



TURKEY CRACKS DOWN ON HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

↘ JAILING HEALERS IN TURKEY

DECEMBER, 2017



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About Stockholm Center for Freedom

Stockholm Center for Freedom (SCF) is an advocacy organization that promotes the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights and freedoms with a special focus on Turkey, a nation of 80 million that is facing significant backsliding in its parliamentary democracy under its autocratic leaders.

SCF, a non-profit organization, was set up by a group of journalists who have been forced to live in self-exile in Sweden against the backdrop of a massive crackdown on press freedom in Turkey.

SCF is committed to serving as a reference source by providing a broader picture of rights violations in Turkey, monitoring daily developments on fact-based investigative journalism and documenting individual cases of the infringement of fundamental rights. The founders of SCF are top-notch journalists who had managed national dailies in Turkey and worked for leading media outlets before they were forced to leave. They have the expertise, human resources and network on the ground to track events in Turkey despite serious challenges.

INTRODUCTION..... Page 6

1. DoctorsPage 9

1.1. Cases Of Jailed Doctors

1.1.1. The Case of Mustafa Emmiler Page 11

1.1.2. The Case of Haluk Savaş..... Page 12

1.1.3. The Case of Murat Acar Page 14

1.1.4. The Case of Ali İlker Baştan and Esmâ Kuriş Baştan Page 16

1.1.5. The Case of the Global Doctors Movement Page 17

1.1.6. Other Cases Page 18

1.2. Suspicious Deaths Of Doctors Page 23

1.2.1. Case of Mehmet İnam Page 23

1.2.2. Case of Mustafa Sadık Akdağ Page 23

1.2.3. Case of Ali Özer Page 24

1.3. Turkish Doctors in Exile Page 24

2. Health Care Workers Other than Doctor Page 25

2.1. Case of Fatma Turan Page 26

2.2. Case of Ayşe Büyükgezirci Page 26

2.3. Other Cases Page 27

2.4. Suspicious Deaths of Health Care Workers Page 28

2.4.1. Case of Hasan Orhan Çetin Page 28

2.4.2. Case of Sevgi Balcı..... Page 29

3. Hospitals and Medical Centers Were Shuttered..... Page 29

3.1. Sema HospitalPage 31

3.2. Turgut Özal University SUAM Ren Tıp Hospital..... Page 11

3.3. Bahar Hospital Page 32

4. Patients..... Page 33

4.1. The Case of Yavuz Bölek Page 34

4.2. The Case of Gökhan Açikkollu Page 36

4.3. The Case of Tuğba Yıldız Page 37

4.4. The Case of Nurhayat Yıldız Page 38

4.5. The Case of Mustafa Erdoğan Page 38

**4.6. Cases of detention immediately after
the birth of a baby Page 39**

4.7. Other Cases Page 43

5. Pharmacies and Pharmacists Page 44

6. Kimse Yok Mu Charity Page 45

7. Medical Students Page 47

CONCLUSION..... Page 48

ANNEX Page 50

TURKEY CRACKS DOWN ON HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

INTRODUCTION

The Turkish government has shut down hospitals, medical schools and health clinics and arrested thousands of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, scientific publishers and health authorities as part of an unprecedented crackdown on perceived critics of the authoritarian regime of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. This has taken a huge toll on the health industry in Turkey, increased the shortage of health care professionals such as doctors and nurses and restricted access to quality health care by many people who depended on services provided by doctors in the shuttered health institutions.

The escalating crackdown on health care professionals in Turkey has no precedent in Turkish history, and it would be very unlikely to find any resemblance to anything that can be found in the history of mankind. In 2016 almost 50 hospitals and health clinics¹ including the nation's leading hospitals in Istanbul and Ankara were shut down by the Turkish government by way of simple decree-laws without any administrative or judicial probes. The pretext was alleged ties to the Gülen movement, a civic group that has been critical of the Erdoğan government.

Most of the doctors, some well-known surgeons and specialists in their fields of expertise, technicians, nurses and other health care professionals who worked in these institutions have become unemployed. Many of them were arrested on fabricated terrorism charges, and some had to flee Turkey to live in self-imposed exile abroad to avoid prison, where torture and ill treatment have been systematic and deliberate, according to reports by respected human rights organizations.

The Turkish government has so far declined to provide an exact tally of how many health care professionals were impacted by this witch-hunt that led to the closure of privately run medical schools, hospitals and health clinics and mass dismissals in public universities and hospitals. However, research carried out by the Stockholm Center for Freedom (SCF) shows that over 21,000 health care professionals including doctors, medical professors, nurses, technicians and hospital staff have thus far been dismissed from public and private hospitals as well as medical schools and associations in Turkey.

1] "İşte kapatılan sağlık kuruluşlarının listesi", NTV, 25 July 2016, <http://www.ntv.com.tr/saglik/iste-kapatilan-saglik-kuruluslari-nin-listesi,FG1JXVEOC0iEDt72WP0Q6g>



Over 21,000 health care professionals have lost their jobs within a year because of Turkish government's witch-hunt persecution of critics.

Accordingly, 2,337 medical academics including leading professors² in their fields of expertise lost their jobs. Of them, 1,697 worked in state-owned medical universities. In addition to that, 1,684 doctors in public hospitals and 1,200 doctors in privately run hospitals were abruptly laid off. The most casualties took place among health care professionals who are not doctors. In total, 11,821 health care professionals other than doctors lost their jobs. Of this, 5,821 had worked in the public health care system. The research conservatively estimates that some 4,000 hospital staff members other than health care professionals were also impacted by the layoffs.

Given the fact that Turkey can make up for the shortage in the number of doctors and nurses by 2024 based on the projected number of enrollments in medical schools,³ the mass dismissals will only exacerbate the shortage in Turkey. Testifying before a parliamentary commission in November 2017, Turkish Health Minister Ahmet Demircan said the government plans to compensate for the shortfall in the number of doctors in 10 years.⁴ He added that the shortfall in the number of interns can be met within five to six years.

On the other hand, many dismissed doctors and other healthcare workers report that they could not find a job in the private sector because they were marked as “terrorists” by the government without an opportunity to defend themselves against these accusations in either administrative probes or judicial investigations. Those who have been lucky enough to land jobs say they face mobbing, harassment and humiliation in their new workplaces.

2] Among this figure includes 675 professors and assistant professors who were specialized in medical science.

3] “YÖK Başkanı: Doktor ve hemşire ihtiyacı 2024’te tamamlanacak”, 23 November 2017, <https://www.medimagazin.com.tr/hekim/genel/tr-yok-baskani-doktor-ve-hemsire-ihciyac-2024te-tamamlanacak-2-12-75356.html>

4] “Sağlık Bakanı Ahmet Demircan: Uzman doktor açığını 10 yılda kapatmayı planlıyoruz”, 13 November 2017, <http://www.haber-turk.com/saglik-bakani-ahmet-demircan-uzman-doktor-acigini-10-yilda-kapatmayi-planliyoruz-1671435>

SCF investigators who interviewed some of the doctors and other health care professionals who escaped the crackdown in Turkey found that most are confronted with a new set of challenges, from financial hardship to difficulty in securing recognition of their medical licenses in their new countries of residence. Language barriers, cultural differences and challenges in entering the labor market coupled with the psychological trauma they suffered as they fled Turkey have burdened them.

The terrible result of these dismissals and arrests has adversely impacted patient care in Turkey, where in some provinces people are unable to find doctors and specialists and are forced to make long trips to other cities to get treatment after long delays. The dismissals dealt a blow to the rights of patients, which are under protection by the Regulation on Patients Rights⁵ because the closure of hospitals and dismissal of doctors restricted their choices in selecting doctors and specialists. Some patients who had been supervised for a long time by the same doctor are frustrated that they were left in limbo when their doctor was either arrested or dismissed by the government. SCF research showed that some patients reported regression after they were stripped of access to doctors they had been seeing for years.

In the meantime, access to health care for detainees and prisoners has become increasingly difficult and challenging as a result of overcrowded prisons where the number of political prisoners has grown rapidly. The government reportedly imposes restrictions on access to health care by political prisoners as another form of torture, ill treatment and abuse. Numerous complaints filed with the Turkish Doctors Union (TBB) by detainees and prisoners portray a gloomy picture of how it has become difficult to get treatment under the emergency rule that has been in force in Turkey since July 2016.⁶

The unlawful closure of hospitals, medical schools and health clinics is also tantamount to violation of the right to free enterprise, which is protected by the Turkish Constitution.⁷ The health associations that were shut down by the government also had an adverse impact on overseas charitable operations by doctors who had gone to less developed countries for health screening, surgeries and the delivery of medicines. In fact, a SCF review of judicial documents discovered that the Turkish government even cited trips by doctors to perform free surgeries in some African countries as evidence of crime and terrorism.

5] Article 9 states that patient has a right to choose and replace his or her own doctor. <http://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/Metin.Aspx?MevzuatKod=7.5.4847&MevzuatIliski=0&sourceXmlSearch=hasta%20haklar%C4%B1>

6] "OHAL'de hekim bilançosu: 3 bin 315 hekim ihraç edildi", 21 July 2017, <https://www.birgun.net/haber-detay/ohal-de-hekim-bilancosu-3-bin-315-hekim-ihrac-edildi-171010.html>

7] The freedom of enterprise guaranteed under Article 48 of the Constitution protects the right of all real persons and legal entities to establish enterprises. As stated in the article, this freedom is regulated as an economic and social right with the aim of providing the individual "economic peace and prosperity."

1. Doctors

The crackdown on doctors has been quite dramatic in Turkey with thousands purged, losing their jobs and in the worst-case scenario arrested on dubious charges of terrorism and coup plotting. The Ministry of Health has announced that more than 7,500 health care professionals including many doctors have been dismissed within the scope of a mass purge of government employees from their jobs.⁸ Only 252 health care workers were allowed to return to their jobs in the government.⁹

In the private health care industry, the story is even worse. Using new powers under emergency rule, the Turkish government closed 14 hospitals and 33 medical centers and 9 medical, health and dentistry universities over their alleged affiliation with the Gülen movement. The government has not presented any evidence that proves any of these institutions were involved in any crime and has not launched criminal or administrative investigations into the allegations before moving forward with a decision to shutter them all. It was a part of vendetta pursued by Turkish President Erdoğan and his associates against a major civic group that is seen as critical of the government.

According to the Directorate General for Health Research, there are 144,827 physicians in Turkey. Of these, 86,332 work for the Ministry of Health and 30,642 for universities, while 27,853 are employed in the private sector.¹⁰ With the government's decree-laws, 1,697 academics who worked in state-run medical schools and universities were summarily and abruptly dismissed, corresponding to 6 percent of all employed in medical schools. Although this number appears to be low in nominal figures, the qualitative damage is much higher than that given the fact that many of those dismissed include professors and leading physicians who taught others in the medical field. What is more, 1,684 physicians who worked for the Ministry of Health were purged.

In the private sector the picture is even gloomier. More than 1,200 doctors suddenly became unemployed when the government decided to shut down hospitals, medical centers and health clinics. Six hundred seventy-five academics who teach medical sciences lost their jobs after the closure of Gülen-linked universities. A total of 5,261 medical doctors and academics who specialize in the medical sciences were impacted by this massive purge. It is mindboggling to see that a country with a serious shortage of doctors and health care professionals decided to waste the best and brightest just because of their real or perceived ideologies that differed from the Islamist ideology of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP).

8] "Sağlık Bakanı Akdağ: 6 bin personel açığa alındı", 13 August 2016, <http://www.bbc.com/turkce/haberler-turkiye-37069290>

9] "Tüm KHK'lar bazında; kurum kurum, ihraç ve iade sayıları", 1 August 2017, <https://www.memurlar.net/haber/684749/tum-khk-lar-bazinda-kurum-kurum-ihrac-ve-iade-sayilari.html>

10] "Sağlık İstatistikleri Yılığ 2016 Haber Bülteni", 29 September 2017 http://www.metaveri.saglik.gov.tr/book/SIY_2016_Haber_Bulteni.pdf



The purge has resulted in devastating consequences for dismissed doctors as they face hardship in finding new jobs after being demonized by the government and their names plastered all over the media. Some had to work in other fields for low wages to support their families. Amnesty International called the mass dismissal of Turkish public sector workers a “professional annihilation” that has had a catastrophic impact on their lives and livelihoods. “The mass dismissals have been carried out arbitrarily on the basis of vague and generalized grounds of ‘connections to terrorist organizations.’ Dismissed public sector workers have not been given reasons for their dismissal nor do they have an effective means of challenging the decisions.”¹¹

The Venice Commission also underlined that “the public servants concerned should have been able, at least, to know the evidence adduced against them and be allowed to comment on that evidence before any decision on dismissal was taken.”¹² Yet, dismissed public employees only discovered that their names were on a list when it was published in the Official Gazette. In addition, they did not know why or based on what evidence, if any, they had been dismissed. They were prevented from accessing their files because they were classified.

In addition to challenges in finding a new job, many doctors have been jailed on trumped-up charges and faced torture and ill treatment as research by SCF and other rights organizations has revealed. Having worked for the closed health care institutions and medical schools was enough for the government to charge doctors with terrorism and coup plotting. Some doctors had to move out of Turkey, albeit under difficult conditions, using illegal migrant routes because their passports had been revoked by the government. In some cases the government accused doctors of terrorism because they joined health care screening campaigns in Africa and other places that were organized by Kimse Yok Mu, a one-time leading humanitarian charity group that was closed by the government.

Defending the crackdown on academics and doctors, President Erdoğan said academics and doctors must also pay the price for their mistakes just as others do.

“If politicians, bureaucrats and technocrats must pay the price for the crimes they committed, shouldn’t professors, assistant professors and doctors pay, too? No offense! If they are part of efforts to divide my country, if they are linked to ‘FETÖ’ [a derogatory term for the Gülen movement] or the PKK [Kurdistan Workers’ Party], of course they have to pay a price. In such cases whatever is legally necessary must be done. No one should be uncomfortable with this,” Erdoğan told a group of journalists on a plane returning from a visit to the Gulf States.¹³

11] “Turkey: No end in sight: purged public sector workers denied a future in Turkey”, Amnesty International, 22 May 2017, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur44/6272/2017/en/>

12] “Opinion on Emergency Decree Laws N°s667-676 adopted following the failed coup of 15 July 2016, adopted by the Venice Commission at its 109th Plenary Session, 9-10 December 2016”, CDL-AD(2016)037-e Turkey, [http://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/?pdf=CDL-AD\(2016\)037-e](http://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/?pdf=CDL-AD(2016)037-e)

13] “Erdoğan on academic purge: Professors must also pay the price”, 18 February 2017, <https://www.turkishminute.com/2017/02/18/erdogan-academic-purge-professors-must-also-pay-price/>

The dismissal and arrest of doctors, academics and medical scientists surely hampered patient access to quality health care as the expertise of many qualified professionals was no longer being put to use. It also adversely impacted medical education across the county with the further shortage of academic staff who were laid off by the government.

The doctors who were able to keep their jobs in government-run hospitals have come under increasing political pressure, resulting in the violation of professional ethics and regulations. SCF has identified several cases where doctors refused to enter into the records complaints of torture and ill treatment made by suspects when they were brought to the hospital for medical examinations. Fearing that they would be labeled as terrorists and coup plotters, some doctors covered up torture and ill treatment in police detention and prisons.

The government also put in place additional screening processes for doctors who were accepted to work in state-run hospitals. The lengthy investigation that questions the political views of prospective doctors delays the appointment of doctors to hospitals, especially in impoverished parts of the country where the shortage of doctors is already acute. The dismissals and arrests have dealt a blow to the availability of education in medical specialties.

1.1. Cases Of Jailed Doctors

1.1.1. The Case of Mustafa Emmiler



**The chief of
cardiovascular
surgery
Mustafa
Emmiler**

Mustafa Emmiler, a 47-year-old associate professor and prominent figure in cardiovascular surgery, was detained by police in Antalya on August 15, 2016 on charges of alleged links to the Gülen movement. Emmiler is well known in the profession, receiving an award as “Doctor of the Year” from the Ministry of Health in 2013 and honored by then-President Abdullah Gül. Yet he was accused of terrorism and coup plotting two years later when the government launched an unprecedented crackdown on critics and opponents.

Emmiler was the chief of cardiovascular surgery at the Antalya Teaching and Research Hospital. He led a successful team of surgeons in the hospital, achieving praise in local and national media. He succeeded in replacing the aortic valve cap in a half-hour operation, entering groin area without stopping the heart of Sebahat Kaytan, a 79-year-old patient, in 2013. Thus, he reduced a highly risky six-hour heart surgery

to 30 minutes. This operation was performed for the first time in Antalya, and there have been only a few cases in the entire country.

Dr. Emmiler and his team had also succeeded in performing bypass surgery for a 96-year-old patient named Hıdır Torak, whose left coronary artery was 90 percent narrower, for the first time in Turkey. He led mitral valve surgery that was performed at Antalya Teaching and Research Hospital without stopping the heart and without opening the chest of two patients in September 2014.

His lawyer, Hüsnü Yılmaz Okutucu, several times appealed the arbitrary decision to arrest 10 doctors; however, the court rejected all the challenges. According to his lawyer, Dr. Emmiler was arrested on the grounds of a baseless complaint filed by an informant. The lawyer emphasized that Emmiler was a prize-winning surgeon, performed five operations a day and that his patients were also victimized after his arrest as an alleged member of a “terrorist organization.”

It was reported that his team and the staff at Antalya Teaching and Research Hospital were shocked to hear of his arrest. “Our professor, who has won many achievement awards during his 30 successful years in the profession, has been subjected to unreasonable treatment. There are patients whose heart therapy is still ongoing, and this makes them the most victimized. The actions taken against our professor are unlawful, and he must be released as soon as possible,” his team said.¹⁴

1.1.2. The Case of Haluk Savaş



**Prof. Dr.
Haluk Savaş**

Haluk Savaş, a prominent 51-year-old psychiatry professor and academic at Gaziantep University (GAÜN), was arrested on September 28, 2016 on charges of “terrorism.” He spent six days in detention before being questioned by the prosecutor, who asked Savaş about his tweets and dissenting views. The professor was a nominee for a parliamentary seat from the main opposition Republican People’s Party (CHP). He had already lost his job at the university where he had worked for years after he was profiled as a critic by the rector. He was dismissed on September 1, 2016 along with his wife Esen Savaş, who is a medical doctor and associate professor of internal medicine.

¹⁴] “Yılın doktoru’ tutuklandı, hastalar mağdur”, 30 September 2017, <http://magduriyetler.com/2017/09/30/yilin-doktoru-tutuklandi-hastalar-magdur/>

The harassment by authorities also extended to his children. His son Giray, who was 12 years old at the time, was taken to a detention center at the airport after he returned to Turkey from a language study abroad program and was questioned without his parents or lawyer present. Giray's passport was confiscated by the police. His other son, who was studying overseas, was not able to enter Turkey for about six months because he feared his study would be disrupted and his passport would be seized as well.

After spending a few weeks in prison, professor Savaş noticed that his urine was bright yellow and went to the prison physician for a check-up. He had to wait for a week for the test results to come in. When he finally went to see the prison doctor again to learn the results, he was told the sample was not good. He insisted that he be referred to the hospital immediately. After an examination by doctors at a public hospital, it was determined that he was suffering from obstructive jaundice and needed urgent treatment in the better qualified medical school hospital at Gaziantep University.

Instead of taking him to the medical school hospital as advised by the doctors, he was taken back to the prison cell in handcuffs. After he was made to wait in the cell for several hours, Savaş was taken to the university hospital he had worked at for years and was moved from one doctor's office to another while he was handcuffed and accompanied by armed guards. He was put in the prisoners ward. Although he had permission from the prosecutor's office for his wife to accompany him while in the hospital and during the performance of an ERCP endoscopic procedure, the hospital administration filed a criminal complaint against his wife for attempting to accompany him, for which she faced investigation and was interrogated by the prosecutor.

The tests showed that professor Savaş's bilirubin levels had reached around 20 milligrams, and he was diagnosed with colorectal cancer. Doctors inserted a catheter into the bile duct through the endoscope and scheduled surgery for him after his bilirubin level dropped below 10. Although he should have stayed in the hospital under observation and his bilirubin level had to be brought down with a fluid supplement, the hospital administration sent him back to the prison. A week later he was again brought to the hospital to see if his bilirubin level had fallen sufficiently to allow surgery to be performed. The test showed his bilirubin level was 18. This time he was kept in the hospital for a week to ensure that his bilirubin dropped to the desired level.

In the meantime, he filed a motion with the prosecutor's office to be released on grounds of health so that he could attend to his health in a much better environment. That was rejected without a reasonable explanation being offered. His wife appealed to the prosecutor to see her husband for five minutes before the critical surgery, and she was allowed to see him the night before the scheduled surgery. The next day, he went under the knife for a 10-hour Whipple procedure.

When he woke up from the anesthesia, a soldier who was waiting by the door came to his bed and said he wanted to handcuff him to the bed. Savaş said it was impossible for him to even get on his feet as he was still under the effect of drugs. Since his arms were lined with test electrodes and patches, he asked the soldier how he would put the handcuffs on. The soldier then said he would put the cuffs on his legs. The professor objected, saying that amounted to torture and that he would report all this to the parliamentary Human Rights Commission. The soldier changed his mind, went out of the room and never came back.

During an eight-day stay in intensive care, he again filed a motion for his release. The appeal was rejected for a second time. He filed a third motion that was accepted this time, and the soldiers and prison guards left the intensive care unit. He was finally able to see his wife and children. He still has to undergo chemotherapy. He was finally charged and indicted for posting tweets that allegedly supported the failed military coup. He said there was nothing in his comments to suggest that he supported the coup. When his trial started, he was unable to attend the first hearing because of the chemotherapy.¹⁵



**Murat
Acar**

1.1.3. The Case of Murat Acar

This Harvard-educated Turkish professor was extradited to Turkey on an arrest warrant issued by Turkey through Interpol despite the fact that he was under UN protection in Bahrain.

Murat Acar, a 46-year-old medical doctor who was working as a professor and consultant in King Hamad University's radiology department in Bahrain, was whisked away to Turkey on trumped-up coup plotting charges filed by the Turkish government. Acar, who suspected the government might target him, sought UN help and was granted humanitarian protection. However, the Bahraini police disregarded his status and raided his house to detain him. He was turned over to Turkey by the Interpol section of the Bahraini police.¹⁶

15] "Prof. Dr. Haluk Savaş: Her şey güzel olacak", 20 June 2017, <http://khkliplatformu.com/prof-dr-haluk-savas-her-sey-guzel-olacak.html>

16] "Interpol Helped Harvard Educated Professor Get Tortured In Turkish Prison", 30 August 2017, <https://stockholmcf.org/interpol-helped-harvard-educated-professor-get-tortured-in-turkish-prison/>

Bahrain's Interpol became an accomplice of Turkey in an unlawful arrest without the presentation of any concrete evidence. Acar was subjected to torture and ill treatment for 18 days after his extradition to Turkey. When he finally appeared for his arraignment hearing, he was formally arrested, on October 26, 2016, by Ankara 7th Penal Court of Peace Judge Kenan Türk.

In his testimony Acar stated that he had no affiliation with any organization and that he had been abroad long before the coup. "I went abroad on assignment. I had an official job there. Later, the Turkish Embassy in Manama notified me that my Turkish passport had been declared null and void. I consulted an attorney," he added. "The attorney told me that we could face a tough time if I went to Turkey. He said that we would be able to request humanitarian protection from the UN in order to avoid extradition," he said.

"I took the attorney's advice. However I was extradited, although I had been granted protection," Acar stated. He suffers from hypertension and underwent surgery for thyroid cancer. He has been held in prison for about one year without being tried or convicted. As the investigation file against him is deemed "confidential" by the government, he has not been able to access the investigation documents and he does not know what he is accused of or what the evidence is. All his motions for release have been rejected on the grounds that he is suspected of committing a high crime.

Acar and his lawyer applied to the Constitutional Court in a 26-page petition to complain about human rights infringement and arbitrary detention. In his urgent review motion, he complained about unlawful practices during the periods of his arrest and detention. He noted that he had been tortured and subjected to ill treatment during his 18-day detention.

The petition alleged that the Turkish government has violated its commitments under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), especially by breaching Article 5 on deprivation of liberty, Article 6 on the right to a fair trial, Article 7 on no punishment without law and Article 3, which bans torture and inhuman or degrading treatment. He is also demanding TL 1 million in pecuniary damages and TL 2 million in non-pecuniary damages.

Acar graduated from İstanbul University's Cerrahpaşa faculty of medicine in 1996. He completed his overseas studies in 2001. Between 2007 and 2008 he worked as a research assistant at Harvard University's teaching facility, Brigham and Women's Hospital. He had most recently been working as a professor and consultant in the radiology department of King Hamad University in Bahrain. His particular interests are abdominal imaging and non-vascular intervention.

1.1.4. The Case of Ali İlker Baştan and Esmâ Kuriş Baştan

Dentist Ali İlker Baştan and his wife, Esmâ Kuriş Baştan, also a dentist, face up to 15 years in prison on charges of membership in a terror organization, involvement in activities on behalf of a terror organization and aiding and abetting a terror organization.¹⁷



**Ali İlker
Baştan**

The prominent couple, which owns private dental facility Vizyonnet Diş Kliniği in Istanbul, was first detained in October 2016 over alleged ties to US-based Turkish Islamic scholar Fethullah Gülen, who is an outspoken critic of the Turkish government. The indictment charges Ali with allegedly providing dental treatment to the scholar and visiting the US several times for that purpose. The indictment was accepted in January 2017 by the Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court, which ruled for the release of his wife pending trial while keeping Dr. Ali İlker in pretrial detention.

In the first hearing of the case, on February 16, 2017, the couple denied all the charges. Ali Baştan testified that he and his wife moved to the US in 2005 to get master's degrees and stayed there until 2008, when they decided to return to Turkey. He said he had gone to the US five times since then to attend medical conferences and educational programs. "My whole life was spent on academic studies in my field and treating thousands of patients. I have nothing to do with terrorism."¹⁸

He stated that he had never met Gülen in his life and emphasized that the picture of him with Gülen in the indictment is a copy of photomontage that was published in a Turkish daily. If the picture were analyzed, it could easily be seen that it was montaged, he said. He also underlined that on principle he has never taken pictures with his patients.

Among the evidence cited against the couple is a photo of NBA player Enes Kanter, who is a fierce critic of Turkish President Erdoğan. The photo of Kanter with Zekeriya Öz and Celal Kara, two former prosecutors, was taken on the balcony of their clinic. Ali Baştan said his clinic was popular with many people and that prosecutor Öz's daughter was his patient. He said he was not in the picture and did not see them

17] "Prosecutor seeks 15-year jail term for Fethullah Gülen's dentist", Turkish Minute, 2 January 2017, <https://www.turkishminute.com/2017/01/02/prosecutor-seeks-15-year-jail-term-fethullah-gulens-dentist/>

18] "Diş Hekimi Kari-kocanın Fetö Davası", 16 February 2017, <https://www.haberler.com/dis-hekimi-kari-kocanin-feto-davasi-9272500-haberi/>

taking one while they were waiting in the reception area. Turkish prosecutors Kara and Öz investigated Erdoğan's inner circle in a major corruption operation in 2013, but the case was hushed up by the government after the prosecutors were replaced and later dismissed from their jobs without justification.

Ali Baştan's wife is also accused of depositing money in Bank Asya, which was first seized and later shut down due to its links to the Gülen movement. She said she got angry when the bank she did business with billed her higher fees, so she decided to move some of her money to Bank Asya, which offered a better deal.¹⁹

1.1.5. The Case of the Global Doctors Movement



Many members of the Global Doctors Movement (Küresel Doktorlar Hareketi) -- a Turkey-based network of physicians advocating access to safe, comprehensive health care services -- were arrested in Turkey as part of an escalating crackdown on civil society.

Twenty-four members of the movement including doctors, dentists and pharmacists were detained on September 29,

2016 due to alleged links to civic group the Gülen movement. As part of the operation, based in Adana province, police raided 32 locations in Adana, Mersin, Şanlıurfa and Kilis provinces.

The Global Doctors Movement, successor of the Vefa Health Confederation (VESKON) that dissolved itself on Jan.5, 2016²⁰, is a group that has 20,000 members and many subsidiary associations across Turkey and has performed more than 300,000 medical examinations and some 15,000 surgeries in more than 40 countries over the

19] "Gülen'in özel dişçisi olmakla suçlanıyor! Hakim karşısına çıktı", 16 February 2017, <http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/gulenin-ozel-discisi-olmakla-suclaniyor-hakim-karsisina-cikti-40368092>

20] "VESKON tanıtım filmi," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqPY20i1LHc>

past couple of years.²¹ As a result of the crackdown, many health campaigns run in African countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, by the Global Doctors Movement came to an abrupt halt.

The group and its many branches across Turkey's 81 provinces were unlawfully shut down in 2016.²² The volunteers and members of the Global Doctors Movement risk being jailed as they were profiled as government critics and dissidents by the Erdogan regime.

1.1.6. Other Cases

There have been many cases where doctors in Turkey were detained, arrested and in some cases convicted on dubious charges with no evidence of any crime or terrorism other than their real or alleged links to critical groups such as the Gülen movement or the Kurdish political

movement. It is not known how many doctors and health care professionals are currently in Turkish jails as the government has never provided such figures, but it is estimated to be in the thousands given the fact that well over 10,000 doctors were purged from government jobs or became unemployed when the private medical institutions they had worked at were shut down on allegations of affiliation with a terrorist group.

SCF's monitoring of Turkey's national and local media outlets has provided a glimpse into the extent of the crackdown on health care professionals, which suggests a systematic pattern of persecution. Unfortunately, in some cases, the coverage does not even include full names but simply gives initials or numbers of detained, arrested or convicted health care professionals. Most are still in pre-trial detention, with some still waiting for the



21] 24 members of Global Doctors Movement detained over ties to Gülen, Turkish Minute, 29 September 2016, <https://www.turkish-minute.com/2016/09/29/24-members-global-doctors-movement-detained-ties-gulen-movement/>

22] "Kapatılan dernek ve vakıflar listesi", 23 July 2016, <http://www.haberturk.com/gundem/haber/1270884-kapatilan-dernek-ve-vakiflar-listesi>

filing of indictments to learn the charges and evidence, if any, against them. Some cases have already concluded with convictions and jail sentences after what appear to be sham trials.

In the scope of an investigation initiated by the chief public prosecutor's office in the central province of Çorum, eight doctors identified only by the initials S.H.K., M.Z., İ.Ö., H.K.E., E.Z., D.U., E.K. and N.Z. were taken into custody on August 4, 2016. Seven of them were formally arrested by the court, while doctor N.Z. was released under judicial supervision.²³

The police detained 53 health care professionals in the northwestern province Samsun in the aftermath of a failed coup in 2016. The prosecutor released five health care workers from detention and sent the rest to court demanding arrest. Twelve health care workers, including Yusuf K., former provincial health director, and Ali Osman K., former deputy chief physician at Samsun Teaching and Research Hospital, were arrested in the arraignment hearing and sent to jail. Other doctors who were jailed are listed as Ahmet K., Murat T., Mehmet T., Erkan P., Vedat K., Mustafa S., Mustafa A., Murat Y., Hasan K. and Mustafa G. The court released 36 health care workers under judicial supervision on September 8, 2016.²⁴

Under the investigation into the Gülen movement carried out by the Düzce Chief Public Prosecutor's Office in northwestern Turkey, 17 doctors including former Provincial Public Health Director Rifat Poyraz were arrested on September 9, 2016. In addition to Poyraz, the names of other doctors who were arrested are listed as Abdullah Erdoğan, Bülent Gürbüzler, Temel Kalender, Kaan Erginli, Murat Metek, Mehmet Akçay, Mustafa Sarışen, Fevzi Alimoğlu, Fetza Zeyrek, Burhan Demirel, Ayhan Sosyal, Mürşit Çelik, Yasin Beşcan, Mehmet Berber, Sadullah Gümüş and Cengizhan Demir. The chief surgeon of Atatürk State Hospital, Şükrü Öksüz, Provincial Public Health Director Mahir Arslan and doctors Cüneyt Balca, Zübeyir Özdemir, Selda Akbaş and Yusuf Kabataş were detained but later released under judicial supervision.²⁵

Five doctors were arrested in the southeastern province of Siirt on October 25, 2016.²⁶

Thirty-two suspects who are mostly physicians and pharmacists were detained in eastern Elazığ province. Twenty of them were arrested and 12 were released under judicial supervision on November 19, 2016.²⁷ In the western province of Uşak, 16 of

23] "FETÖ operasyonu kapsamında 7 doktor tutuklandı", 4 August 2016, <http://www.iha.com.tr/haber-feto-operasyonu-kapsamin-da-7-doktor-tutuklandi-578006/>

24] "Samsun'da 12 sağlık personeli tutuklandı", 8 September 2016, <http://www.yenisafak.com/samsunda-12-saglik-personeli-tutuklandi--samsun-haber-h-2528698>

25] "FETÖ üyesi 17 doktor tutuklandı", 29 September 2016, <http://www.iha.com.tr/haber-feto-uyesi-17-doktor-tutuklandi-586061/>

26] "Siirt'te FETÖ soruşturmasında 5 doktor tutuklandı", 25 October 2016, <http://www.iha.com.tr/haber-siirtte-feto-sorusturmasinda-5-doktor-tutuklandi-596282/>

27] "FETÖ soruşturmasında 20 sağlık çalışanı tutuklandı", 19 November 2016, <http://www.karar.com/guncel-haberler/20-saglik-calisani-tutuklandi-311376>

22 health care workers who had been detained were formally arrested on August 25, 2016. The rest were released, with four of them under judicial supervision.²⁸

A total of 41 health care workers were detained in police operations in Aksaray, Konya, Adana, Sivas, Muğla, Eskişehir and Kayseri provinces on November 30, 2016.²⁹ Detainees included 13 doctors, 10 hospital workers, eight nurses, six midwives, two technicians, one driver and a laboratory technician. At least 17 people consisting of doctors, nurses and hospital technicians who were earlier dismissed from government jobs were detained by police on September 26, 2016 in Aksaray and Hatay provinces.³⁰ A total of 17 health care workers, including doctors and nurses who were working at a state hospital in Kayseri province, were detained on March 19, 2017 and were arrested the same day.³¹

On January 6, 2017 the public prosecutor filed an indictment for 25 doctors in Turkey's southeastern province of Adana on terrorism charges and sought jail sentences ranging from 15 to 22 years. The names of defendants were listed as Seyithan A, Turgay Ö. Yusuf Ç, Dinçer D., Hakan K., Mehmet Ali Ö, Melikşah E, Mustafa Fazil Y, Necate, Sinan K, Uğur G, Adil T, Ahmet D, Ahmet E, Ahmet Y, Ali G, Alpay K, Yasin T, Bünyamin B, Derya Adnan, Gökhan Ö, İlhan B, İsmail Sefa I, Mehmet Ö. and Yahya A. Five of them -- Dinçer D, Hakan K, Seyithan A, Turgay Ö. and Yusuf Ç. - were jailed pending trial.³² In addition to terrorism charges, the doctors were also accused of violating the law on associations. The indictment citing the doctors' trips abroad and their use of publicly available mobile messaging application ByLock as evidence was accepted by the Adana 11th High Criminal Court.³³

On January 20, 2017 E.G., a family physician in northeastern Samsun province, M.C.Ö., a doctor, and B.K, a midwife who had previously been dismissed from a government job, were taken into custody.³⁴

Thirteen health care workers including doctors were indicted on charges of terrorism in Adana on February 2, 2017. The public prosecutor demanded 15 years for the suspects, claiming that they committed crimes by sending their children to schools and tutoring

28] "Uşak'ta 16 sağlık çalışanı, FETÖ'den tutuklandı", 25 August 2016, <http://www.karar.com/gundem-haberleri/usakta-feto-operasyonu-228704>

29] "Turkey detains 41 doctors, nurses and midwives over coup charges", 30 November 2016, <https://turkeypurge.com/turkey-detains-41-doctors-nurses-and-midwives-over-coup-charges>

30] "Aksaray merkezli FETÖ/PDY operasyonu: 17 gözaltı", 26 September 2017, <http://aa.com.tr/tr/turkiye/aksaray-merkezli-feto-pdy-operasyonu-17-gozalti/919472>

31] "17 health workers jailed in Kayseri over alleged coup involvement", 19 March 2017, <https://turkeypurge.com/17-health-workers-jailed-in-kayseri-over-alleged-coup-involvement>

32] "Adana'da 25 doktor hakkında 22 yıla kadar hapis cezası istemi", 6 January 2017, <https://www.memurlar.net/haber/637492/adana-da-25-doktor-hakkinda-22-yila-kadar-hapis-cezasi-istemi.html>

33] "Adana'da 25 Doktora Fetö Davası", 6 January 2017, <http://www.milliyet.com.tr/adana-da-25-doktora-feto-davasi-adana-yerel-haber-1761632/>

34] "Samsun'da 2 doktor ve 1 ebe FETÖ'den gözaltına alındı", 20 January 2017, <http://www.iha.com.tr/haber-samsunda-2-doktor-ve-1-ebe-fetoden-gozaltina-alindi-618599/>

centers linked to the Gülen movement. Having a bank account at the movement-linked Bank Asya, one of the top performing banks in Turkey before the government seized it, was also cited as evidence of terrorism.³⁵

A total of 28 people, including 11 doctors, six nurses, one dentist, one X-ray technician and nine health care workers, were detained on February 13, 2017 as part of simultaneous police operations in Eskişehir, Bursa, Giresun and Isparta.³⁶ Twelve of them were arrested by a court on February 16.³⁷

Seven doctors were taken into custody in the southeastern province of Bingöl on February 14, 2017 as part of an investigation into the Gülen movement.³⁸

Twenty-nine people including five doctors were detained in western Denizli province on February 25, 2017 as a part of an investigation into the Gülen movement. The suspects' homes were subject to a search, during which documents were seized. The suspects were taken to the counterterrorism unit of the Denizli Police Department.³⁹

On April 28, 2017 a physician identified as H.H.Y. received a jail sentence of three years, 45 days on accusations of membership in the Gülen movement in central Kayseri province. H.H.Y. was accused of using ByLock, a smartphone messaging application.⁴⁰

Thirty-three doctors and health care professionals were detained in the southeastern province of Adıyaman on May 15, 2017. Twelve, including dietitians, a deputy chief physician and other doctors, were referred to court for arrest. Four of them were formally arrested on May 23, 2017. The news report at the time said the rest of the suspects were still being processed. No update is available for them.⁴¹

Two doctors, H.K. and S.Y., and nurse A.A. were sentenced to six years, three months each on accusations of membership in the Gülen movement in Kayseri province on May 24, 2017.⁴² Another dismissed medical worker, Fatih Eş, was sentenced to 10 years

35] "FETÖ şüphelisi sağlık çalışanları tutuklandı", 2 February 2017, <http://www.karar.com/guncel-haberler/feto-suphelisi-saglik-calisanlari-tutuklandi-377357#>

36] "28 doctors, nurses and midwives detained over alleged coup charges", 13 February 2017, <https://www.turkishminute.com/2017/02/13/28-doctors-nurses-midwives-detained-alleged-coup-charges/>

37] "Court arrests 12 doctors, nurses over coup charges in Eskişehir", 16 February 2017, <https://turkeypurge.com/court-arrests-12-doctors-nurses-over-coup-charges-in-eskisehir>

38] "Bingöl'de 7 doktor gözaltına alındı", 14 February 2017, <http://www.iha.com.tr/haber-bingolde-7-doktor-gozaltina-alindi-624827/>

39] "Denizli'de FETÖ operasyonu: 29 gözaltı, Medeni Topaloğlu", 25 February 2017, <http://www.iha.com.tr/haber-denizlide-feto-operasyonu-29-gozalti-627014/>

40] "Doctor sentenced to 3 years in jail on 'terror charges'", 28 April 2017, <https://turkeypurge.com/doctor-sentenced-to-3-years-in-jail-on-terror-charges>

41] Adıyaman'da 4 sağlık çalışanı FETÖ'den tutuklandı, 23 May 2017, <http://www.memurlar.net/haber/669693/adiyaman-da-4-saglik-calisanlari-feto-den-tutuklandi.html>

42] "FETÖ sanığı sağlıkçılara hapis cezası", 24 May 2017, <http://aa.com.tr/tr/turkiye/feto-sanigi-saglikcilara-hapis-cezasi/825265>

in jail on the same charge in Kırşehir province the same day.⁴³

On June 2, 2017 a public prosecutor in central Sivas province issued detention warrants for 13 dentists in seven provinces as part of an investigation into the Gülen movement. Police in Sivas, Hatay, Bursa, Bayburt, Giresun, Osmaniye and Edirne carried out operations and detained 12 of them. One more dentist is being sought on the same charges.⁴⁴

In the west-central province of Eskişehir, 10 health care professionals were taken into custody within the scope of an investigation into the Gülen movement on July 26, 2017. Four of them were formally arrested, while the rest were released under judicial supervision.⁴⁵

On August 10, 2017 a Turkish doctor identified by the initials O.P. who was working at a public hospital in the western province of Afyonkarahisar was detained along with his father as part of an investigation launched into the Gülen movement by the public prosecutor in Bursa province. It was claimed that the father of O.P. was a former public officer who was dismissed from public service and that he used the ByLock mobile app.⁴⁶

On August 14, 2017 Dr. Sinan Doğan was travelling on a bus when gendarmes stopped it for a routine check. He was detained on an outstanding warrant, arrested by a court in Hatay and sent to Yayladağı F-type Prison.⁴⁷

On September 28, 2017 a physician named S.Ç., who was dismissed from her job by a decree-law in 2016, was arrested by a court in the northwestern province of Bolu. S.Ç. was detained by police in a dawn raid on her house. She was brought before a Bolu court the same day, arrested and put in pretrial detention in Bolu F Type Prison.⁴⁸

43] "Sağlık çalışanına FETÖ'den 10 yıl hapis cezası", 24 May 2017, <http://aa.com.tr/tr/turkiye/saglik-calisanina-fetoden-10-yil-hapis-cezasi/825182>

44] "Detention warrants issued for 13 dentists over coup charges: 12 detained", 2 June 2017, <https://turkeypurge.com/detention-warrants-issued-for-13-dentists-over-coup-charges-12-detained>

45] "Eskişehir'de ihraç edilen 4 sağlık personeli tutuklandı", 26 July 2017, <http://www.memurlar.net/haber/683433/eskisehir-de-ihrac-edilen-4-saglik-personeli-tutuklandi.html>

46] "Doktor ve babası FETÖ'den gözüaltına alındı", 10 August 2017, <http://www.karar.com/afyonkarahisar/doktor-ve-babasi-fetoden-gozaltina-alindi-566832>

47] "Hatay'da Fetö Zanlısı Doktor Tutuklandı", 14 August 2017, <http://www.milliyet.com.tr/hatay-da-feto-zanlisi-doktor-tutuklandi-hatay-yerelhaber-2221506/>

48] "Medical doctor arrested in Bolu on charges of ByLock use", 28 September 2017, <https://www.turkishminute.com/2017/09/28/medical-doctor-arrested-in-bolu-on-charges-of-bylock-use/>

1.2. Suspicious Deaths Of Doctors

There has been an increase in the number of suspicious deaths in Turkey, most of them in Turkish jails and detention centers where torture and ill treatment are being practiced. In most cases authorities declared them to be suicides without any effective, independent or through investigation. Suspicious deaths have also taken place beyond prison walls amid psychological pressure and threats of imminent imprisonment and torture, sometimes following the release of suspects or just before detention.

SCF had documented 92 such cases as of November 5, 2017 and tracks new cases as they emerge on its website, which can be accessed at <http://stockholmcf.org/suspicious-deaths-and-suicides-in-turkey-updated-list/>

1.2.1. Case of Mehmet İnam

Mehmet İnam, a dentist in İzmir's Kemalpaşa district, was arrested as part of a government crackdown on the Gülen movement. He allegedly died of a heart attack on Jan. 5, 2017 in Menemen Prison, where he was being held. Relatives claimed he was not given the medication he needed for a heart problem.⁴⁹

1.2.2. Case of Mustafa Sadık Akdağ

Mustafa Sadık Akdağ (34), an assistant professor in the faculty of dentistry at Ordu University in Turkey's Black Sea region, allegedly committed suicide due to the psychological trauma he experienced from being investigated over alleged links to terrorism. Akdağ shot himself to death in the house of one of his friends in the northeastern province of Trabzon. Leaving a suicide note behind, he wrote: "Nobody is responsible for my death. An accusation was directed at me. I am referring those who directed this accusation at me to God."

Turkish media reports said Akdağ had been recently interrogated by a prosecutor⁵⁰ due to alleged links to the Gülen movement and released. Akdağ's body was taken to the Trabzon Council of Forensic Medicine for autopsy, while an investigation has been



**Mustafa
Sadık
Akdağ**

49] "Suspicious Deaths And Suicides In Turkey", Updated List by Stockholm Center for Freedom, 2 November 2017, <http://stockholmcf.org/suspicious-deaths-and-suicides-in-turkey-updated-list/>

50] "FETÖ'den sorgulanan yardımcı doçent intihar etti", 28 February 2017, <http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/fetoden-sorgulanan-yardimci-docent-intihar-ett-40380161>

launched into his death. His uncle, Hasan Akdağ, said the family does not believe he died as a result of suicide.⁵¹

1.2.3. Case of Ali Özer

Ali Özer, a 48-year-old doctor who was jailed due to suspected links to the Gülen movement, died allegedly due to a heart attack in Çorum Prison on March 23, 2017. Özer had been the deputy chief physician at Ankara Nallıhan State Hospital.

The doctor was pronounced dead at Çorum Teaching and Research Hospital, where he was taken after suffering a heart attack in his prison ward.⁵² Özer's body was sent to the Ankara Council of Forensic Medicine for autopsy.

1.3. Turkish Doctors in Exile

The unprecedented crackdown and unlawful imprisonment of health care professionals in Turkey including professors of medical science and leading surgeons over their dissenting views of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), which is rooted in authoritarian Islamist ideology, have forced many professionals to leave Turkey, sometimes under very difficult conditions using illegal migrant routes. Although they are safe from imprisonment in their newfound homes, most face serious challenges, from harassment in diaspora communities by pro-Erdoğan groups and threats by Turkish government proxies to difficulties in finding jobs and securing recognition of their medical licenses. The challenges of language and cultural differences impose more burdens on those health care workers who are forced to live in exile.

SCF investigators have interviewed three doctors who live in exile abroad. Two of them asked that their names remain confidential for security reasons, while the third agreed to use his first name only. Doctor Mehmet, a radiologist with 15 years' experience in the field, fled to a European country where he sought asylum after he was charged with terrorism because of his affiliation with civic group the Gülen movement. He told SCF that he was at the height of his career and had a perfect life with his wife and children who were enrolled in private schools. He feels frustrated because he had to sit for exams that he already took in Turkey for recognition of his medical license and says it will take years to get where he wants. His family is still in Turkey, and he fears for their well-being.

51] "Yard. Doç. Dr. Akdağ'ın amcası: İntihar değil", 1 March 2017, <http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/yard-doc-dr-akdagin-amcasi-intihar-degil-40381403>

52] "FETÖ'den tutuklu doktor cezaevinde kalp krizinden öldü", 24 March 2017, <http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/fetoden-tutuklu-doktor-cezaevinde-kalp-krizinden-oldu-40405736>

In another case, Doctor X, a professor of medical science who also is specialized in radiology, had worked at the prestigious Sema Hospital in Turkey. He also taught at Fatih University in Istanbul. Both institutions were shut down by the government over alleged links to the Gülen movement in 2016. He fled Turkey when the government started arresting his colleagues on false charges of terrorism. He was also charged with coup plotting, an accusation he says was completely fabricated and has no basis in fact. His wife, a teacher in a publicly run kindergarten, was dismissed from her job by one of the government decree-laws that have purged well over 150,000 so far. He said his children, away from their father, are showing symptoms of depression. He admitted that he himself is dealing with anxiety and is troubled by the uncertain path that lies ahead for him and his family.

The third case involves Doctor Y, a professor of medical science who was employed in a senior position at the Ankara-based Turgut Özal University, which was shut down by the government in 2016 along with other 14 universities. He says he had to leave Turkey to avoid imprisonment on baseless charges. He told SCF that he was indicted by a public prosecutor because his two children attended a Gülen-affiliated private school. He pointed out that the first criminal offense he committed in his entire life was to illegally cross the border between Turkey and Greece to avoid persecution in his home country. He is learning a new language in the new country he settled in and hopes to continue to pursue his profession once he meets all the requirements.

2. Health Care Workers Other than Doctors

The crackdown on health care professionals has taken a toll not only on doctors but also nurses, technicians, midwives and many others who are involved in delivering services to sick and ailing people in Turkey. It is estimated that more than 10,000 health care workers were purged from their government jobs without any effective judicial or administrative proceedings. They were profiled as government critics and later branded as terrorists with no evidence to prove that these people have committed any crime or terrorist act.

According to government data, there are a total of 871,334 healthcare staff members in Turkey. Of that number 152,952 are nurses, 52,456 are midwives and 144,609 are other health care personnel.⁵³ With the combined figures of those who were dismissed from the civil service and those who lost their jobs after the government shut down their institutions, the total number of health care professionals and hospital staff who were laid off has reached more than 21,000.

Some of those purged were arrested, and those who were not face serious challenges

53] "Sağlık İstatistikleri Yıllığı 2016 Haber Bülteni", T.C. Sağlık Bakanlığı Sağlık Araştırmaları Genel Müdürlüğü, 2017 http://www.metaveri.saglik.gov.tr/book/SIY_2016_Haber_Bulteni.pdf

in finding a new job because of the notation in their employment records. Private companies do not want to hire these people because they are marked as “terrorists” by government decisions that were made without any judicial investigation at all. Main opposition Republican People’s Party (CHP) Bursa deputy Ceyhun Irgil claimed that the Ministry of Labor and Social Security has been blacklisting these purged people with a secret “36 code” that the Social Security Institution (SGK) enters into their records. When laid-off people apply for a job in the private sector, this record shows up, scaring off employers from hiring them.⁵⁴

2.1. Case of Fatma Turan

Fatma Turan, a 44-year-old nurse who was dismissed under Turkey’s post-coup purge of state institutions, has been working at a tobacco farm to earn a living for her family.

Turan was removed from her job along with her husband, Özdemir Aydın, also a hospital worker, under a post-coup emergency decree. They were both detained in police operations in 2016. While she was released after 11 days in custody, her husband has been kept in pretrial detention.

Like many other post-coup victims, Turan, too, changed her career path despite her 21 years of experience as a nurse. “I earn a living by growing tobacco,” Turan told the Duvar online news portal, adding that she is the only person left to look after her two children - one of whom has a 100 percent visual impairment - after Özdemir’s incarceration.⁵⁵

2.2. Case of Ayşe Büyükgezirci

Ayşe Büyükgezirci, a nurse, is another victim of Erdoğan’s persecution in Turkey. While she was pregnant, a public prosecutor in the northwestern province of Kocaeli ordered her detention as part of an investigation. The court released her pending trial under judicial supervision that required her to check in with the police three days a week.

Under duress and pressure, Büyükgezirci delivered her baby boy prematurely. Doctors needed to monitor the infant, named Yavuz



Ayşe
Büyükgezirci

54] “CHP’li İrgil’den SGK ile ilgili carpıcı iddia!”, 25 September 2017, <http://www.dha.com.tr/politika/chpli-irgilden-sgk-ile-ilgili-carpici-iddia/haber-1545548>

55] “Nurse with 21 years of experience working at tobacco farm after dismissal”, 15 September 2017, <https://turkeypurge.com/nurse-with-21-years-of-experience-working-at-tobacco-farm-after-dismissal>

Selim, on a constant basis, and treated him for anemia with regular injections every week. While both mother and baby were being treated, another prosecutor, this time from the province of Tekirdağ, launched an investigation into her on similar charges and secured a detention warrant for her on February 15, 2017.

Her lawyer challenged the decision, saying that a similar case on the same charges was already under way and presented the doctor's report on why her and baby's health required Büyükgezirici to stay in Balıkesir, her hometown. Yet prosecutor Sedat Taş insisted on her detention, anyway, and she was put in police custody along with the baby for two days. Later she and the baby were transported in an armored vehicle from Balıkesir to Tekirdağ, a four-hour drive.

Büyükgezirici was also separated from her two other children, aged 9 and 13. No information is available on her or baby Selim's current status or their health.⁵⁶

2.3. Other Cases

On August 16, 2016 police detained a total of 25 health care workers on charges of membership in a terrorist organization and aiding a terrorist organization as part of an investigation into the Gülen movement. Seven people -- four midwives and three nurses -- were arrested.⁵⁷

Fourteen of 38 health care professionals who were detained for alleged links to the Gülen movement were arrested on November 10, 2016 in the southeastern province of Gaziantep.⁵⁸ On November 11, 2016 the public prosecutor in central Konya province ordered the detention of 29 health care professionals. Fourteen of them were arrested on November 15, while the rest were released under judicial supervision.⁵⁹

Police detained 11 health care workers including a doctor on October 18, 2016 over alleged links to the Gülen movement. The defendants were employed at the Denizli State Hospitals Union General Secretariat, the Provincial Health Directorate and the Provincial Public Health Directorate. The court arrested 10 of them six days later and released one under judicial supervision.⁶⁰

56] "Annelere zulümde bugün, hasta bebeğiyle gözaltında", 19 February 2017, <http://magduriyetler.com/2017/02/19/annelere-zulumde-bugun-hasta-bebegiyle-gozaltinda/Europe>

57] "7 sağlık personeli FETÖ'den tutuklandı", 16 August 2016, <http://www.haber7.com/guncel/haber/2078028-7-saglik-personeli-fetoden-tutuklandi>

58] "Gaziantep'te FETÖ/PDY'den 14 sağlık personeli tutuklandı", 10 November 2016, <https://www.timeturk.com/gaziantep-te-feto-pdy-den-14-saglik-personeli-tutuklandi/haber-370151>

59] "14 sağlık personeli FETÖ'den tutuklandı", 15 November 2016, <http://www.trthaber.com/haber/turkiye/14-saglik-personeli-fetoden-tutuklandi-282613.html>

60] "Denizli'de FETÖ'den 10 Sağlık Personeli Tutuklandı", October 24 2016, <https://www.kamupersoneli.net/gundem/denizli-de-feto-den-10-saglik-personeli-tutuklandi-h15677.html>

In Turkey's central province of Kırşehir, Fatih Eş, a former health care worker who was tried for terrorism, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for membership in a terrorist organization on May 24, 2017.⁶¹ The evidence against him was the alleged use of messaging application ByLock, sending his children to Samanyolu, a prestigious Gülen-affiliated private school, and depositing money in Bank Asya.

2.4. Suspicious Deaths of Health Care Workers

2.4.1. Case of Hasan Orhan Çetin

Hasan Orhan Çetin (30), a biochemistry assistant at İzmir Katip Çelebi University's Atatürk Teaching and Research Hospital, allegedly committed suicide after he became depressed following suspension from his job as part of the crackdown on the Gülen movement. He reportedly jumped from the 10th floor of the hospital where

he worked and ended his life. Devastated by her husband's death, his wife was hospitalized for treatment in the same hospital.

Çetin was dismissed from his job two days before he reportedly committed suicide. Ahmet Doğruyol, head of the İzmir branch of the Turkish Health Union, said: «Labeling as traitors or punishing people who work and function as law-abiding citizens without seeing the result of legal proceedings inflicts pain on the public

conscience and causes trauma. Our duty as a state is not to lose people but to win people.” The public prosecutor launched an investigation into Çetin's suicide.⁶²



**Hasan
Orhan
Çetin**

61] “Sağlık çalışanına FETÖ'den 10 yıl hapis cezası”, 24 May 2017, <http://aa.com.tr/tr/turkiye/saglik-calisanina-fetoden-10-yil-hapis-cezası/825182>

62] “Genç bir doktorun OHAL sonucu ölümü”, 21 February 2017, <http://www.kronos.news/tr/genç-bir-doktorun-ohal-sonucu-olumu/>

2.4.2. Case of Sevgi Balcı

Sevgi Balcı, a 37-year-old nurse who was fired by government decree in October 2016, committed suicide by hanging herself in Isparta province. She was buried after a funeral in Burdur's Bucak district.

According to the ArtiGercek.com website Balcı, who was a mother of three, including a 7-month-old baby, was expecting to return her job due to recent decrees issued on August 25, 2017. After realizing that she was not reinstated to her job, Balcı committed suicide.⁶³

Balcı had also attempted to commit suicide on August 15, 2017 according to local media. She reportedly hanged herself at her home in the Çünür district of southwestern Isparta province. Balcı's neighbors had failed to hear from her for a while and called the police, who later broke into her house and found that she had hanged herself.

Balcı's husband, Halil İbrahim Balcı, a hospital worker, was also dismissed from his job.

3. Hospitals and Medical Centers Were Shuttered

The Turkish government has not only gone after health care professionals with purges and imprisonment but has also shut down university hospitals and medical centers owned and operated by business groups and foundations that were seen to be critical of the government. This scorched-earth policy is not justified under Turkish law and is tantamount to a violation of Turkey's obligations under international conventions. It has destroyed the sizable health care infrastructure, leaving many patients who were receiving treatment and care in these institutions scrambling to find alternatives.

Official records show the Turkish government shut down 14 hospitals and 36 medical centers including teaching and research hospitals that were operated as part of medical schools in the nation's leading universities. There are lingering allegations that some hospital chains owned by President Erdoğan's family enterprises, although on paper managed by caretakers, benefited from the loss of competition and that that was part of the motivation behind the abrupt closure of Gülen-affiliated hospitals. According to government data, there are 565 privately run hospitals in Turkey.⁶⁴

The government pressure and intimidation of these hospitals started in the

63] "İntihar eden Sevgi hemşiresinin hikayesi: İhraç, işsizlik...", 1 September 2017, <https://www.evrensel.net/haber/331086/intihar-eden-sevgi-hemsirenin-hikayesi-ihrac-issizlik>

64] "Sağlık İstatistikleri Yıllığı 2016 Haber Bülteni" 29 September 2017 http://www.metaveri.saglik.gov.tr/book/SIY_2016_Haber_Bulteni.pdf

beginning of 2016, long before the controversial failed coup in July 2016. Without any justification, the state-run SGK announced on Dec. 24, 2015 that all private hospitals were required to renew their contracts with the institution so that they could continue to provide services for patients covered by SGK health insurance. The 21 hospitals affiliated with the Gülen applied to renew their contracts; however, the SGK denied them access to the bill tracking system called Medula starting on Jan. 1, 2016, preventing doctors and pharmacists from entering prescriptions into the system. Hundreds of patients were unable to receive treatment as a result. Since the SGK is the main insurance provider for most of Turkey, this was a serious blow to these hospitals. Nevertheless, the hospitals continued to operate on private insurance until they were unlawfully shut down in July 2016.

A number of hospitals that were ultimately closed down were raided by police last year, and many doctors, administrators and health care workers were detained. Patients in intensive care units had to be moved to other hospitals under difficult conditions. Many patients who were receiving treatment in these hospitals and medical centers were victimized. There were reports that high-tech medical equipment was vandalized or stolen from some hospitals that were closed down. SCF looked into three cases to shed light on the extent of the damage from this crackdown and talked to the administrators of these hospitals.

The full list of shuttered hospitals and medical centers at the end of this report shows that the crackdown took place in many provinces across Turkey. For example Medinas and Primer in the southeastern province of Gaziantep, İstanbul in the eastern province of Van, Bahar and Rentıp in the northwestern province of Bursa, Sakarya in the central province of Eskişehir, Kayseri Göz in the central province of Kayseri, Altınova and Konak in the northwestern province of Sakarya, Manavgat Sevgi in the southern province of Antalya, Veni Vidi in the southeastern province of Diyarbakır, Sante Plus in the province of İstanbul, Dr. Tahsin Özbek in the northwestern province of Kocaeli, Kent in the western province of Kütahya and Elbistan Nehir Hastaneleri in the southeastern province of Kahramanmaraş are some of the hospitals that were closed by the government.

3.1. Sema Hospital



Sema Hospital, established in 2006 in Istanbul's Maltepe district, is among the hospitals that were shuttered. The hospital, accredited by the Joint Commission International (JCI),⁶⁵ was one of the leading hospitals in Turkey's largest province. It was worth approximately \$300 million and had brand equity and 600 staff members including 100 doctors. The company's monthly turnover was approximately TL 7 to 9 million.

The SGK had recognized Sema Hospital several times for excellent compliance with billing criteria, but that did not stop the SGK from canceling the contract with Sema Hospital in the end after the government ordered it to do so without any justification. The hospital's profits dropped to TL 5 million and it lost half of its patients. The administration had to slash doctors' salaries in order to survive. Still, it managed to sustain its operations on private insurance payments and visitors from abroad for medical treatment, which numbered around 500 people on a yearly basis.

Following a police raid on the hospital after the government announcement of an arbitrary and unlawful closure, a number of people including infants in intensive care were victimized as they had to be moved out and transferred to another hospital on short notice. A former hospital administrator told SCF that a patient who was waiting in intensive care for heart surgery when police raided the hospital subsequently died when he had to wait three months for surgery after his transfer.

Several doctors in exile who worked at Sema said they know authorities arrested at least four physicians with specialties in psychiatry, radiology, physical therapy and public health.



⁶⁵] Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation is considered the gold standard in global health care world. <http://www.jointcommissioninternational.org/about-jci/who-is-jci/or>

3.2. Turgut Özal University SUAM Ren Tıp Hospital



The Ankara-based Ren Tıp Hospital was established in 2009 and later annexed by Turgut Özal University as a teaching and research hospital. The hospital had 110 doctors and 110 interns. Around 20,000 operations were performed annually at the hospital, and it served some 400,000 patients a year. Its turnover was approximately TL 70 million before the SGK cancelled its contract for insurance payments, which led to the loss of some TL 40 million.

The hospital had to downsize and let half of its staff go to maintain its operations. The government seized the hospital and the university it was affiliated two weeks before the failed coup on July 15, 2016. Both were shut down in the aftermath.

3.3. Bahar Hospital

Bahar Hospital, one of the first private hospitals in the country, was established in 1998 in Turkey's



industrial hub of Bursa. With top-notch surgeons on its staff and high-tech medical equipment, it had become a very popular private hospital, with more patients treated than in any other area hospital. It started to feel the crackdown when police raided the hospital as part of a politically motivated investigation in January 2016. The SGK cancelled the hospital's contract at the same time. The municipality, run by Erdogan's ruling AKP, destroyed the emergency entrance of the hospital, citing zoning violations in April 2016.

Bahar had to suspend its operations in May 2016 because of pressure by the government and the cancellation

of its contract. As a result, 100 doctors and 750 health care workers were laid off. The hospital was later shut down by the government and its assets were seized in the aftermath of the failed coup.

4. Patients

The mass persecution that has taken a toll on health care professionals also adversely impacted the rights of patients, especially those who were detained and arrested. Many patients who were receiving treatment at hospitals and medical centers that were closed down were forced to find alternatives on very short notice. In many cases they were unable to find new hospitals, and those who managed to find alternate hospitals were made to wait in long queues. In some provinces the closure of hospitals forced patients to seek treatment in another province because of the lack of facilities and/or doctors to provide care. This burdened patients even further.

Most patient violations reported have involved detainees and prisoners who were denied adequate access to health care and medical treatment. The situation was exacerbated for detainees who were forced to live in solitary confinement in violation of the European Prison Rules. Everyone who is imprisoned has the right to benefit from a health service that is the same as outside the prison, and anyone who is deprived of their liberty must be treated with respect, as required by the benchmarks provided by UN and Council of Europe human rights bodies.

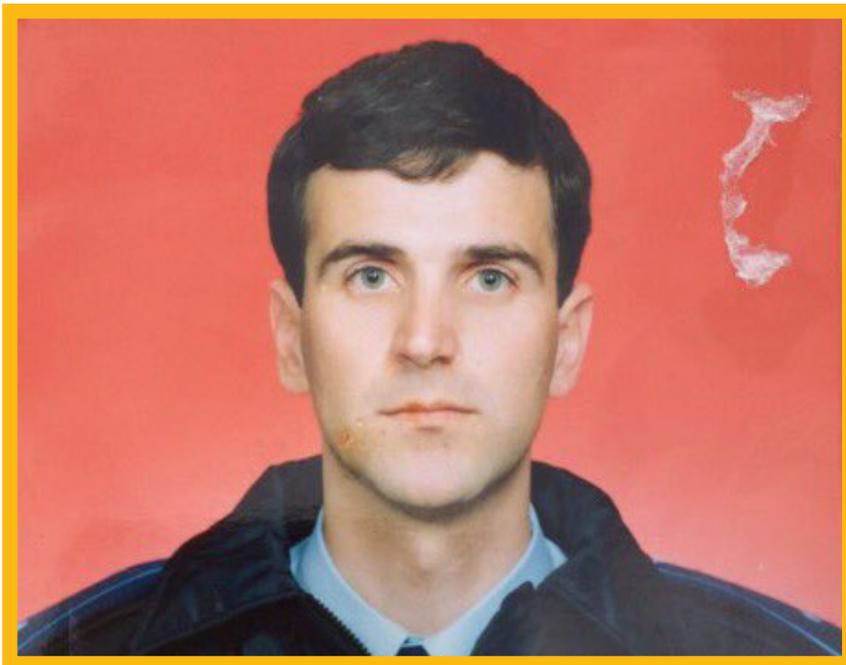
For disadvantaged individuals such as those with a severe illness, disability or in old age, detention and prison conditions can have unforeseen consequences. Due to the circumstances of prisoners suffering from these problems, they should be kept in a suitable environment that will not aggravate the pain and that allows constant medical supervision. In fact, many rules have been issued to that effect as part of the international human rights conventions to which Turkey is a party such as the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the 2006 European Prison Rules, but the Turkish government under the leadership of Erdoğan has been continuously violating these rules governing health rights.

4.1. The Case of Yavuz Bölek

Yavuz Bölek, 49-year-old decorated police officer who had been hailed as a hero in the past for successful service in cracking down in terror cases, was left in terrible prison conditions when he needed medical care and close monitoring of his rapidly deteriorating health. Bölek has been diagnosed with cancer and had to go through three surgeries, twice on his brain and once on his lungs.

This officer, who has received over a hundred citations and awards in the police department for distinguished service, was detained on September 29, 2014 along with six other colleagues as part of a witch-hunt launched by the Antalya Public Prosecutor's Office. On October 1, 2014 he was formally arrested by the judge of a penal court of peace, dubbed by Erdoğan as "special project courts" that were established in 2014 after a bill was pushed through Parliament by Erdoğan to persecute critics and dissidents. He was released six days later after a successful legal challenge to the decision to arrest. Despite the fact that he was not convicted of any crime, the government dismissed him from his job on January 9, 2015.

A new arrest warrant was issued for him on March 31, 2015 by the Antalya 3rd High Criminal Court. Bölek, who believed he was wrongly accused and faced politically motivated charges, refused to surrender and remained at large for a year. In the



**Yavuz
Bölek**

meantime, however, he was diagnosed with colon cancer when he sought treatment in a hospital for abdominal pain. He went through three months of chemotherapy but needed surgery. Through his lawyer Bölek submitted medical reports to the Antalya court, which in turn vacated the pending arrest warrant.

His treatment was going well, and doctors were saying he had very good chance of beating the cancer. Yet he was detained again in Antalya and brought to İzmir province to respond to allegations in another probe.

His family submitted medical reports, arguing that he needed care amid continuing treatment in Antalya but was unsuccessful. He was transferred to İzmir and formally arrested on August 25, 2016. He was not able to adequately continue his treatment under prison conditions and was denied proper medical care.

Unfortunately, the cancer he was about to beat came back worse than before, spreading all over his body. He became paralyzed and had to be rushed to the emergency ward. The doctors had to operate on the right side of his brain. Yet after the surgery, he was ordered back to the prison despite the fact that he needed

hospital care. He suffered more paralysis a week later and was again taken to a hospital. This time, doctors operated on the left side of his brain. After the second brain surgery, he was neither let go nor placed in hospital care where he would have been able to recover. Bölek was again taken back to prison.

Shortly afterwards, the cancer hit his lungs hard, and he went through a third surgery but was again put back behind bars. In the first case against him in Antalya where the court vacated the arrest warrant citing health conditions, the court changed its position and issued yet another arrest warrant for him while he was still in prison in İzmir, suffering health-wise. His lawyer submitted surgery reports and medical papers testifying that his client was critically ill and could very well die soon if he did not get proper treatment outside prison. Yet, all these legal challenges to his pretrial detention were unsuccessful, and his request for release pending trial was denied.

Bölek has not been convicted of any crime, although two cases are still pending, but he is currently incarcerated İzmir Aliğa Prison despite his serious health issues. He attends the hearings via video feed from his cell.

This veteran police officer has three children, one boy and two girls. The girls are pursuing university degrees in Antalya, but his wife, Nurgül, had to move to İzmir with their youngest son, who is in the second year of high school, so that she could monitor husband while he was in jail there. Nurgül had to start working to support her family after her husband's ordeal.

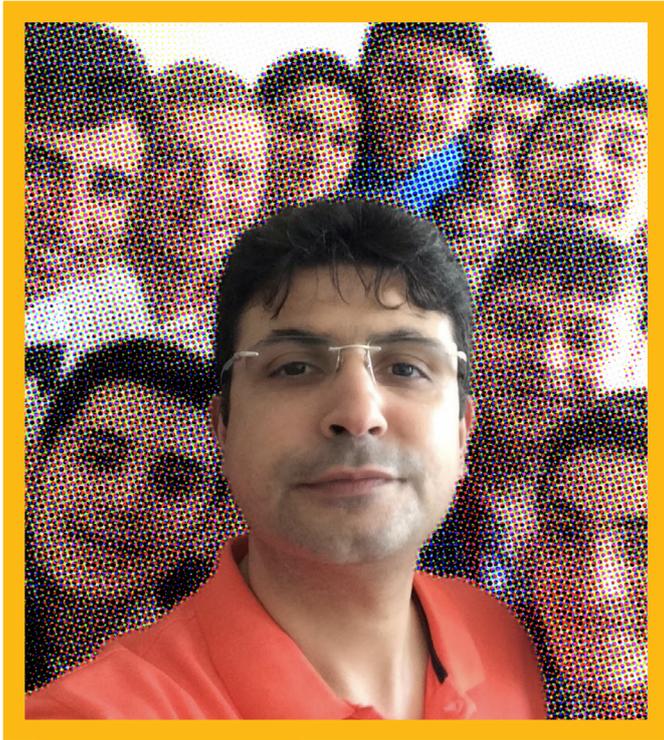
“My husband has never done anything wrong, never violated the law. Despite the fact that he is innocent of all charges and faces serious health problems, they still keep him in prison. I can only see him once a week. He needs critical care and is still going through chemotherapy. He can barely walk, but he has to endure a four-hour trip every day from prison to Yeşilyurt Hospital in İzmir,” she told SCF.

Nurgül complained that her husband is not receiving his medications in time, is taken to chemotherapy sessions late, and at times the sessions are skipped altogether. Despite doctors' warnings against missing sessions, prison officials sometimes did not make appointments, citing a lack of staff to take him to the hospital.

“He has been losing weight quickly, lying in bed all the time, vomits often, and has been unable to receive proper dietary supplements. His skin suffered because of the radiation therapy, but the cream needed to heal his skin rapidly arrived three weeks late,” she explained.

4.2. The Case of Gökhan Açikkollu

Gökhan Açikkollu, a 42-year-old history teacher, was detained on July 24, 2016 and held in police custody for 13 days before he fell ill. He was rushed to the hospital but taken back immediately to the police station, where he was further questioned under torture and abuse. He developed health problems again and was taken back to the hospital only to be pronounced dead.



**Gökhan
Açikkollu**

Based on medical reports that showed he suffered from broken ribs and head trauma, Açikkollu's family believes he was killed by the police due to the torture he endured for days in custody. Yet, public prosecutor Burhan Görgülü closed the investigation file on the grounds that "there was no malicious intent or negligence" even though the family provided witnesses who offered testimony confirming that they saw Açikkollu was beaten to death at the police station.

Açikkollu himself complained when he was taken to the hospital for medical screening on July 26, 2016, informing the doctor how his head was banged on the wall and that he was suffering from pain in his ribs because of kicks and beatings he had received in custody. His grievances were recorded during the doctor's visit, but he was taken back to the police station nonetheless.

The teacher was detained by police on July 24, 2016 on coup plotting charges, a claim his family rejected, saying he did not know any soldiers let alone an officer in the Turkish military. He was also accused of belonging to the Gülen movement.

The family also said they noticed that the medications Açikkollu was supposed to take on a regular basis because of diabetes were not given to him when they looked at the personal belongings returned to them after his death.

The official autopsy report done by the Council of Forensic Medicine (ATK) acknowledged that there were rib fractures and internal bleeding. Yet, the report cited heart attack as the cause of death without elaborating on what might have caused him to suffer heart failure.

Açikkollu told the doctors during visits to the hospital that he had been subjected to violence almost every day. He was taken to Haseki Teaching and Research Hospital

because he suffered a diabetic crisis while in custody. Despite serious and chronic illness, the doctors assessed his mental and physical condition as being adequately good to remain in custody.

According to information provided by his cellmates, he could not tolerate being exposed to the violence and receiving threats and insults to his family and screamed: “I cannot bear any more. I will say whatever you want. It is enough. Stop.”

4.3. The Case of Tuğba Yıldız

At least in one case SCF documented, Turkey implemented a policy that runs contrary to the specific recommendation made by Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) with respect to Turkey in a resolution of December 13, 2015. The resolution and accompanying report, titled “The fate of critically ill detainees in Europe,” called on member states to insure that women prisoners be “monitored for signs of depression or other mental illnesses.” It says that “Particular attention must be paid to vulnerable groups such as women prisoners who are more likely to self-harm.”⁶⁶

Tuğba Yıldız, arrested on January 15, 2017 in Tekirdağ province along with her husband, had been tortured and was threatened by authorities with her children being taken away. She eventually developed symptoms of a psychological disorder and came close to losing her sanity during an unusually long 24 days in police detention. Although the doctors’ reports revealed that the victim was subjected to heavy torture for days and that as a result her mental health was in critical condition, a Tekirdağ court ruled for the arrest of Yıldız and sent her to prison, where she has been incarcerated ever since. The victim has a 14-year-old son and two daughters aged 10 and 11. One of the daughters is a leukemia patient and in need of constant care. They are being looked after by their grandparents.

Yıldız was reported to have been talking in her sleep about the daughter with leukemia. She started calling other children accompanying jailed mothers in the same cell by the names of her own children. She lost a lot of weight and fell ill due to malnutrition. She has developed an eating disorder over fears of being poisoned. It has been confirmed by psychiatrists at Bakırköy Hospital that Yıldız was diagnosed with schizophrenia after suffering significant trauma during the process, and she remains in prison as of today.⁶⁷

⁶⁶] “Women in prison” 28 April 2009, <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=17733&lang=en>

⁶⁷] “Gözetiminde akli dengesini yitiren öğretmen cezaevine konu”, 27 February 2017, <http://magduriyetler.com/2017/02/27/gozaltinda-akli-dengesini-yitiren-ogretmen-tekrar-cezaevine-kondu/>

4.4. The Case of Nurhayat Yıldız

On August 29, 2016, Nurhayat Yıldız, a pregnant woman residing in the northern province of Sinop, was detained on a bus bound for neighboring Samsun while she was on her way to the doctor for a pregnancy examination. She was 14 weeks pregnant with twins after the couple had tried to have a baby for three years. Her husband said everything was going well until her detention and imprisonment. She was charged with membership in the Gülen movement. The authorities cited a messaging application called ByLock as evidence of a crime, although she said she had not even downloaded this publicly available application to her smartphone.

Yıldız pleaded for her release from pretrial detention, citing health issues backed by medical reports. But her petition was turned down and she was kept in a crowded cell that housed 24 other inmates. The worst came true when Yıldız suffered a miscarriage on October 6, 2016, during the 19th week of her pregnancy. She was put back in prison after two days of treatment at the hospital in the presence of a prison guard following the miscarriage.⁶⁸ Her husband said Yıldız started having psychological problems in jail after the miscarriage and remains concerned for her wellbeing.

4.5. The Case of Mustafa Erdoğan

Mustafa Erdoğan, 49-year-old member of the Court of Cassation, was placed in pretrial detention while he was hospitalized for an emergency and scheduled for brain surgery. Police arrived immediately to detain him while he was fighting for his life in intensive care. He was put in a holding cell at the hospital on Dec. 30, 2016 although he was paralyzed after the surgery. His family was often denied visitation rights, and the government seized his assets and froze his bank accounts.

Buket Erdoğan, his daughter, said that “since he was bedridden after the surgery, doctors asked for permission to give him an air mattress to prevent harm to his back from long hours of lying flat,” adding, “[however], it was considered a technological device and was not permitted. Doctors say he would be able to live for two more years at best. Is it fair that he will breathe his last under such circumstances?”

Judge Erdoğan was held in a hospital ward for six months while half of his body was paralyzed. Since the day of his arrest, Erdoğan’s

⁶⁸] “Bu Haksızlıkları Durdurun” 15 October 2016, <http://www.sozcu.com.tr/2016/yazarlar/emin-colasan/bu-haksizliklari-durdurun-1448641/>



**Nurhayat
Yıldız**

repeated motions for release on health grounds have been rejected. Finally, Erdoğan's lawyer, Hüseyin Aygün, appealed to the Constitutional Court on the basis of violation of fundamental human rights. But the court rejected the petition, saying that the detainee was not in any danger.

The hospital where Erdoğan was held also prepared a report in June stating that the doctors saw no problem with releasing him to family care at home. But the prosecutor disregarded the report. In August his condition deteriorated, and he was taken to intensive care where he lost consciousness. He was finally released on August 18 as he was fighting for his life in the ICU. He died four days later, on August 22, 2017 in his hospital bed.⁶⁹

4.6. Cases of detention immediately after the birth of a baby

There have been 20 known cases where the police were ordered to detain women when they checked into a hospital to give birth. Police often wait by the maternity ward and drag the mothers along with their newborn babies to detention for questioning right after delivery. Most were related to cases involving investigations into the Gülen movement, while some had to do with the crackdown on Kurdish dissident groups.

According to the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, Rule 23.1, and the 2006 European Prison Rules, Recommendation Rec(2006)2, Rule 34.3., prisoners shall be allowed to give birth outside prison. Female prisoners should not be handcuffed during delivery or examination according to recommendations by the UN and the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT).⁷⁰ "Such an approach is completely unacceptable and could certainly be qualified as inhuman and degrading treatment. Other means of meeting security needs can and should be found," the CPT stated the CPT stated. Yet in many cases, Turkish authorities have violated these rules.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) also underlined that member states must "ensure that prison regimes and facilities are flexible enough to meet the requirements of pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and prisoners whose children are with them." It further noted that state authorities must "ensure that, in situations where babies and young children in prison with their mother have to be separated from her, this is done gradually, so that the process is as painless and

⁶⁹] "Ölene Kadar Tutuklama", 24 Ağustos 2017 <https://www.birgun.net/haber-detay/olene-kadar-tutuklama-176179.html>

⁷⁰] 10th General Report on the CPT's activities (1999) including a section on Women deprived of their liberty, paragraph 27, www.cpt.coe.int/en/docsannual.htm.

non-threatening as possible.”⁷¹

Many of these provisions were in fact incorporated into Turkish law. According to Article 16 of Law No. 5275 on the Execution of Penalties and Security Measures, which was passed on December 13, 2004,⁷² people who have serious health problems, have recently given birth or are pregnant can be released pending trial and/or their prison time can be postponed. This provision is valid both for suspects in pretrial detention and for those who have been convicted.

What follows are some of the sample cases SCF compiled to provide a picture of the extent of the crackdown in Turkey and its impact on patients.

Esra Demir, a 31-year-old teacher who gave birth to a baby at a Batman hospital early on June 4, 2016, was detained by police and taken to the Batman Police Station with her newborn baby the next day on coup charges.⁷³

On September 3, 2016 Turkish police raided Tekden Hospital in the province of Kayseri to detain Zeynep Toptaş, who just gave birth.⁷⁴

On December 30, 2016 Fatma Kaya gave birth in a hospital in Turkey’s southeastern Mersin province. On January 3, 2017 she was rushed to the hospital because of a postpartum hemorrhage. After she was admitted, police raided the emergency ward, interrupting her treatment. She was detained and taken to the police station for questioning by the order of public prosecutor Tansel Ünal, who also ordered separation of the baby from the mother, allowing only limited access for breastfeeding.⁷⁵ Doctors said the baby’s breastfeeding was critical because the newborn was suffering from jaundice. Kaya was denied medication while in detention and has continued to experience health problems even after she was released because of the interruption of her treatment.

On January 28, 2017 Fadime Günay, a housewife, was hospitalized at Baskent University’s Alanya Teaching and Research Hospital in the southern province of Antalya to give birth. The police raided the maternity ward to detain her. Her husband was already in custody, and the police wanted the hospital to discharge her so that she could be detained and taken to the police station for interrogation. In the

71] Recommendation Rec(2006)2 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the European Prison Rules (2006, January 11), <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016806f3d4f>

72] “Ceza ve güvenlik tedbirlerinin infazi hakkında kanun” 13 December 2004, <https://www.tbmm.gov.tr/kanunlar/k5275.html>

73] “Bir günlük anneye gözaltı”, 6 Haziran 2017, <https://www.artigercek.com/bir-gunluk-anneye-gozalti>

74] “Polis Kurban Bayramı’nda Da Doğumhanede: Kayseri’de Anne Ve Bebeği Gözaltına Alınacak!”, 3 September 2017, <http://www.tr724.com/polis-kurban-bayraminda-da-dogumhanede-kayseride-anne-bebegi-gozaltina-alinacak/>

75] “Yeni doğum yapan anneye vicdansız uygulama” 5 January 2017, <http://aktifhaber.com/m/gundem/yeni-dogum-yapan-anne-ye-vicdansiz-uygulama-h88088.html>

meantime, she was kept under police surveillance while in the hospital.⁷⁶

Günay was detained in the morning under counterterrorism laws and charged with links to the Gülen movement after the delivery of her baby. Her picture was published in the media showing the mother, apparently in pain and having difficulty walking, as the police were holding her by the arms. The grandmother was next to her carrying the brand new baby. She was questioned at the police station and later referred to court for arraignment. The judge allowed her to stay at the hospital for an additional day.⁷⁷ The following day she was brought back to court and conditionally released with the requirement that she check in with the police on a regular basis.⁷⁸

Aysun Aydemir, an English teacher who gave birth to a baby in an elective caesarean procedure on May 12, 2017, was detained at the hospital on May 15, 2017 and subsequently placed under house arrest with an electronic bracelet on her ankle. Aydemir reportedly spent three days with a 3-day-old baby at the Zonguldak Police Station. The judge overseeing the case initially put her in pretrial detention and then turned it into house arrest. The mother is charged with having links to Turkey's Gülen movement.⁷⁹

Elif Aslaner, a teacher who gave birth to a baby at a private hospital in Bursa province, was detained on June 2, 2017 on coup charges. According to a statement from her husband, police teams arrived at the hospital on May 31 to detain Aslaner; however, the woman's doctor said she should be kept under supervision for at least 48 hours because of possible complications. Aslaner's husband said his wife had preeclampsia and suffered from convulsions when she gave birth to their first baby and remained in a coma for two days. He said there was a risk of the same complications recurring.⁸⁰

Nazlı N. Mert, who gave birth to a baby at Lokman Hekim Hospital in Ankara's Etlik neighborhood on June 3, 2017, was detained by police and taken to a police station with her newborn baby later the same day. She was subsequently released by a court on judicial probation due to growing public outrage over the incident.⁸¹

76] “Bunun adı soykırım!.. Erdoğan'ın SS'leri yeni doğum yapan anneyi gözaltına almak için hastane kapısında bekliyor”, (2017, January 30) <http://romanyahaber.com/2017/01/30/bunun-adi-soykirim-Erdoganin-ssleri-yeni-dogum-yapan-anneyi-gozaltina-almak-icin-hastane-kapisinda-bekliyor/>

77] “Doğum yaptıktan bir gün sonra gözaltına alındı” 30 January 2017, <http://www.cnnturk.com/turkiye/dogum-yaptik-tan-bir-gun-sonra-gozaltina-alindi>

78] “Doğum Yaptıktan Sonra Fetö'den Gözaltına Alınan Kadın Serbest”, 31 January 2017 <http://www.haberler.com/dogum-yaptiktan-sonra-feto-den-gozaltina-alinan-9216343-haberi/>

79] “FETÖ'den aranan kadın doğum sonrası tutuklandı”, 16 May 2017, <http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/fetoden-aranan-kadin-dogum-son-rasi-tutuklandi-40459194>

80] “Erken doğum yapan kadının kapısında gözaltı için polisler bekliyor!”, 1 June 2017, <http://aktifhaber.com/iskence/zulme-doymuyor-lar-erken-dogum-yapan-kadinin-kapisinda-gozalti-icin-polisler-bekliyor-h98148.html>

81] “Bebeğiyle birlikte gözaltına alınan 2 günlük anne serbest bırakıldı”, 3 June 2017, <http://www.kronos.news/tr/genc-anne-dun-dogum-yapti-bugun-tekerlekli-sandalyeyle-gozaltina-alindi/>

On June 12, 2017 police came to a hospital to detain Elif Coşkun, who had just given birth in Turkey's western province of İzmir.⁸²

On June 23, 2017 Hatice Avan, who gave birth in the western province of Denizli, was detained over her doctor's objections. Avan, who worked at a student dormitory affiliated with the Gülen movement until three years ago, was taken to the prosecutor's office although her doctor warned that she had just had surgery and was suffering from poor health. Police officers wanted to handcuff Avan in her hospital room, but upon a request from her family they instead locked her in the room with her baby before detaining her.⁸³

On July 3, 2017 Zara Koç, a cardiac patient who was expecting a baby at any time, was detained and placed in police custody. The nine-months-pregnant Koç, who was suffering labor pains and deprived of a doctor, was detained along with 12 others in police operations. Her mother-in-law Vahide Koç told Turkish media that "the only reason they rounded her up was because we have Kurdish origins."⁸⁴ She was released after 15 days in police detention.⁸⁵

On July 9, 2017 Fatma Öztürk, a teacher, was detained just after she gave birth to her baby at Ege Umut Hospital in Manisa's Turgutlu district when police raided the hospital and handcuffed her to the bed. The newborn baby was reported to be in critical condition. Main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) deputy Sezgin Tanrikulu highlighted Öztürk's case, criticizing the detention of mothers with newborn infants, and asked the government to end the violence against these women.⁸⁶

On August 21, 2017 Elif Açıkgöz was detained at Avrupa Hospital in Adana province just hours after she gave birth by cesarean section even though the hospital warned the police about her health. Main opposition CHP deputy Sezgin Tanrikulu publicized her case, and the court released her the next day on condition of judicial probation. Açıkgöz's husband is also jailed over alleged links to the Gülen movement.⁸⁷

82] "Yet Another Woman Who Just Gave Birth Faces Detention Over Alleged Gülen Links", 13 June 2017, <https://stockholmcf.org/yet-another-woman-who-just-gave-birth-faces-detention-over-alleged-gulen-links/>

83] "'Yürüyemez' raporuna rağmen doğumhane kapısında gözaltı", 23 June 2017, <http://www.kronos.news/tr/yuruyemez-raporu-na-ragmen-hatice-avani-dogumhane-kapisinda-gozaltina-aldilar/>

84] "Zara Koç detained while she was in labor", 8 July 2017, <https://www.gazetesujin.net/en/2017/07/zara-koc-detained-while-she-was-in-labor/>

85] "Zara Koç: Her anı işkenceydi", 20 July 2107, <http://www.yeniozgurpolitika.org/index.php?rupel=nuce&id=74281>

86] "Hastanede Oda Basan Polis, Yeni Doğum Yapan Anneyi Yatağa Kelepçeledi", 9 July 2017, <http://www.tr724.com/hastanede-oda-basan-polis-yeni-dogum-yapan-anneyi-yataga-kelepceledi/>

87] "Polis bu sefer Adana'da doğumhane kapısına dayandı" 21 August 2017, <http://www.shaber3.com/polis-bu-sefer-adanada-dogumhane-kapisina-dayandi-haberi/1289466/>

4.7. Other Cases

Twelve-year-old cancer patient Furkan Dizdar's passport was seized by police at Istanbul Atatürk Airport, where he came with his family to go abroad for treatment. Furkan's treatment remained incomplete, and he died about two months later.⁸⁸

Mevhibe Altıntaş, a teacher who suffers from leukemia, was receiving treatment at Memorial Hospital in Ankara. Police came to the hospital to detain her on February 12, 2017 and said she was supposed to be taken to Aksaray as part of an investigation. No reason for her expected detention was cited. Meanwhile, her husband, a teacher-turned-construction worker, says the government froze their bank accounts and dismissed both from their positions at state-run schools. No update is available on her latest status or whether she was actually placed in detention after police showed up at the hospital with a warrant.⁸⁹

A couple, both teachers and known only by the initials A.M. and M.M., was arrested over their alleged affiliation with the Gülen movement. The couple has an 8-year-old child. A.M. has been fighting leukemia with an 80 percent loss of vision in one eye. He has experienced extreme weight loss after what he has gone through in recent times. His cancer could act up again. While A.M. is held in Buca Prison, his wife is in Şakran Prison in İzmir.⁹⁰

A female teacher in the western province of Uşak identified by the initials A.A. was detained although she had been undergoing treatment for brain cancer for the last two years. A.A., a mother of two, required regular medication and suffered from heart irregularities. Media reports stated that she was not allowed to see family members and was denied access to her much-needed drugs. Her family is concerned that she may be at risk of dying.⁹¹

88] "12 yaşındaki kanser hastası Furkan OHAL kurbanı", 8 February 2017, <http://www.kronos.news/tr/12-yasindaki-kanser-hastasi-furkan-ohal-kurbani/>

89] "Turkish police wait at hospital to detain cancer patient", 11 February 2017, <https://turkeypurge.com/police-wait-at-hospital-to-detain-cancer-patient>

90] "Leukemia patient, pregnant wife under arrest over coup charges", 20 September 2016, <https://turkeypurge.com/leukemia-patient-pregnant-wife-under-arrest-over-coup-charges>

91] "Savci geçmişini unutmamak için anne ve çocuklara zulüm talimatı Verdi", 26 February 2017, <http://www.tr724.com/savci-gecmisini-unutmamak-icin-anne-cocuklara-zulum-talimati-verdi/>

5. Pharmacies and Pharmacists



Pharmacists have gotten their share of the government crackdown in Turkey, and some pharmacies were forced to close, with their owners and operators jailed on dubious charges. Although almost all pharmacies are run by private companies or individuals, they have to rely on government subsidy payments as part of the universal insurance scheme in Turkey that pays most of the purchase price of prescription drugs from the social security budget, with patients co-paying a fraction of the cost.

There are 27,864 pharmacists in Turkey. According to local media reports, the Social Security Institution (SGK) has cut off the access of 400 pharmacies across Turkey to the electronic prescription system, which enables them to sell prescription drugs and receive payments from the SGK. That act was meant to force these pharmacies to go bankrupt overnight as they rely on the government funding of drug sales.⁹² The government also held back payments that were already due as they came under investigation for terrorism and coup plotting charges. Currently nearly 1,500 pharmacies are reportedly under investigation over alleged links to the Gülen movement.

The president of the Kayseri Pharmacists Association, Oğuzhan Ulutaş, stated that eight pharmacies are under investigation on terrorism charges, while the SGK cancelled the contract with a pharmacy without launching any administrative or judicial probe in the central province of Kayseri. They were accused of being associated with the Gülen movement. He added that the eight pharmacists face criminal charges. Of these, five of them were already in pre-trial detention while two had been released

92] "Eczaneden 400 FETÖ'cü çıktı", 29 October 2016, <http://www.sabah.com.tr/ekonomi/2016/10/29/eczaneden-400-fetocu-cikti>

on judicial probation pending charges. One pharmacist remains at large.⁹³

In the central province of Tokat, the operating licenses of five pharmacies were suspended for two years, effectively forcing them into bankruptcy. Four pharmacy owners were arrested and sent to jail. One pharmacist working for the government was dismissed.⁹⁴

Hacer Bozkurt, the pharmacist wife of former prosecutor Hasan Bozkurt, who was in detention on coup charges, was also detained during a visit to her husband at the İzmir Police Station on September 20, 2016. The husband, the former prosecutor of Erzincan's Iliç district, was detained on September 5, 2016.⁹⁵

Twenty pharmacies have been closed in the southeastern province of Şanlıurfa over alleged Gülen links. According to reports in the local media, the SGK cut off the pharmacies' access to the electronic prescription system called Medula.⁹⁶

6. Kimse Yok Mu Charity



Kimse Yok Mu, a charity organization that was set up in 2004 in Istanbul⁹⁷ and had quickly developed an internationally recognized relief program in partnership with the

93] "Kayseri'de FETÖ'den 1 eczanenin sözleşmesi feshedildi", 1 November 2016, <http://www.kayserianadoluhaber.com.tr/haber/kayseride-fetoden-1-eczanenin-sozlesmesi-feshedildi>

94] "Tokat'ta FETÖ'den kapatılan eczane sayısı 5'e çıktı", 27 August 2016, <http://www.iha.com.tr/tokat-haberleri/tokatta-fetoden-kapatilan-eczane-sayisi-5e-cikti-tokat-1480681/>

95] "Wife of detained former prosecutor also detained during visit to husband", 20 September 2016, <https://turkeypurge.com/wife-of-detained-former-prosecutor-also-detained-during-visit-to-husband>

96] "Şanlıurfa'da 20 Eczane'ye FETÖ darbesi", 21 October 2016, <http://www.urfanatik.com/yerel/sanliurfa-da-20-eczane-ye-feto-darbesi-h56280.html>

97] Wikipedia, https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kimse_Yok_Mu_Derne%C4%9Fi

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), was also targeted by the Erdoğan government because of its affiliation with the Gülen movement. The group was the only aid agency that held UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) special consultative status. Having been active in 113 countries for years, Kimse Yok Mu developed the capacity to deliver emergency relief in disaster zones and provided health care services as well as rebuilding infrastructure in communities, thereby providing long-term assistance, which included the construction of homes, hospitals, schools and health facilities.

However, it came under fire by the Turkish government when Erdoğan started attacking the Gülen movement. First, Kimse Yok Mu's licenses to raise, hold and use funds in charitable work were suspended⁹⁸ on September 22, 2014, and the charity was later shut down completely after the failed coup on July 15, 2016.⁹⁹ Volunteers, staff members and executives of Kimse Yok Mu faced legal action by the government. Many employees were jailed or faced arrest and prosecution on dubious charges.¹⁰⁰ Ironically, it was Erdoğan himself who participated in Kimse Yok Mu's fundraising drives and asked businesspeople to contribute to the charitable cause.¹⁰¹ Hüseyin Avni Mutlu, former governor of Istanbul and currently in pretrial detention, was arrested on terrorism charges because he donated TL 20 (\$6) to Kimse Yok Mu at one time.¹⁰²

Thirty-three out of 40 members of the Kimse Yok Mu aid foundation who were referred to court were arrested October 7, 2016 after the government issued detention warrants for 121 people including former Kimse Yok Mu chairman İsmail Cingöz. Seven of the detainees were released after testifying to the court.¹⁰³

Kimse Yok Mu, which was headquartered in Turkey and had more than 200,000 volunteers in over 100 countries, had to cease its overseas operations including those that provided health care in less developed countries. For example, Deva Hospital,¹⁰⁴ which was launched by Kimse Yok Mu in Somalia's capital of Mogadishu, typically treated more than 100 patients a day. But it was shut down under pressure from Turkey, a major donor to Somalia.

98] "Kimse yok mu derneğinin şarđım toplama yetkisi kaldırıldı," Hürriyet, 2 October 2014, <http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/kimse-yok-mu-derneginin-yardim-toplama-yetkisi-kaldirildi-27314395>

99] "Kimse Yok Mu derneđi kapatıldı," Hürriyet, 23 July 2016, <http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/kimse-yok-mu-dernegi-kapatildi-40164991>

100] "Kimse Yok mu derneđine operasyonda 33 tutuklama," Cumhuriyet, 7 October 2016, http://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/haber/turkiye/611542/Kimse_Yok_Mu_Derneđi_ne_operasyonda_33_tutuklama.html ; "Kapatılan Kimse Yok mu derneđine yönelik operasyonda 29 kişi tutuklandı," aa, 10 April 2017, <http://aa.com.tr/tr/turkiye/kapatilan-kimse-yok-mu-dernegine-yonelik-sorusturmada-29-kisi-tutuklandi-793737>

101] "Erdoğan, 'Kimse Yok Mu' derneđi aracılıđıyla Somali için böyle yardım istemişti," t24, 28 September 2016, <http://t24.com.tr/video/erdogan-2001-yilinda-insanlik-oldu-mu-kimse-yok-mu-dernegi-araciligiyla-somali-icin-boyle-yardim-istemisti-3202>

102] "Vali Mutlu savunmasını ađlayarak yaptı," Cumhuriyet, 24 August 2017, http://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/haber/turkiye/810174/Huseyin_Avni_Mutlu_savunmasini_aglayarak_yapti__Ne_Musa_ya_ne_isa_ya_yaranabiliyorum.html

103] "Turkey arrests 33 members of Kimse Yok Mu aid foundation over Gülen ties", 7 October 2016, <https://www.turkishminute.com/2016/10/07/turkey-arrests-33-members-kimse-yok-mu-aid-foundation-gulen-ties/>

104] "Turkey's post-coup crackdown moves overseas", 1 August 2016, <https://www.ft.com/content/4f8d6d3e-55a3-11e6-befd-0c26b3c60>

7. Medical Students

The persecution has negatively impacted medical students who were studying at medical schools in Turkey that were closed down. Their education was hampered by the closures, and they had to enroll in other universities under difficult conditions. Training opportunities for interns and residents were also reduced as a result of the closure of university teaching and research hospitals. Unfortunately, the foreign exchange students who were studying in public and private universities also got caught up in the Turkish government crackdown and faced injustices.



**Ibrahim
Seruwagi**

Ibrahim Seruwagi, a 26-year-old man from Kampala, was studying medicine at Ege University in the western province of Izmir, one of the oldest public universities in Turkey. He thought he had been spared from the government wrath that led to the detention and expulsion of many foreign exchange students from countries in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. On April 20, 2017, nine months after the coup attempt, he received a call at around 3 p.m. from the immigration office in Izmir to come in and sign some documents. He went there as requested and was told to wait when he arrived. Three hours later, two police officers arrived to pick him up, and that is when he was told he would be deported back to his home country. He was taken to the police station and was processed, his mug shots taken like a criminal, and fingerprinted.

The police placed him in a deportation center in Izmir's Çiğli district at around 10 p.m. No lawyer was provided for him during all these procedures, and he was not allowed to call anybody, either. He was branded a national security risk without any investigation or hearing and was not allowed to defend himself against the charges. The only question he got asked was whether he would be willing to be go back to Uganda, and he said no because he was only a month away from graduating from medical school. He was forced to sign a document testifying that he was not willing to go back. He says he had to spend two months in a maximum-security prison with felons and criminals. He was only allowed to go out for 15 minutes a day while being locked up for the rest in a place he says was very dirty. He had to wear the same clothes for two months as no clean clothing was provided to him by the authorities.

On June 18, 2017, he was forced to board a plane and deported from Turkey with no documents explaining why he had been expelled. He did not even get a chance to retrieve his belongings from the apartment he was renting in Izmir. Seruwagi lost the six years of his life he had spent studying medicine in Turkey with all the language and cultural challenges of a foreign country. He unsuccessfully tried to get into medical school in Uganda but had difficulty in obtaining original and official documents from the Turkish university he had attended for six years.¹⁰⁵

105] "Turkey has stolen the future of a medical student from Uganda", Abdullah Bozkurt, 12 October 2017, <https://www.turkishminute.com/2017/10/12/opinion-turkey-has-stolen-the-future-of-a-medical-student-from-uganda/>

CONCLUSION

The unlawful closure of hospitals and medical clinics, the dismissal and jailing of health care professionals and the crackdown on NGOs that provided free health services have had widespread implications in Turkey and abroad. These abrupt actions by the Erdogan government were not based on financial considerations, health concerns or patient safety but rather were taken as part of the unprecedented crackdown on legitimate critics and opponents of the government. By doing so, Turkey has surely violated its international obligations under international human rights conventions, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), guaranteeing the right to work, and provisions of International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 158, which protects against termination of employment by arbitrary dismissal without due process, were also violated by Turkey. The government dismissed thousands of health care professionals without even bothering to seek their defense in the face of allegations of “terrorism” and as such violated Article 7 of ILO 158, which states that “the employment of a worker shall not be terminated for reasons related to the worker’s conduct or performance before he is provided an opportunity to defend himself against the allegations made, unless the employer cannot reasonably be expected to provide this opportunity.”

General Comment No. 14 of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights explains the necessary elements for the fulfillment of the right to the highest attainable standard of health under Article No. 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It states that there is a close relation between the right to health and other fundamental human rights and emphasizes the availability, accessibility, acceptability, quality and non-discriminatory aspects of health care. The Turkish government also appears to have infringed the “right to protection of health” as defined in the European Social Charter as well as the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine: Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (Oviedo Convention), which requires that member states ensure “equitable access to health care of appropriate quality” within their jurisdictions.

It is clear that the Turkish government decision to close hospitals was not taken as a result of administrative or legal proceedings but was rather based on unlawful profiling of ownership structures that were believed to be affiliated with a social group that the Erdogan government considered to not be supportive of its rule. It was a blatant discrimination and abuse of authority that did not even allow adequate time for local communities to develop alternate plans in order to avoid adverse effects. The government did not fulfill its responsibility to ensure that adequate services were provided as a result of these closures, dismissals and jailing of health care professionals.

As result, many patients faced disproportionately adverse effects such as limited access to quality health care and longer waiting and service times in alternate hospitals as well as a shortage of physicians. The impact in disadvantaged regions where physician scarcity was already a problem before the mass closures and dismissals has been far worse than in other regions.

SCF calls on the Turkish government to release wrongfully jailed health care professionals and immediately drop fabricated charges against all of them while returning hospitals, medical centers and other institutions to their rightful owners with compensation for the loss of earnings and damages sustained. Those who were involved in the unlawful closure of medical institutions and dismissal/prosecution of health care workers must be held accountable under the relevant legal provisions. Turkey must fulfill its obligations under the international conventions to which it is party.

SCF also urges the Turkish government to address restricted access to health care for detainees and prisoners and to halt the practice of detaining and arresting pregnant women and people with serious health conditions. The torture and ill treatment in detention and prisons must be investigated, and those who are responsible must be held accountable.

ANNEX 1:

The hospitals and medical schools that were shut down by the government

HOSPITALS

	Corporation	Province	Date of Closure
1.	Fatih Üniversitesi Sema U.A Merkezi	İstanbul	July 23, 2016
2.	Mevlana Üniversitesi Hastanesi	Konya	July 23, 2016
3.	Şifa Ün. Bornova Sağlık Uyg. Araştırma Hastanesi	İzmir	July 23, 2016
4.	Nurlu Göz Hastanesi	Ankara	July 23, 2016
5.	Özel Altınova Hastanesi	Sakarya	July 23, 2016
6.	Özel Bahar Hastanesi	Bursa	July 23, 2016
7.	Özel Erzurum Şifa Hastanesi	Erzurum	July 23, 2016
8.	Özel Kayseri Göz Hastanesi	Kayseri	July 23, 2016
9.	Özel Kütahya Kent Hastanesi	Kütahya	July 23, 2016
10.	Özel Primer Hospital Hastanesi	Gaziantep	July 23, 2016
11.	Turgut Özal Üniv. S.U.A.M Özel Ren Tıp Hastanesi	Ankara	July 23, 2016
12.	Özel OSM Ortadoğu Hastanesi	Şanlıurfa	July 23, 2016
13.	Özel Rentıp Hastanesi	Bursa	July 23, 2016
14.	Özel İstanbul Kadın Doğum ve Cerrahi Hastanesi	Van	July 23, 2016



MEDICAL CENTERS

Corporation	Province	Date of Closure
1. Özel Gümüşğne Fizik Ted. ve Reh. Tıp Mer.	Ankara	July 23, 2016
2. Akpol Tıp merkezia	Ankara	July 23, 2016
3.Mevlana Üniversitesi Diyaliz Merkezi	Konya	July 23, 2016
4.İzmir Şifa Üniversitesi Bornova Dializ Merkezi	İzmir	July 23, 2016
5.Hacettepe Fizik Tedavi ve Rehabilitasyon Merkezi	Kayseri	July 23, 2016
6.Özel Anadolu Göz Hastalıkları Dal Mer.	Şanlıurfa	July 23, 2016
7.Özel Burç Genetik Hastalıkları ve Tanı Merkezi	İstanbul	July 23, 2016
8.Özel istanbul Kadın Sağlığı ve Tüp Bebek Mer.	İstanbul	July 23, 2016
9.Özel Ufuk Tıp Merkezi	Urfa	July 23, 2016
10.Sincan Bilgi Tıp Merkezi	Ankara	July 23, 2016
11.Turgut Özal Üniveritesi Dializ Merkezi	Ankara	July 23, 2016
12.Özel Şifa Dializ Merkezi	İzmir	July 23, 2016
13.Özel Donegen Genetik Hastalıkları Tanı Merkezi	İstanbul	July 23, 2016
14.Özel Ailemiz Tıp Merkezi	Şanlıurfa	July 23, 2016
15.Özel Baban Tıp Merkezi	Şanlıurfa	July 23, 2016
16.Özel Doğa Tıp Merkezi	Şanlıurfa	July 23, 2016
17.Özel Harranmed Kadın Has. ve Doğum Dal Mer.	Şanlıurfa	July 23, 2016
18.Özel Kurtuluş Dahiliye Dal Merkezi	Şanlıurfa	July 23, 2016
19.Özel Urfa FTR Dal Merkezi	Şanlıurfa	July 23, 2016
20.Özel Uzmanlar Tıp Merkezi	Şanlıurfa	July 23, 2016
21.Özel Batıfız Tıp Merkezi	Ankara	April 29, 2017
22.Özel Sinanoğlu Ağız ve Dişsağlığı Polikliniği	Antalya	April 29, 2017
23.Özel Nazilli Göz Hastalıkları ve Cerrahisi Dal Mer.	Aydın	April 29, 2017
24.Özel Emirdağ Polikliniği	Afyon	April 29, 2017
25.Özel Hayat Polikliniği	Balıkesir	April 29, 2017
26.Özgün Bahar Ağız ve Dişsağlığı Polikliniği	Bursa	April 29, 2017
27.Özel Mavi Dünya Ağız ve Dişsağlığı Polikliniği	Bursa	April 29, 2017
28.Özel Nörobilim Nöropsikiyatri Tıp Merkezi	Denizli	April 29, 2017
29.Özel Nörobilim Tıp Merkezi	Denizli	April 29, 2017
30.Özel İnci Diş Polikliniği	Düzce	April 29, 2017
31.Özel Gözaydın Göz Merkezi	İstanbul	April 29, 2017
32.Özel Turkuaz Ağız ve Dişsağlığı Polikliniği	İstanbul	April 29, 2017
33.Özel Çebi Tıp Merkezi	Kırklareli	April 29, 2017

* "Özel istanbul Kadın Sağlığı ve Tüp Bebek Merkezi was shut down on July 23, 2016 but was allowed to be reopened on November 22, 2016"



MEDICAL , HEALTH AND DENTISTRY FACULTIES

University	Faculties	Province	Date of Closure
1.Zirve University	Faculty of Medicine, Health and Dentistry	Gaziantep	July 23, 2016
2.İzmir University	Faculty of Medicine and Health	İzmir	July 23, 2016
3.Mevlana University	Faculty of Medicine and Health	Konya	July 23, 2016
4.Melikşah University	Faculty of Health	Kayseri	July 23, 2016
5.Turgut Özal Uni.	Faculty of Medicine and Health	Ankara	July 23, 2016
6.Şifa University	Faculty of Medicine, Health and Dentistry	İzmir	July 23, 2016
7.Gediz University	Faculty of Health	İzmir	July 23, 2016
8.Fatih University	Faculty of Medicine	İstanbul	July 23, 2016
9.Selahaddin Eyyubi U.	Faculty of Health	Diyarbakır	July 23, 2016

In total

6 Faculty Of Medicine + 8 Faculty of Health + 2 Faculty of Dentistry = 16 Faculties



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TURKEY CRACKS DOWN ON HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

JAILING HEALERS IN TURKEY



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