Kubra Sam	APH Project Manager	Sermin Is	Regional Volunteer Coordinator
Ayse Nur	Research Assistant	Afra Hur	Translation Coordinator
Meral Hak	Regional Coordinator	Rabia Inan	Art for Human Rights Assistant
Semra Yerli	Regional Coordinator	Sueda Murat	Internship Coordinator
Eda Kas	Volunteer Coordinator Asst.	Hilal ince	Survey Manager
Umit Kardes	Regional Coordinator	Mina Leyla	Author and Reporter
Murat Has	Regional Coordinator	Zeynep Kayadeler	Author
Yasin Gurel	Regional Coordinator		
Osman Abdullah	Regional Coordinator		
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Saime ilker	News Content Manager	Michael Poage	Author
Nurettin Kar	Art4HumanRights Coordinator	Ann Suellentrop	Nurse & Activist
Betul Iman	Youth4HumanRights Coordinator	Taylor Qualls	Pastor/Counselor
Mine Altin	High School Youth Coordinator	Sheri Hays	Social Worker and Human Rights Activist
Elif Soy	Women's and Children's Rights Coordinator	Stephen Arbeau	Teacher, Activist
Muhsin Nazif	Graphic and Web Designer	Sat Bir	Human Rights Activits/ Non-profit President
Hamza Yormaz	Producer	Allen Olshtein	Chaplain
Ayşe Nur	Volunteer Affairs Coordinator	Jim Juhnke, Ph.D	Professor of History
Murat Dogan	Legal Consultant	Jude Huntz	Campus Minister
Joseph Selam	Legal Consultant	Edward Stevenson	Retired Pastor
Yasemin Kahraman	Legal Consultant	Bailey Hughes	Legal Consultant
Mustafa Yaz	FaceBook Admin	Lewis Hinshaw	Pastor
Serkan Tayyar	Youtube Coordinator	Gloria Hinshaw	Teacher
Eyup Guler	Advisory Board Coordinator	Ferhat Ozturk, Ph.D	Refugee and Academician
Onur Has	Institutional Relations Coordinator	Psk. Yasemin Milhan	Refugee and Psychologist
Erkan Erk	Instagram Admin	Mehmet Halidun, Ph.D	Refugee and Academician
Bulent Ceyhan	Reporter		

*Some of the names above have been changed due to security concerns of the members whose relatives might be harmed by the current authoritarian regime in Turkey.

FREEDOM CONVENTION

In a World that Goes Widely Towards Dictatorships Freedom Convention 2022: Turkey

Human rights refers to all the privileges and rights that an individual has just by virtue of being human; regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, or other characteristics. Throughout history, different treaties, decrees, and covenants have increasingly take human rights under protection on a global scale. In other words, the concept of human rights is widely institutionalized. International human rights rules require states to guarantee that their citizens have access to human rights and to protect them from any infringements or abuses of those rights. However, the current Turkish government goes beyond simply failing to uphold these duties and denying them by persecuting the people who support and seek out fundamental freedoms like the right to free speech.

"For that matter, those who criticize the government and people in power have been silenced and ultimately punished with prison sentences for almost a decade specifically since the coup attempt in 2016. The dismissals of 130,000+ public servants, shutdown of 200+ media outlets and 15 universities, imprisonment of more than 150 journalists--legitimized through emergency decrees declared right after the aforesaid failed coup--attest the political oppression in Turkey."

AST (Advocates of Silenced Turkey), as an NGO has relentlessly been working since its foundation in 2017 to champion human rights which are harshly violated by the state in Turkey, with the hopes of supporting a reestablishment democratic values.

Deeply concerned about Turkey's government disregarding human rights, as AST, we have been annually organizing The Freedom Convention, since 2020. Remarking on the international covenants, of which Turkey is a state party, this year the convention addressed the arbitrary deprivation of civil and political rights in Turkey and crack down on freedom of expression in Turkey. Participants and experts also discussed the international humanitarian law in today's world and conflict related abuses including Ukraine case and pushbacks in Greece. Thus, as a unique event focused on Turkey, Freedom Convention 2022 brought ongoing violations and persecutions in Turkey to the global attention and provided a platform for strategies and recommendations to end those violations.

DID YOU KNOW?

OVERCROWDED PRISONS DUE TO WITCH HUNT

Total prison inmate population of **314,502** in government-operated detention facilities with a capacity for only **286,797** inmates.

Human Rights Association IHD underlines that there are currently **1,605** sick prisoners in Turkey, **604 of which are critically ill.**



FREEDOM CONVENTION



ABDULHAMIT BILICI
Former CEO of
German Newspaper
USA



AHMET NESIN
Journalist & Author
Germany



ALON BEN-MEIR
Senior Fellow at New York
University's Center for Global
Affairs & Senior Fellow at the
World Policy Institute
USA



ALP ASLANOGLU
Executive Director of
Alliance for Shared Values
USA



JOCELYNE CESARI
Senior Research Fellow at
Georgetown's Berkley Center for
Religion, Peace and World Affairs
USA



KATRINA LANTOS SWEETT
President of Lantos Foundation
for Human Rights
USA



KERIM BALCI
Research Fellow & Communications
Officer at London Advocacy, Journalist
UK



KIRSTEN GOVENDER
Global Member of South African
Legal Practice Council
South Africa



ARZU YILDIZ
Journalist, Recipient of
Media Ethics Award &
The Swedish Human Rights
Award
Canada



BULENT CEYHAN
Freelance Journalist,
Recipient of Nordic Golden
Journalist Award
Sweden



BULENT KENES
Former CEO of
Today's Zaman Daily
Sweden



CENGİZ AKTAR
Professor of Political Science at
the University of Athens
Greece



MEHMET EFE CAMAN
Professor of Political Science at
McMaster University
Canada



MICHAEL RUBIN
Resident Scholar at AEI
USA



NATALI AVAZYANI
Human Rights Activist
Turkey



**OMER FARUK
GERGERLIOĞLU**
Member of Parliament (MP)
Turkey



CRAIG SHAGIN
Professor of Immigration Law
at the Wilfrid Laurier
University Law School
USA



DAVID KILGOUR
Fellow of the Queen's University
Centre for the Study of Democracy;
Executive Director of the Council for a
Community of Democracies (CCD)
CANADA



EREN KESKIN
Lawyer & Human Rights Activist
Turkey



ESER KARAKAS
Professor of Public Economics at
the University of Wittenberg
Romania



RABIA CHAUDRY
Attorney, Advocate,
NYC Senior Justice Advisor
USA



SOPHIA PANDYA
Chair of Refugee Studies
Department at California
State University Long Beach
USA



SUMEYYA AVCI
Purdue Teacher
Turkey



VONYA WOMACK
Director of the Center for
Global Learning at Colby University
USA



EUGENE CHUDNOVSKY
Co-Chair, The Committee of
Conscientious Scientists
USA



HAKAN YESILOVA
Editor of the Foreign Magazine
USA



HILAL AKDENİZ
Sociologist
Germany



JAMES HARRINGTON
Founder of Texas Civil Rights
Project & Human Rights Attorney
USA

FREEDOM CONVENTION 2020

Among the panelists of the first session in which minority rights and social genocide issue were discussed were Lantos Foundation President Katrina Lantos Swett, Lawyer Mahsuni Karaman, attorney of Selahattin Demirbas (jailed leader of HDP (Kurdish party in Turkish parliament); politician Abdullah Demirbas, Former Mayor of Sur (Kurdish majority populated); Kurdish author and poet Meral Simsek; American Kurdish Network President Kani Xulam and Lawyer Levent Maziliguney from Turkey who closely follows the cases of human rights violations that purged people face.

In the second session of the Convention, crack down on freedom of expression was addressed by Mohamed Shafie Ameermia, Human Rights Expert and Legal Consultant from South Africa; Lawyer and Human Rights Expert Gokhan Toy, and exile Turkish journalists Bulent Kenes and Levent Kenez whose extradition is demanded from the Sweden government by the Turkish government.

Finally the panelists in the last session talked about international humanitarian law in today's world in regard to Ukraine-Russia war, pushbacks and refugee crisis in Greece and apartheid in South Africa. The speakers were Lyudmyla Koztavska, the President of Open Dialogue Foundation; Tony Pillay, the Executive Director of Law Society of South Africa, Lawyer Anthimos Sideris from Greece and Prof Vonya Womack, the Executive Director of Refugees Unknown Stories Untold.

I would like to share my key takeaways from the Convention by remaining loyal to the speakers' own words:

FREEDOM CONVENTION



MERAL SIMSEK: "Including myself, so many women have been subjected to torture, sexual assaults and rape in Turkey's jails. As Kurdish women we have been experiencing this issue way before the failed coup. However, our fight for freedom is not only for Kurdish women, it is not just for Turkey's women either. Our fight is for women of the world."

ABDULLAH DEMIRBAŞ: "As a Kurdish individual, I was accepted, by the state, as a terrorist kid who should have been beaten when I was 7; I am 57 now and I am accepted as a terrorist who should be killed! I was sentenced to 300 years imprisonment since I have been politically fighting for democracy whereas my son who was an armed guerrilla was sentenced to 10 years."

LEVENT MAZILIGÜNEY: "Unlawfulness in Turkey is not only affecting the direct victims but whole society. Statistics about the unemployment, hopelessness for the future, increasing suicide incidents evidently showcase this situation."

MAHSUNI KARAMAN: "For Erdogan HDP was a barrier to his autocratic goals and arrested the co-chairs of the party. The verdict that ECHR made about the case of Selahattin Demirtas proves not only the human rights violations our co-chairs face but also the collapse of rule of law."

KATRINA LANTOS SWETT: "Laws in Turkey, as in other autocratic regimes, are used as proxies to justify the mass purges. The persecution against Kurdish people and Gulen Movement volunteers through the antiterror law is an example for that matter."

FREEDOM CONVENTION

MOHAMED AMEERMIA: "Purged people of Turkey must urge domestic and international mechanisms to generate tangible goals for advocacy. They also must work to transform the society, must work for the sake of transformation and dignity. It's a hard but not an impossible goal. South African example transformed from apartheid is always a beacon of hope."

LEVENT KENEZ: "In the centre of the human rights issues in Turkey is the inexistence of the independence of the judiciary. Since the Ottoman, for the first time one man is ruling the country. Unless the opposition abandons the regime's discriminatory rhetoric it is impossible to tackle this problem."

BULENT KENEZ: "According to Stanton's theory of 10 stages of genocide, the regime conducted 9 stages put of 10 against Kurdish people, Gulen Movement volunteers and other dissidents. The only remaining act is mass extermination."

FREEDOM CONVENTION 2022

DECEMBER 10, 2022

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

 Abdullah Demirbas Politician, Former Mayor of Sur Municipality	 Gokhan Toy Lawyer, Institute for Diplomacy and Economy	 Kani Xulam American Kurdish Information Network	 Katrina Lantos President, Lantos Foundation for Human Rights & Justice	 Levent Kenez Journalist
 Levent Maziliguney Lawyer	 Lyudmyla Kozlovskya President, Open Dialogue Foundation	 Mikail Kirbayir Brother of Cemil Kirbayir, victim of Enforced Disappearances	 Meral Simsek Journalist & Author	 Mohamed Shafie Legal Consultant & Robert Glidden Visiting Professor, Ohio University
 Sideris Anthimos Lawyer	 Tonny Pillay Executive Director, Law Society of South Africa	 Mahsuni Karaman Lawyer	 Vonya Womack Director, Refugees Unknown Stories Untold	 Bulent Kenes Journalist

FREEDOM CONVENTION



GÖKHAN TOY: "Since the arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, sexual assaults and torture that the Turkish state conducts are systematic and widespread these are all crimes against humanity."

LYUDMYLA KOZLOVSKA: "Naming the war crimes (kidnappings, torture, sexual assaults...) & archiving them are important in order to be able to hold Russia & all individuals who perpetuate these crimes accountable within the int'l humanitarian laws and organizations."

TONY PILLAY: "Survivors of Turkey purge need to have a future vision in terms of rule of law and advocate for this vision, convince the world to accept this vision. Change will ultimately come driven by people!"

FREEDOM CONVENTION

VONYA WOMACK: (Reflecting on a study on women's rights violations under custody & in jails)
"91 percent of the participants were arrested during OHAL & were exposed to many serious rights violations within unlawfulness (sexual assaults, ill-treatment...)"

ANTHIMOS SIDERIS: "Because of the gaps or dilemmas around European border protection, states abuse their power and utilize nationalist rhetoric to justify pushbacks. EU must take action against abuses and protect the rights of refugees."

Solidarity and unity amongst and with freedom fighters and all dissidents are critical more than ever in Turkey - where the rule of law is collapsed, the judiciary is not independent and the regime persecutes people visibly and widely. Ekrem İmamoğlu, the Mayor of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, was sentenced to 2 years, 7 months and 15 days in prison at the decision hearing on 14 December 2022 of the lawsuit filed on the grounds that he insulted the members of the Supreme Election Board (YSK). Imamoglu was also deprived of the rights defined in Article 53 of the Turkish Penal Code. Additionally, the recent decision of the ECtHR that 82 judges and prosecutors who were detained and arrested after the July 15 coup attempt were unlawfully treated and that compensation should be paid to these people is yet another example of Turkey's widespread oppression. Given these recent incidents; I, once again, would like to highlight that political parties, individual activists and human rights organizations both domestically and internationally should collaborate in resistance against state's repression. The consensus among the speakers of the Convention demonstrates the necessity of solidarity and resilience.



REACHED MILLIONS

250,000- 750,000 views per day!



REACHED MILLIONS



FREEDOM TRUCKS

200,000+ MILES in 3 years across 23 states in the USA



FREEDOM TRUCKS

Detroit Free Press

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'Stop torture' message on his semitruck is call to action in Michigan's streets



Fatih Yildirim of Schaumburg, Illinois, sits in his 18-wheeler that he owns and calls the Freedom Truck on May 24 in Lansing.

RYAN GARZA, DETROIT FREE PRESS

JAMIE L. LAREAU | DETROIT FREE PRESS | 10 hours ago

Fatih Yildirim is a long-haul truck driver who happens to drive one of the most noticeably shocking trucks on Michigan's roads.



VIGILS & PROTESTS



VIGILS & PROTESTS



STORY OF MUSTAFA KABAĞCIOĞLU

Mustafa Kabakçıoğlu, a police officer expelled from his job by a statutory decree, jailed

because of his **60 cents donation to KYD a humanitarian organization**, died in a solitary confinement cell in Gümüşhane Prison on August 29 on a **White Chair** when he was just 44 years old.

DID YOU KNOW?

VIGILS & PROTESTS



VIGILS & PROTESTS



REPORTS

Torturers Report - 2

According to the report, although receiving applications was restricted in 2020 due to measures against the pandemic, 605 people applied to TİHV on the grounds that they were exposed to torture and ill-treatment. Of the 562 victims, 283 stated that they were subjected to torture in official detention centers and 73 in police stations.



REPORTS



Women's Rights Violations by the Turkish Legal System

The intent of this report is to declare the victims of the 'New Turkey,' especially women with children who have been under persecution since the July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Although the Turkish government does not promote transparent data on the number of children imprisoned with their mothers.

Freedom Convention

Turkey Freedom Forum is a unique convention for human rights activists, intellectuals, and policymakers focused on human rights violations in Turkey organized by AST. In pursuance of justice and peace, this forum aims to bring hundreds of human rights defenders and activists together and to foster the dynamics to mobilize. This report will focus on five unique panel topics and will highlight outstanding discussions.



Turkey's Human Rights Record in Numbers

We dedicate this book to all innocent victims of human rights violations, especially to the victims, who lost their lives due to the harsh manifestations of the State of Emergency and Decree Laws.

According to the Global Crime Index report published in 2021, Turkey ranks 1st in Europe in Organized Crime and 13th in the world.

REPORTS



COUP AGAINST JUDICIARY!

THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE TURKISH JUDICIAL SYSTEM AFTER DECEMBER 17-25 CORRUPTION CASES AND JULY 15, 2016 COUP ATTEMPT

The integral principle of democratic regimes, and of a state of law, is the independence and impartiality of the judiciary. As the judiciary is weakened by being exposed to political interventions in countries with weak democratic foundations, it can become a tool of intimidation by dictatorial administrations.

Collapse of Rule of Law in Turkey

There are numerous reports illuminating the collapse of rule of law and the judicial independence in Turkey. The lack of fair trials, the denial of the right to defense, and political interference in ongoing cases summoned close-up scrutiny from international organizations to the nature of post-coup trials, causing debilitating damage to the credibility of trials at all.



62,669 POLITICAL PRISONERS

62,669 political prisoners charged with "terrorist activity" At least **686** of them tortured during detention **616** people died under persecution. **61** prisoners died suspiciously **20** prisoners died just in first **9 months of 2020** in Turkey.

DID YOU KNOW?

126 SUSPICIOUS DEATHS

Occurred in detention centers and prisons, according to The Stockholm Center for Freedom (SCF).

REPORTS



Erdoğan's Long Arms: Abductions in Turkey and Abroad

It is no secret that Turkey's authoritarian political Islamist regime, headed by the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) and its ruler Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, has long been suppressing opposition in the country.

Erdoğan's Torture Squads

Government employees who have been involved in the use of torture have been protected by government institutions and officials in Turkey for years and rewarded with impunity. Even when a lawsuit is filed against them, it is ensured that these employees continue their duties and even receive promotions as they are prevented from being sentenced and imprisoned.



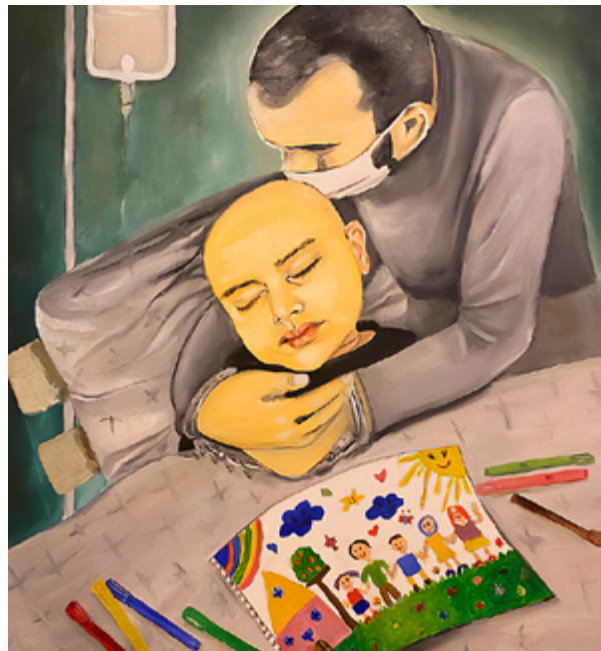
Sick and Elderly Political Prisoners in Erdoğan's Turkey

The jails in Turkey have long been mentioned in the same breath as inhumane actions and the breach of even the most basic rights, especially against the political prisoners. The violations have reached to unprecedented levels in parallel with the emergence of the current political-Islamist authoritarianism.

ART 4 HUMAN RIGHTS



ART 4 HUMAN RIGHTS



ART 4 HUMAN RIGHTS



ART 4 HUMAN RIGHTS



BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS



The Life and Legacy of Gökhan Açikkollu

I will never stop seeking for justice and trying to hold those perpetrators accountable for their crimes, both in this world and the next. I will never say "Well, it is just fate, and there is nothing we can do about it." No, I will not step aside! I will demand justice until justice is done! Yes, I believe firmly in destiny and the Hereafter, but I also believe that if I let those perpetrators get away with their horrendous crimes, shame on me!

The Illustrations of a Teacher in Prison

Yolgezer, a formerly imprisoned artist, invites the world to see the dire human rights violations in Turkey. Through an anonymous activist perspective, the artist specifically depicts Turkey's jails where tens of thousands of political prisoners are kept. You will not only witness how the life is like in prison, but also learn why those prisoners of conscience are incarcerated and how they feel behind bars.



143 Social Genocide Practices in Erdogan's Turkey

This work presents an exhaustive list of flagrant human rights violations to the degree of social genocide, perpetrated after the coup attempt of 15 July 2016. Within this framework, the report identified 143 rights violations and social genocide practices. Since some of these practices are executed publicly, it is known to everyone.

BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS



Stories of Hope 1: Written by Children Refugee and Oppressed

"The Stories of Hope: Written by Children - Refugee and Oppressed" is a compiled selection of the stories submitted for the "Hope Stories from Refugee Children" contest, organized by Advocates of Silenced Turkey (AST) in 2022.

The Life of Halime Gulsu: The Heavenly Teacher Murdered in Prison

They will try to change the reports, the statements, and the facts. They will try to evade taking responsibility. But everyone knows that I was in fact murdered. Those whose hearts have darkened will be proud of their accomplishment.



Art For Human Rights: Persecution in Turkey

We can't help but speak up... or in this case, sketch up. If you want to help people, you're reminded to say something if you see something. Our voices hoarse, we now turn to pen, pencil, brush, and other media to squeeze out every last word. We at Art for Human Rights organized this collection to present a fraction of the hundreds of pieces from all corners of the world, from artists who wanted not their voices, but their cause to be heard.

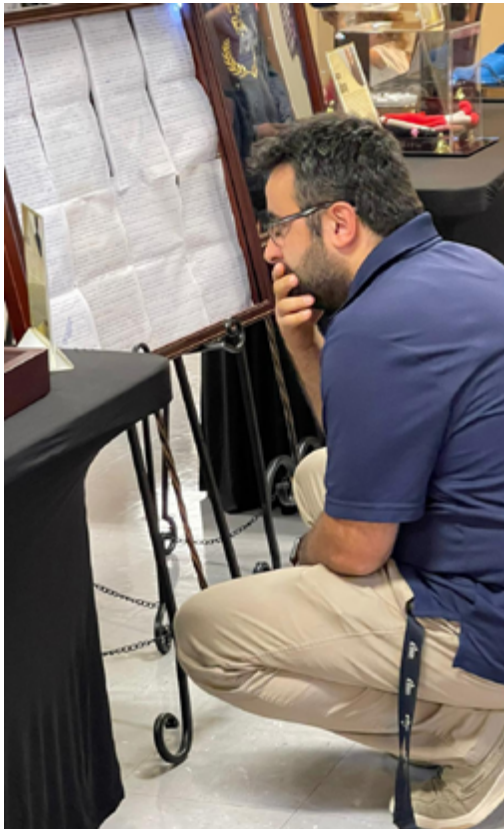
SOCIAL GENOCIDE EXHIBITIONS



<https://tinyurl.com/yc388ajh>



SOCIAL GENOCIDE EXHIBITIONS



SOCIAL GENOCIDE EXHIBITIONS



SOCIAL GENOCIDE EXHIBITIONS



EVENTS & PROGRAMS



EVENTS & PROGRAMS



EVENTS & PROGRAMS



AST IN THE NEWS

AST REACHED MILLIONS & APPEARED IN THE NEWS 100+ TIMES



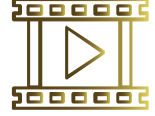
TURKEY'S ABYSMAL HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD



TURKEY'S ABYSMAL HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD



VIDEO CLIPS & DOCUMENTARIES



Garibe Gezer İşkenceyle Öldürüldü



Social Genocide Exhibition



Justice for Women Protests Press Release



Birader-i Canberaberim / Hikaye



Ah Kalbim / Şiir



Turkey Deserves Democracy, not a Dictatorship! / London Ads

VIDEO CLIPS & DOCUMENTARIES



ABUSE OF INTERPOL BY TURKEY



"HAKKINI HELAL ET ZEKİ..." / HİKAYE



BEN AYŞEMSİZ NE YAPARIM- DOCUMENTARY



ZÜLEYHA'CA / ŞİİR

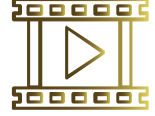


SENA'NIN Umut HİKAYESİ



YARGIYA DARBE RAPORU

ANIMATIONS



ABDUCTIONS BY ERDOGAN'S TURKEY



Özlem Meci ve Diğer Mağdur Annelere İthafen



WHAT CAN YOU BUY FOR \$1 IN TURKEY? JAIL TIME?



Persecution of Women & Children in Turkey



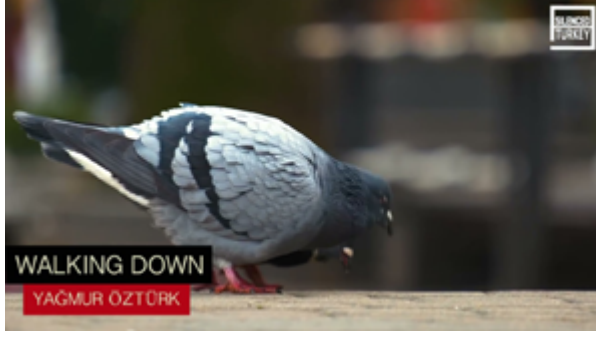
Mustafa Kabakçıoğlu



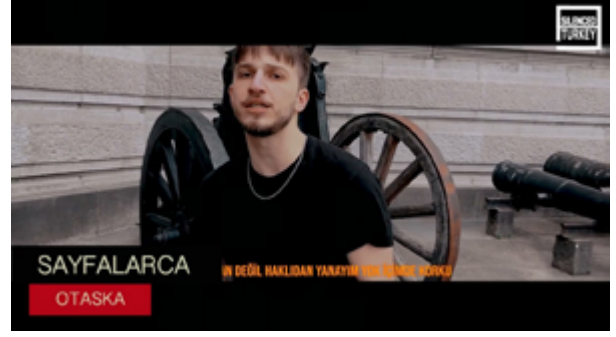
Political Prisoners in Turkey and Human Rights Violations



SONGS FOR OPPRESSED



WALKING DOWN / Yağmur Öztürk



SAYFALARCA / OTASKA



SARILSIN ANNEM / ALP ÇAMALAN



NOLUR / GRIFON



HOPE / Yağmur Öztürk



UNUTMAYIN BENİ / BERKUS

TESTIMONIALS



RUTH EFIRD, NURSE, NORTH CAROLINA

I was so surprised to receive the book Silent Scream from you when I came back home yesterday! I had been at my son's home for over 3 weeks. I read it crying last night. My heart goes out to the people of Turkey who are silently protesting the Turkish government.

I signed up for the newsletter so that I can keep up with the latest events.

Thank you for sending me this realistic book of oppression of women in Turkey.

MESSAGE FROM THE MOTHER OF GARIBE GEZER; MURDERED POLITICAL PRISONER GREETINGS FROM MARDIN KENBORAN TO THE US.

You didn't forget my Garibe. You wanted to commemorate her in the exhibition in the US. So I would like to send you a memento of her. I watched and saw your exhibition work, I was very pleased. I know that you have not forgotten and will not forget my Garibe.

Hail to the prisoners, to those in exile. Greetings to all Kurds and Turks. Hello Garibe's friends, comrades, those who have not forgotten her.

You always have a place in my heart. You are always welcome. I would sacrifice myself for you since you don't let my Garibe be forgotten.

And I will never forget you. I will never leave my Garibe's path and I will not forget her.

I will never forget you as long as I live. You are the light to my eyes.
My Garibe was unique. I salute you all.

KARI O'ROURKE

The phrase "a particular bundle of silences" caught my attention immediately. The desire expressed by the group of people who will become the participants in this proposed study is that they want to un-silence their voices. In the fourth proposed group of participants for the study, I will examine more than 40 stories and artifacts of lives that have been lost as a part of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's regime's efforts to eradicate the Hizmet people. I was invited to be a speaker at a social genocide awareness event in New Jersey in June 2022. Afterwards, I organized a group of volunteers to bring the exhibit to Kansas City and in September 2022 we presented the exhibit in three venues and I named the exhibit "Un-Muted." The stories of what -happened to these people are the counter-narratives to what the mainstream media in Türkiye presents. The story of Garibe Gezer is gut-wrenching. She was arrested and sent to prison in 2016 and died in 2021 as the result of prolonged torture, isolation and repeated rape. After we shared her story through the exhibit, her mother sent a video message which the Advocates of Silenced Turkey (AST) volunteers translated to English for us. By sharing Garibe's story we ensured that her voice remains present in the historical record despite the efforts of the dominant regime's attempts to silence it. It is critically important to ensure are not lost to the narrative of dominance and oppression.

TESTIMONIALS



EDWARD STEVENSON, COMMUNITY LEADER, KANSAS CITY

The writers of the pieces in the "Hope Stories" are exceptional young people. I have not met them physically. I have only (only?!?) known them through their writings. Their personal maturity is exceptional. Their experiences are exceptionally fraught in ways most of us, thank goodness, have never known. In many cases the very writing itself is exceptional. And in all that I have read there is an exceptional commitment, an exceptional discipline, an exceptional persistence in seeking hope even in the midst of terrifyingly threatening circumstances.

We are in a time when too, too many of the world's leaders and peoples seem bent on violence, when nature itself seems to be becoming more and more hostile to human well-being, when many even among those who are economically and socially comfortable seem to be turning to tantalizing distractions or simply falling into depression and despair. By contrast these young writers are heroes and should be recognized as psychological, spiritual and moral leaders.

The reason is that they demonstrate a commitment to building and maintaining hope and meaning in the midst of extreme circumstances. Circumstances of sudden, unwarranted arrest and denial of due process of law; circumstances of physical abuse and even outright torture; circumstances of isolation from family and loved ones; circumstances of imprisonment and ongoing verbal and psychological harassment by those who are supposed to be the upholders of justice.

Read these stories. Sense their courage. Observe a maturity that seems far beyond their youthfulness. Then examine your own commitments to justice, to a freedom beyond mere physical and social circumstance. As it has for me, let their hope inspire, enlarge and even strengthen your own.

BONNIE HAGHIRIAN

"I donated to AST because I am a mother. I cannot imagine having my child confined in a prison, away from family, away from life itself. I donated to AST because I have a voice, and those who are silenced have none. When one of us is hurting, we all are hurting."

JAMIE FRAZIER

"We have watched Turkey devolve from an open, multicultural society into an autocracy that imprisons and tortures those who share different opinions or are identified with any group the government deems as threatening. It breaks our hearts that families and friends are separated and suffering only because they seek peace and understanding."

EYYUP ESEN

"I have been volunteering for AST to be the voice of babies/kids and oppressed women and men. AST is the hope of desperate people in Turkey. They are the light at the end of the Turkish tunnel. Please donate so that their fight for freedom and justice can continue."

IN 5 YEARS

WHAT WE ACHIEVED



285

Interviews



36

**Books & Stories
Published**



103

**Legal
Applications**



51

Reports



112

**Lectures &
Seminars**



45

Exhibitions



101
*30,000+
attend*

**Peaceful
Protests & Vigils**



125

**Events
& Activities**



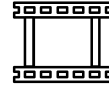
39

Booklets



120+

**AST in the
News &
Impacts**



13

Documentary

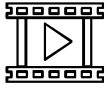


73

**Take Action &
Campaigns**

IN 5 YEARS

WHAT WE ACHIEVED


317
**Videos
& Podcasts**

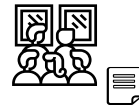
10k+
attendees
**International
Human Rights
Conference**

200+
**Infographics,
Flyers &
Presentations**

10
**Petition
Campaigns**

42+
**Press
Releases**

66
**Social Media
Campaigns**

525+
art created
**Art & Short
Film Contests**

200+
*Created
per year*
**Events and
Materials**
**DID YOU
KNOW?**

1,477 TORTURE & ILL TREATMENT

The Human Rights Association (HRA) reported that the number of incidents where prisoners were subjected to torture and ill treatment in detention centers and prisons was **2,178 in 2016, 2,415 in 2017, 1,505 in 2018, 1,477 in 2019**

"Archiving Persecution of Hizmet" project records up to **70 victims stories** per year. **241 stories** of victims have been recorded and **35 books published on Amazon and Google Books** so far.

WHERE ARE WE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Youtube Videos **2 Million+** Viewed



Twitter

19.2k+



Facebook

5 FACEBOOK PAGES IN 5 LANGUAGES

60k+



Instagram

3 INSTAGRAM PROFILES

5k+



YouTube

14.9k+



Email List

8k+



AST reached a total of
100k+ plus followers on social media.

VOLUNTEER

If you want to volunteer for AST, please contact us at help@silencedturkey.org



We have **705 volunteers** from more than **30 countries**



Total volunteer hours exceeded **16,000**



Social media followers have passed **100k+**



The number of national & international news coverage more than **300**

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

- + TRANSLATION (TURKISH - ENGLISH / ENGLISH - TURKISH)
- + PROOFREADING / EDITING
- + WRITING ARTICLES OR ACADEMIC PAPERS
- + GOOGLE SEARCH (MEDIA AND DATA ENTRY)
- + DESCRIBE VICTIMIZATION THROUGH ART
- + FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES / CALL-CENTER
- + INTERVIEWING THE VICTIMS
- + INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTION
- + PERSECUTED PEOPLE OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS
- + CREATING & SENDING E-MAILS
- + CONTACTING CONGRESS & SENATE
- + EVENT COORDINATOR
- + PUBLIC RELATIONS
- + MEDIA RELATIONS
- + PUBLIC SPEAKING
- + PRESENTATIONS
- + GRAPHIC DESIGN
- + SOCIAL MEDIA
- + VIDEO PRODUCTION
- + VOICE RECORDING

In total, about **1,880 papers**, reports, lectures, events, etc. created by AST. With the power of social media, AST reached millions of people.

📺 Youtube views **2 Million +**

SUPPORT AST

TO CREATE REPORTS, BOOKS, PROGRAMS & MATERIALS TO RAISE THE VOICE OF THE OPPRESSED

The approximate cost to produce reports, books, campaigns, and programs on Human Rights is shown below. ***Thank you for your generous donations.***



1 Report \$3,000 - \$13,000

1 Book on Amazon or Google Books \$6,000 - \$15,000

1 Booklet \$750 - \$2,000

1 AST Paper \$150 - \$300

1 Story \$1,000 - \$2,000



1 Infographic \$150 - \$300

1 Presentation \$200 - \$500

1 Flier \$50 - \$100

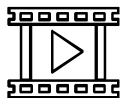


1 UN Application \$2,000 - \$4,000

1 Official Letter Creation \$100 - \$250

1 Social Media Campaign Creation \$500 - \$2,000

1 Newsletter \$250 - \$500



10 Pages Translation \$150 - \$400

1 Short Video Production \$1,000 - \$3,000

1 Documentary \$4,000 - \$20,000

1 Lecture \$1,000

1 Panel \$1,500 - \$2,500



1 Exhibition \$1,000 - 7,000

1 Conference fees \$100 - \$500

1 News translation \$30 - \$100

10 Calls and follow up \$100

10 Emailing and follow up \$100



1 Page translation \$15 - \$100

500 Reports printing and mailing \$2,500 - \$3,500

1 Song Contest & Award Ceremony \$10,000 - \$14,000

1 Art Contest & Award Ceremony \$6,000 - \$10,000



1 Short Film Contest & Award Ceremony \$12,000 - \$17,000

1 Photo Contest and Award Ceremony \$7,000 - \$10,000

1 Animation Cost \$2,000 - \$3,000

International Freedom Convention \$20,000 - \$30,000

Organizing a Protest \$1,000 - \$7,000



Giant Billboard Advertisements \$7,000 - \$50,000

Social Media Advertisements \$100 - \$5,000

1 Freedom Truck Advertisement \$7,000 - \$10,000

SUPPORT **AST**

by making a monthly donation
or one-time donation



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✓ **PAYPAL**

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✓ **ZELLE**

advocatesofsilencedturkey@gmail.com

✓ **PATREON**

patreon.com/advocatesofsilencedturkey

✓ **SEND CHECK**

Please make your checks payable to
"Advocates of Silenced Turkey"
Address: Advocates of Silenced Turkey
P.O. Box 2399 Wayne, NJ 07474-2399

✓ **SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER**

<https://bit.ly/2UEYDwD>



Help us spread the word,
be part of the change!
Together we can help be the voice of the
voiceless people of Turkey.



By making a monthly donation or one-time donation
www.silencedturkey.org/donatenow



By becoming a volunteer
www.silencedturkey.org/get-involved

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

By following us on social media

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 www.facebook.com/silencedturkey

 www.instagram.com/silencedturkey

 www.youtube.com/AdvocatesofSilencedTurkey



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REPORT 2022

Stand Up for Human Rights

www.silencedturkey.org

help@silencedturkey.org

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