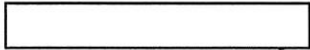




Turkey COI Presentation



RAIO Research Unit
1/21/2020

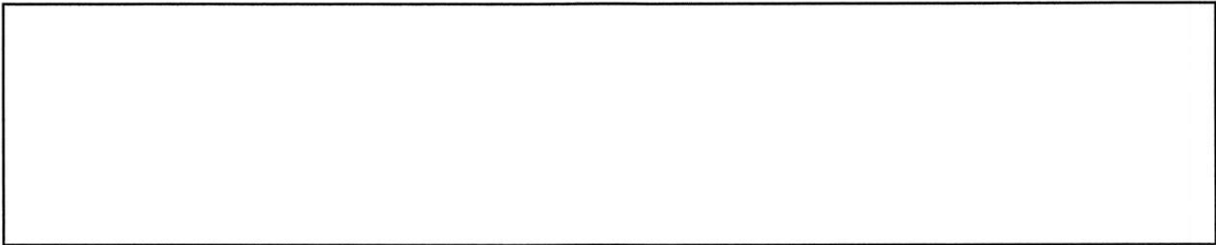


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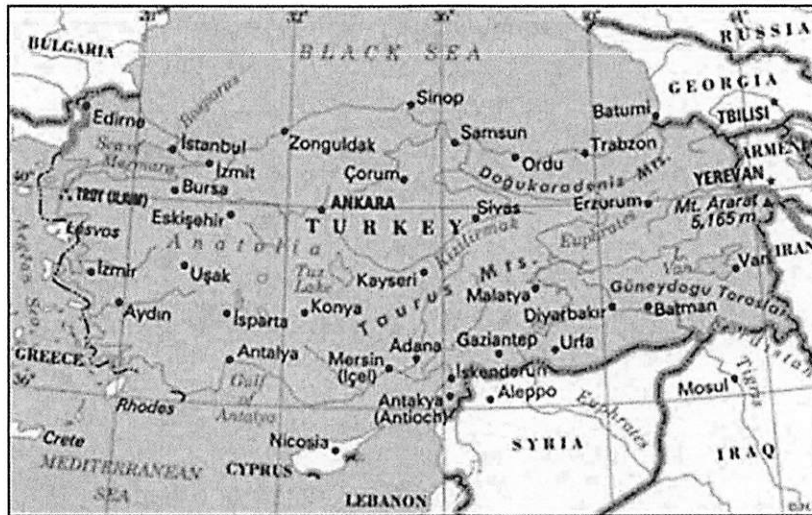
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Turkey and Neighboring Countries



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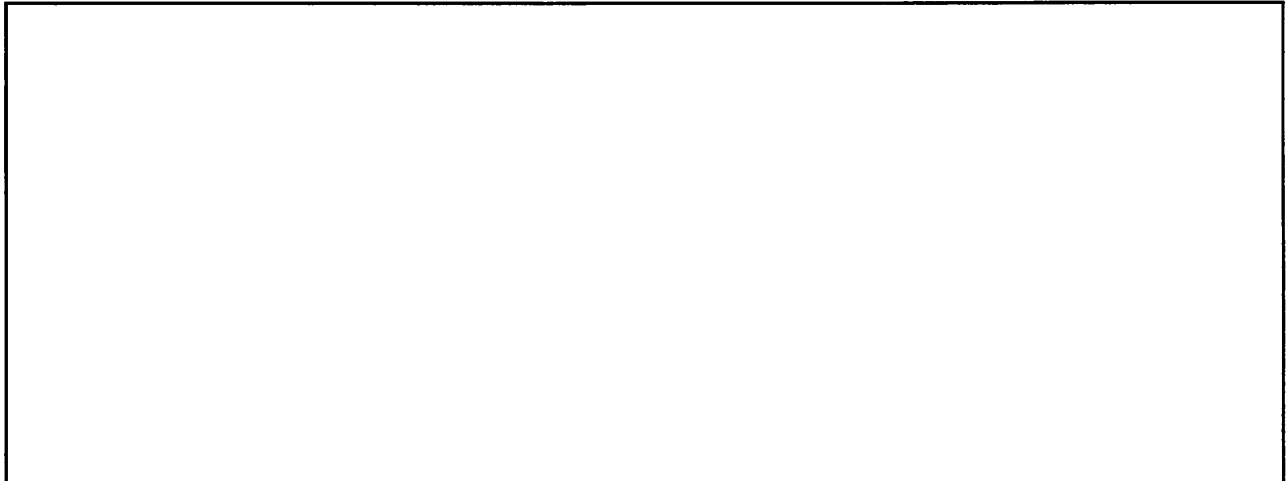
Religion in Turkey

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



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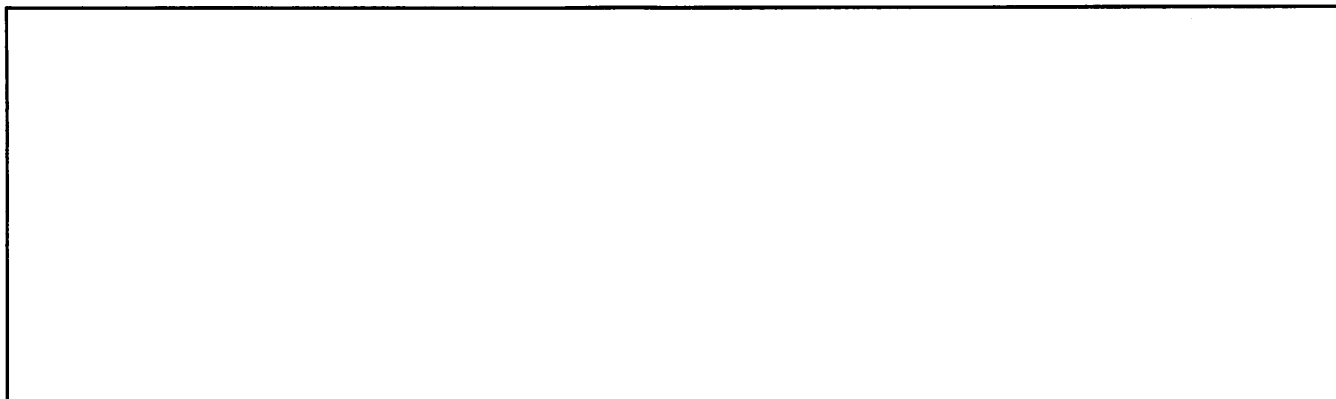
Treaty of Lausanne implications for minorities- religious and ethnic

- 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



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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".



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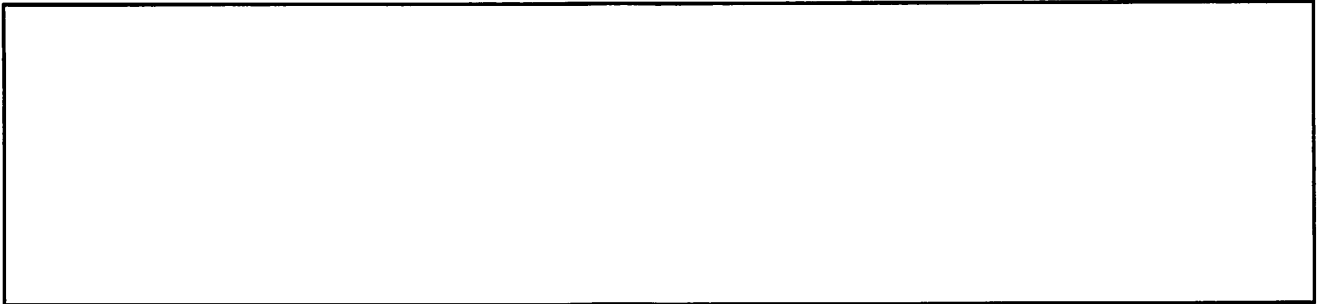
Alevis In Turkey

- 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 Alevis in Turkey and Alawites in Syria are the same religion. However, Alevism and Alawism are separate and distinct sets of beliefs.
- Alevis 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 Alevis 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 Alevis are Kurdish.
- Despite the Alevis history of persecution, since 2007 when Prime Minister Erdogan announced the "year of opening" with the Alevi community the status of Alevis in Turkey the physical security and religious freedom of the Alevis has drastically improved



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Ethnic Groups in Turkey

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



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Kurds are the largest ethnic and linguistic minority in Turkey. The estimated numbers claimed by various sources range from 10 to 23 per cent of the population. Today, most estimates suggest that between 15 and 20 per cent of the Turkish population is Kurdish.

Ninety per cent of Caucasians in Turkey are Circassian, while the majority of the remaining 10 per cent is Abkhaz. 3M in Turkey self identify Caucasians. All Caucasians are Muslim. Chechens and Daghistanis belong to the Şafi denomination of Islam, whereas the rest are Hanafi. Caucasians live in 15 provinces in north-west, central and southern Turkey.

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 housing

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housing

Northern Cyprus, Turkish Citizenship & Statelessness

- A person claiming to be from the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) could be considered stateless if he or she is not a citizen of a state recognized by the US, even if the person is a TRNC national under TRNC law.
- Two segments of the Cypriot population residing in the TRNC are excluded from RoC citizenship by law—persons who immigrated to the TRNC after the Turkish military intervention of 1974, and children born to “mixed” families of RoC citizens and persons of Turkish ethnicity.
- The RAIO RU has formal guidance on this that we have obtained from the LLOC



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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 for the past three years.
- 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 LGBTI people perverts on media cannot be considered hate speech, as it falls under freedom of expression

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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

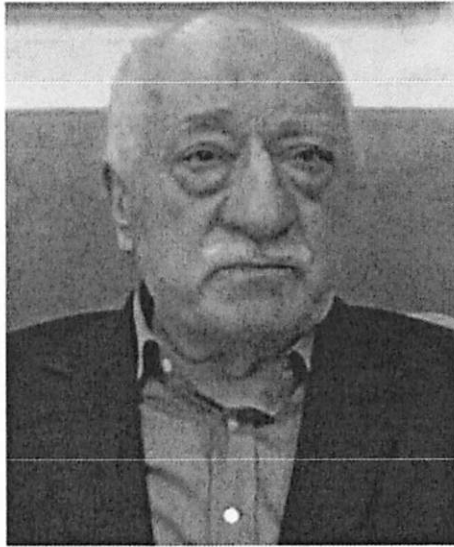
- The Nur Movement spread rapidly in the wake of the dissolution of Sufi brotherhoods in 1925. Its members, organized into “reading circles,” understood Islam as a self-disciplining and moralizing force capable of transforming Turkish society. They sought—and seek—to revive Islam in Turkey by reconciling 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.



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Fethullah Gülen



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Fethullah Gülen (b. 1938) is a prominent Turkish Islamic scholar and founder of the international Gülen Movement, which evolved from the [Nur Movement](#) in the 1960s. Gülen stresses education as the vehicle for transforming the contemporary world. Where Said Nursi emphasized personal transformation as a means to effect social change, Gülen looks both to personal transformation and social and political activism, and fully embraces Turkish nationalism—the defining characteristic of which is Islam, not nationality—and economic neoliberalism while stressing continuity with Turkey’s Ottoman past. Gülen has also been a strong proponent of interfaith dialogue.

Gülen’s early years in Eastern Turkey were shaped by unofficial [Sufi](#) networks and teachers, including his mother. He became a religious scholar and as a young man worked in a Qur’anic school in Izmir, Turkey, traveling frequently and sharing Said Nursi’s ideas. While he is most prominently a “Nurçu,” or follower of Said Nursi, he has incorporated ideas of a variety of Turkish nationalist intellectuals, and underscores that Islam has a place in the public sphere and is a fundamental aspect in the creation of an ideal society. His emphasis on the role of the state and neoliberalism are legacies of the changing nature of the late Ottoman state from the vantage point of the east, including conflicts between Muslims and Christians in the

Balkans and, later, the expansion of the Soviet Union and the threat it posed (many of Nursi's followers were involved in anti-communist activism, and are markedly pro-American).

Affiliates of the Gülen Movement run an international network of private and public schools inspired by Gülen's teachings, with over 1,000 in Turkey and abroad. The schools are typically started by businessmen, and maintain rigorous academic standards that follow secular curricula established by the state, with an emphasis on moral and ethical development. The teachers, who are expected to be role models for their students, are usually selected from among Gülen's followers. The Gülen-inspired schools in the Balkans have been instrumental in reifying a Turkish nationalist Islam, while in the United States they follow an entirely secular and notably science and math-heavy curriculum. However, the American schools have been targeted based on xenophobic assumptions that they are crypto-religious schools that seek to spread Islam, and some have faced intense scrutiny for granting construction contracts to businesses owned by members of the Gülen Movement, favoring Turkish over local American instructors, as well as redirecting public funds towards the Movement's uses. Gülen currently lives in the United States.

Though Gülen claims that he is uninterested in politics, he and his followers have been instrumental in supporting the rise of the AKP and Erdogan (who himself is not a "*Fethüllacı*"). The Gülen Movement has thrived under the AKP, to such an extent that Prime Minister Erdogan was rumored to seek limitations on their power. Gülen followers, who are believed to be well-represented among the police and judiciary, were implicated in handling of Ergenekon, a coalition of ultra-nationalists seeking to incite a military coup to bring down the AKP. Rumors also abounded during the 2013 corruption scandal implicating the AKP government that it was the Gülenists who exposed AKP politicians and business affiliates, initiating an investigation that led to the arrests of several prominent figures.

The Turkish public has mixed perceptions of Gülen and his followers. While many are sympathetic, the movement has been criticized in recent years on account of its lack of organizational and financial transparency, and for this reason both Turkish secularists and some Turkish Muslims are wary of Gülenists.

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

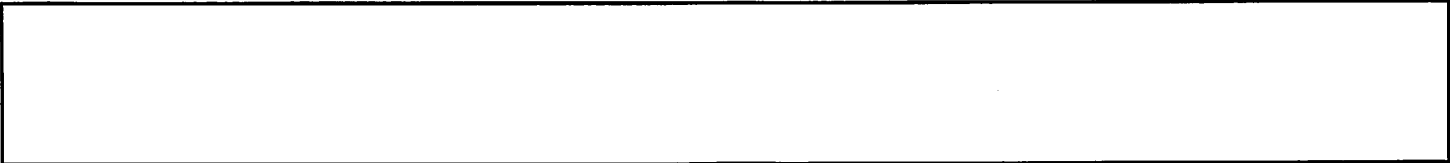
Gülen exhorts his followers to strengthen their nation and to embrace the larger family of Humanity through three spiritual devices

- 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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Is the Gülen Movement/Hizmet a terrorist organization?

- On May 31, 2016, the Government of Turkey officially designated followers of Gülen movement (also known as Hizmet) as a terrorist organization. In Turkey the state refers to the movement as FETO -the Fethullahist Terrorist Organization (Fethullahçı Terör Örgütü)
- The U.S. Government has not designated the group as a foreign terrorist organization, and the RAIO TRIG office has published official OCC cleared guidance on the Gülen Movement
- Our OCC cleared official guidance states that Hizmet is "Tier N/A. Does not meet the INA definition of a terrorist organization at any time since formation."



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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)



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Structure of Hizmet/The Gülen Movement

Hocaefendi Fethullah Gülen in USA

Hoca in Istanbul

(I.e., authority at a central GM institution Akademi, GYV, etc.)

Municipality Abi
(e.g., Fatih)

Municipality Abi
(e.g., Üsküdar)

Sub-neighborhood Abi

Sub-neighborhood Abi

"House of light" Abi

"House of light" Abi

"House of light" Abi

"House of light" Abi

The Agency network of authority.



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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
- The 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 and his growing authoritarianism.
- 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.



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History of coups in Turkey

1960

May 27

First coup in the Turkish Republic. President, prime minister and others arrested and tried for treason and other offences.

1971

March 12

Economic downturn leads to widespread unrest. The military intervenes once again, in an effort to "restore order other offences.

1980

September 12

Clashes between left- and right-wing groups lead to another army coup. Hundreds of thousands of people arrested in following years, dozens executed.

1997

February 28

Military offers series of "recommendations" after rise of Welfare party. Government has no choice but to accept, prime minister forced to resign.



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Sources: Al Jazeera, Agence



ALJAZEERA

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1960

The first coup in the Turkish republic took place in 1960, during a time of heightened tensions between the Turkish government and the opposition.

The ruling Democratic Party, headed by prime minister Adnan Menderes and president Celal Bayar, began to loosen some of the toughest Ataturk-era rules dealing with religion: it allowed thousands of mosques to reopen, legalised the call to prayer in Arabic instead of Turkish, and opened new schools for religious personnel, among others. It also shortened the period of mandatory military service.

At the same time, it further alienated the opposition by imposing restrictive new press laws and occasionally barring critical newspapers from publishing.

Growing tensions caused the Menderes government to impose martial law in early 1960. The army stepped in and toppled the government on May 27; the president, prime minister and several cabinet members were arrested and quickly tried for treason and other offences. Menderes was executed.

General Cemal Gursel assumed power - as both president and prime minister - beginning a period of military-dominated politics that would last until 1965.

1971

The Turkish economy stagnated in the late 1960s, and the recession caused

widespread unrest: workers' groups staged demonstrations, sometimes violent, and right-wing groups carried out attacks of their own. The currency was devalued in 1960; annual inflation reached nearly 80 percent.

So in March the military intervened once again, an effort to "restore order", it said. Memduh Tagmac, the chief of the general staff, gave a memorandum to the prime minister, Suleyman Demirel. It accused his government of driving the country into anarchy, and demanded the formation of a "strong and credible government ... inspired by Ataturk's views."

Demirel resigned hours later, after meeting with his cabinet.

The military did not rule directly during this period. It first asked Nihat Erim, a member of the right-wing Republican People's Party, to form a caretaker government; it was the first of several which governed Turkey until 1973, when Fahri Koruturk, a retired naval officer, was installed as president by the parliament.

1980

Instability continued even after the 1971 coup: Turkey changed prime ministers 11 times in the 1970s, the economy continued to stagnate, and left and right-wing groups continued their violent clashes in the streets. Thousands of people were assassinated.

The military began discussing a possible coup in late 1979, and in March 1980 a group of generals recommended that they move forward. It was delayed several times, and finally launched in September, when officers announced on state television that they were imposing martial law and dissolving the government.

Evren became president, and a naval officer, Bulent Ulusu, assumed the post of prime minister.

These years of military rule did bring some stability to Turkey. Ulusu was succeeded in 1983 by Turgut Ozal, who is now widely credited with stabilising the Turkish economy by privatising many state-owned industries. Inflation dropped and employment grew.

The military also arrested hundreds of thousands of people; dozens were executed, while many others were tortured or simply disappeared.

A new constitution was drafted and put before a public referendum in 1982; it was overwhelmingly approved.

1997

The 1995 election led to overwhelming gains for the Islamist Welfare party, which took power the following year as the head of a coalition government.

In 1997 the military issued a series of "recommendations", which the government had no choice but to accept. The prime minister, Necmettin Erbakan, agreed to a compulsory eight-year education programme (to prevent pupils from enrolling in religious schools), a headscarf ban at universities, and other measures. Erbakan was then forced to resign.

The Welfare party was shut down in 1998, and Erbakan was banned from politics for five years.

Some former members of the party, including current prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, would eventually go on to found the Justice and Development Party.

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.



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* THE AFTERMATH:

- Evren has defended his coup as necessary to end years of violence between left- and right-wing factions in which some 5,000 people died.
- He kept his pledge to restore democracy, which he did when Turgut Ozal swept to victory in 1983 with a party cobbled together from liberal, nationalist and pro-Islamic forces.
- Evren, who is now 94, became president in 1982, a position he held until 1989.
- The military did not favour Ozal as the new political leader. But Evren accepted the poll result and he forged a good working relationship with the prime minister.

2016 Coup attempt and allegations against Gülen

You must move in the arteries of the system, without anyone noticing your existence, until you reach all the power centers. . . . You must wait until such time as you have gotten all the state power, until you have brought to your side all the power of the constitutional institutions in Turkey. . . . Until that time, any step taken would be too early—like breaking an egg without waiting the full forty days for it to hatch. It would be like killing the chick inside. The work to be done is [in] confronting the world. Now, I have expressed my feelings and thoughts to you all—in confidence . . . trusting your loyalty and sensitivity to secrecy. I know that when you leave here—[just] as you discard your empty juice boxes, you must discard the thoughts and feelings expressed here.?



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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.



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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



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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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Turkey Justice Department Web- portals/UYAP

- <http://www.e-justice.gov.tr/>
- <http://www.e-justice.gov.tr/General-Information>

- These are official Government of Turkey websites. They do list some information about pending or completed cases from Turkey's legal system.
- Because of the nature of how legal systems operate, it is possible that someone could have a pending arrest warrant or other legal action against them that is not available publicly.



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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



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The sibling of the Philadelphia-based cleric, **Kutbettin Gulen**, is accused of participating in his brother's Islamic organization, called Hizmet (Service). Turkish authorities refer to the organization as "FETO": Fetullah Gulen Terrorist Organization.

This is the third time Turkish authorities have targeted the Gulen family: in July, Turkey arrested **Muhammet Sait Gulen**, Fethullah's nephew, in Erzurum. Another nephew, **Ahmet Ramiz Gulen**, was arrested in August.

Extended Family of Hizmet supporters

- The PA, the child of teachers of Gulen, hasn't been in Turkey since before the attempted coup. They claimed Turkey continues to seek extended family members of Gulen movement. Is there any COI that supports or discredits the veracity of these actions from the Turkish government?
- In the first decree issued under the state of emergency dismissing public officials, ***the government's wording targeted people "assessed to have been members of or acted in union with or been in contact with terrorist organizations or structures, entities or groups*** that the National Security Council has decided are engaged in activities against national security."



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Fairness of Trials in Turkey

To what extent are individuals arrested for being a member of FETO given trials? Are those trials purely show trials? What sentences are normally handed out?

→ "The measures in place in Turkey which interfere with or deny a lawyer's access to persons in detention, that deny confidentiality of privileged communications between lawyers and their clients, that hinder access to investigation files, deprive defendants of the right to call witnesses, and challenge witnesses against them on an equal basis all violate the right to fair trial protected under international law." – HRW
April 2019



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Bank Aysa

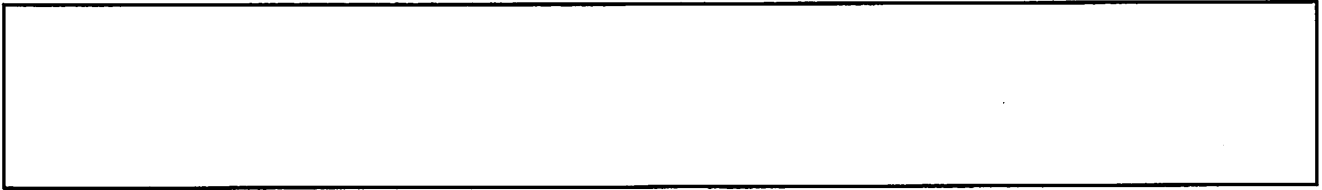
- Turkish authorities seized Bank Aysa in Feb 2015
- Closed permanently on 22 July 2016
- Overseeing a former school teacher's indictment, Supreme Court of Appeals ruled that money deposits to Bank Asya in Sept - Dec of 2014 by former teachers who had previously been associated with the movement, could 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.



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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.



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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 lenght [sic] of service is 12 months, and these personnel serve in the rank of 3rd Lt.



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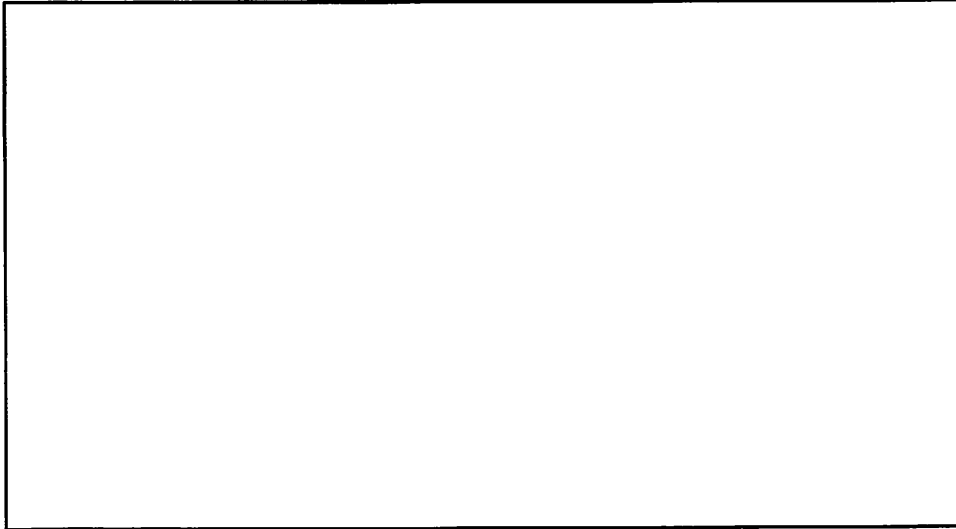
Persecution of Turkish Military Officers NATO



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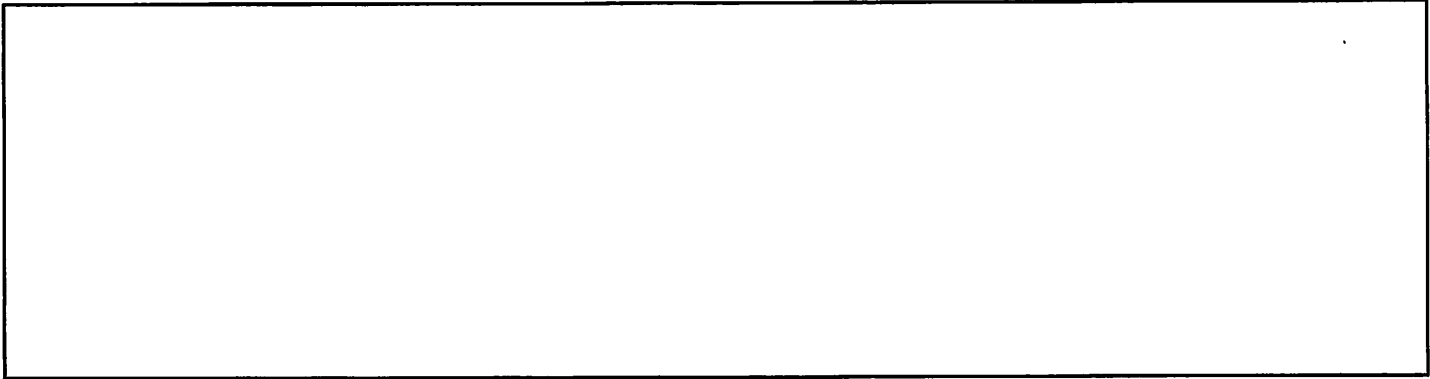
Atlantacists versus Eurasionists

Military - Human Rights Violations



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Military – PKK

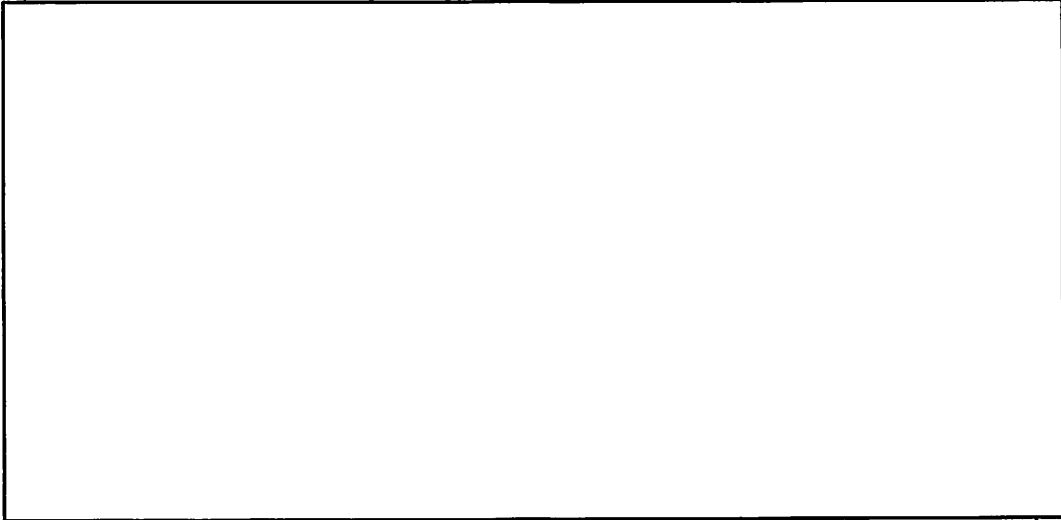


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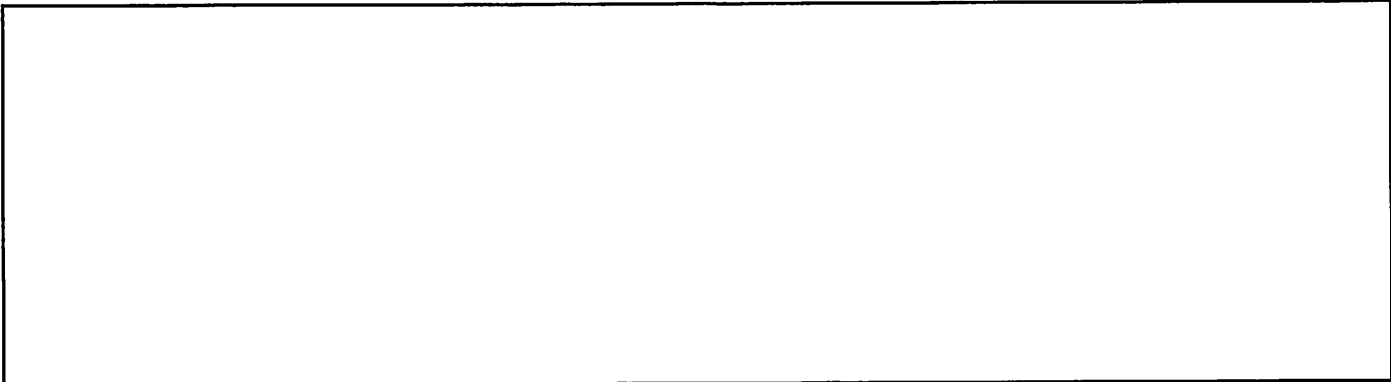
Allegations of HRVs by Turkish Military in Syria



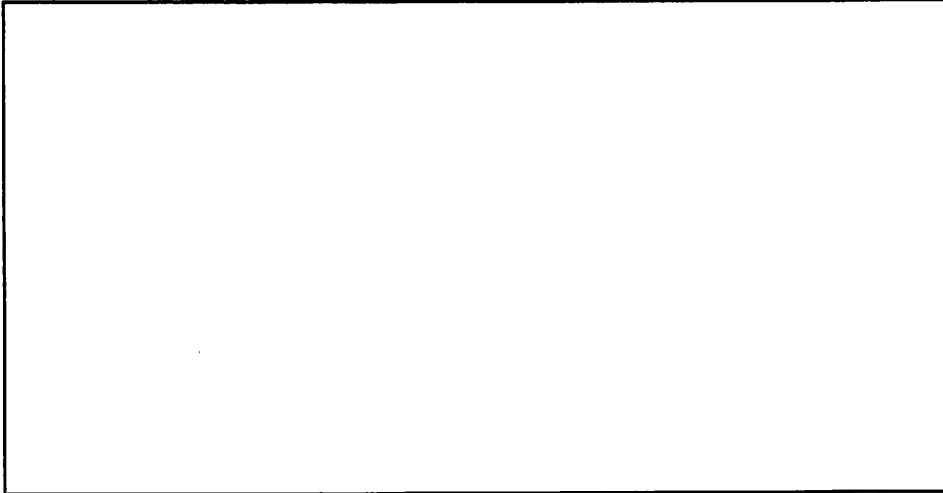
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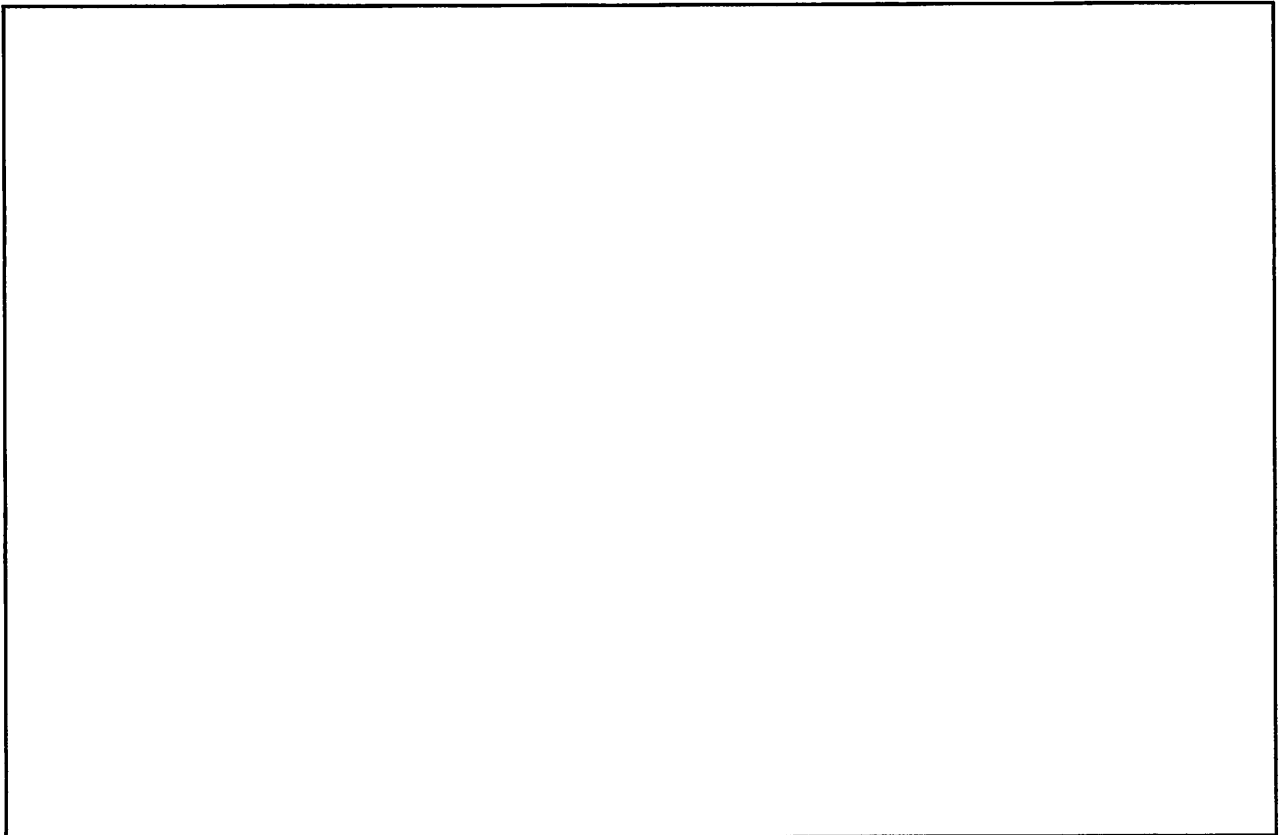


Recent Turkish Military Operations in Iraq



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Tier I Terrorist Groups active in Turkey



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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.



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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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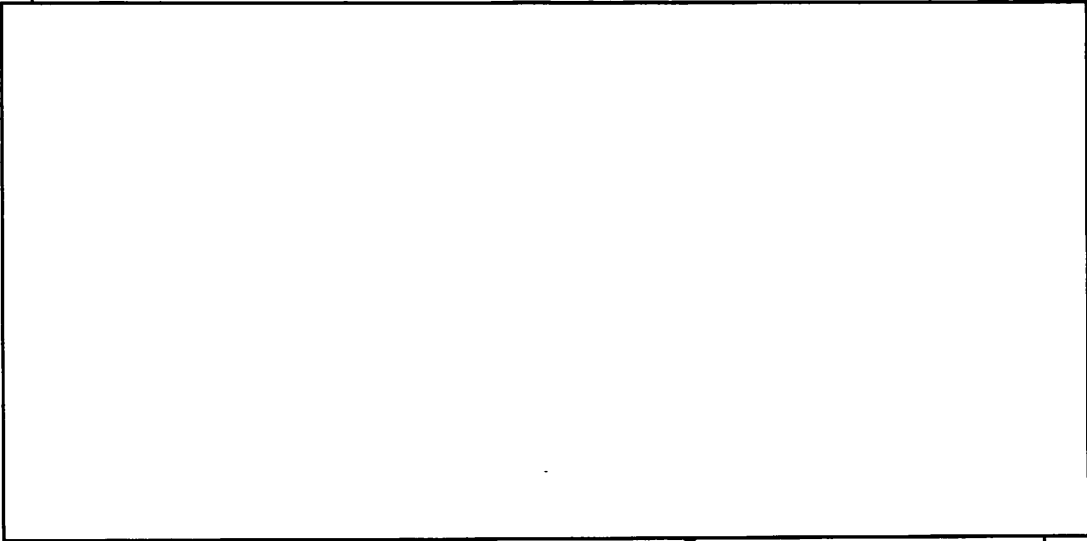
**Revolutionary People's Liberation
Party/ Front**



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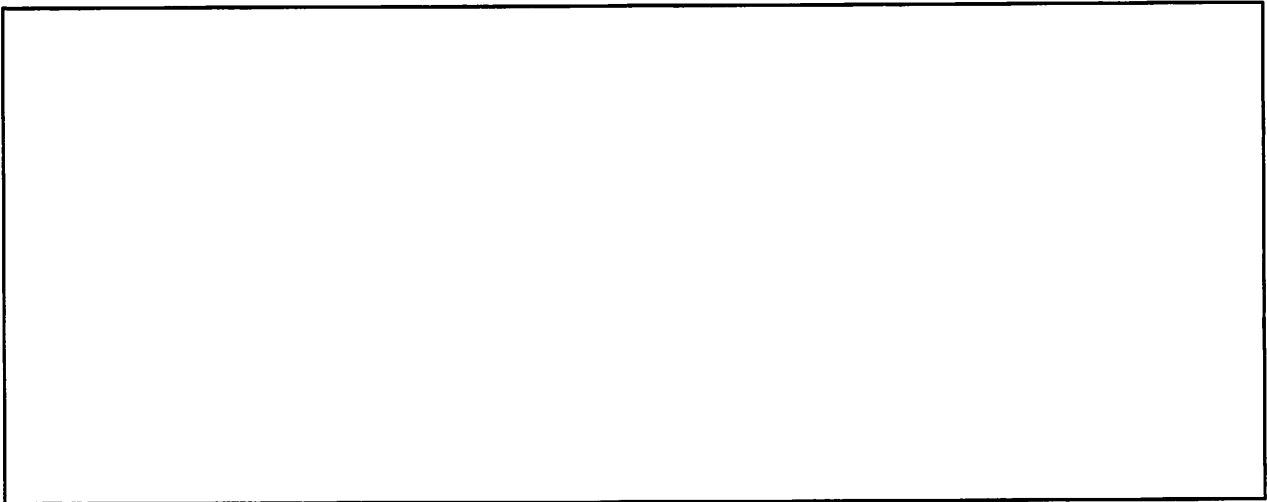
HDP - Peoples' Democratic Party



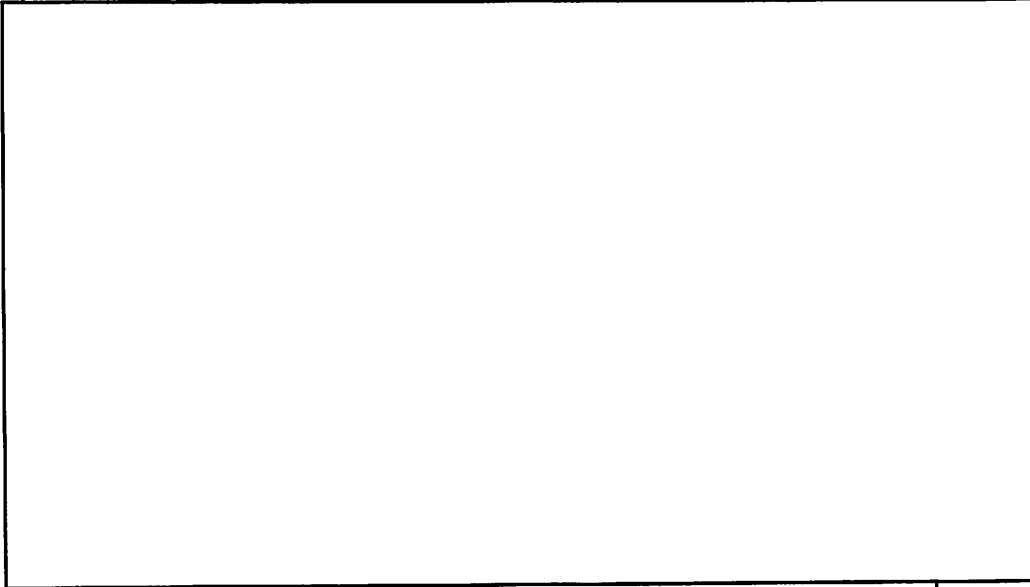
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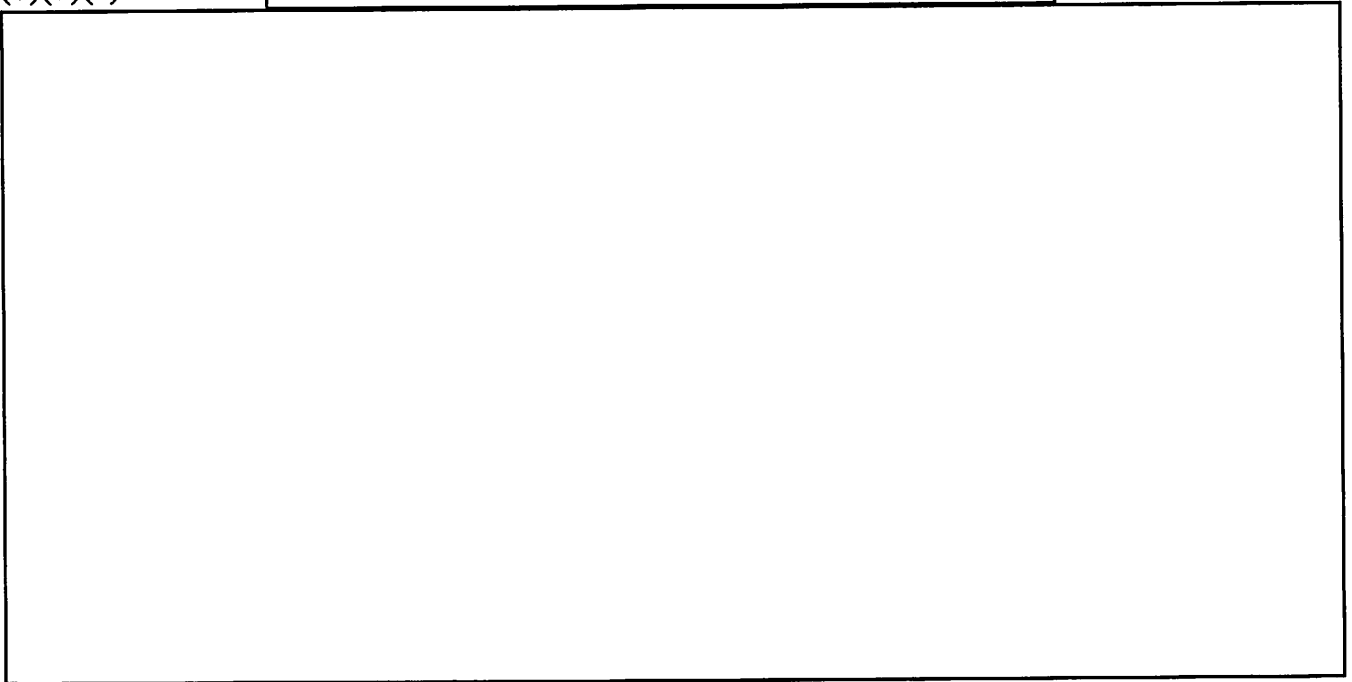
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Persecution of Journalists



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Some Helpful Resources

- [Redacted]

- [RAIO Research Unit Turkey ECN Page](#)

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
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