

**Association Européenne pour
La Défense Des Droits et Des Libertés**

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AMENDMENT PROPOSALS for the
DRAFT REPORT
on the 2019-2020 Commission Reports on Turkey
(2019/2176(INI))

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

As a Strasbourg-based human rights association (ASSEDEL), we prepared a number of amendment proposals for the Draft Report on the 2019-2020 Commission Reports on Turkey that we would like to present to your attention.

As it is known to all, the EU-Turkey relations are at their worst since Turkey's transition to a one-man regime especially in the post-coup period. This democratic recession and its effects on fundamental freedoms have been clearly underlined in the draft report. However, while specifically pointing out the opponents and some victims of the recent repressive State policies, the Draft Report sadly overlooks one of the major victims, the Gulen/Hizmet movement.

As of today, there have been 282 790 people taken into custody and 94 975 arrested without any convincing proof and often solely based on "evidence" allegedly linking them to the Gülen movement. Many were subjected to torture and ill treatment under custody as reported by the *Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**.

In the witch hunt against the Gulen movement, Turkey goes as far as to abduct teachers from all over the world. As stated by the *Working Group on Arbitrary Detention of the United Nations Human Rights Council*, these cases **may constitute crime against humanity****.

Dear Sir or Madam, for the abovementioned reasons which are only a brief summary of the systematic oppression that the Gulen movement faces, we believe that the European Parliament wouldn't and won't neglect to mention its name in the reports on Turkey.

Listed below are amendment proposals that we would like to present to you:

The original version	The proposal
<p>8. Is appalled by the serious backsliding on fundamental freedoms revealing the dire human rights situation in Turkey and the continued erosion of democracy and the rule of law;</p> <p>10. Notes with deep concern that, despite the formal lifting of the state of emergency in July 2018, its impact on democracy and fundamental rights continues to be strongly felt;</p>	<p>8. Is appalled by the serious backsliding on fundamental freedoms considering that over 280 000 people were taken into custody in the massive post-coup crackdown and 94 000 have been arrested on the basis of alleged membership and/or support to a terrorist organization, while more than 25 000 people remain still in jail despite the formal lifting of the state of emergency in July 2018 revealing the dire human rights situation in Turkey and the continued erosion of democracy and the rule of law;</p>
<p>13. Considers that the erosion of the rule of law and the systemic lack of independence of the judiciary continues to be one of the most pressing and worrying issues; condemns the increased surveillance by the executive and the political pressure affecting the work of judges, prosecutors, lawyers and bar associations;</p>	<p>13. Considers that the erosion of the rule of law and the systemic lack of independence of the judiciary continues to be one of the most pressing and worrying issues given that 3947 judges and prosecutors have been dismissed and over 500 lawyers were jailed since the attempted coup in July 2016; condemns the increased surveillance by the executive and the political pressure affecting the work of judges, prosecutors, lawyers and bar associations;</p>
<p>15. Expresses serious concern about the disproportionate and arbitrary measures curtailing freedom of expression, media freedom and access to information; urges Turkey to guarantee media freedom as a matter of priority;</p>	<p>15. Expresses serious concern about the disproportionate and arbitrary measures such as the closure of 156 media outlets in the post-coup period curtailing freedom of expression, media freedom and access to information; urges Turkey to guarantee media freedom as a matter of priority;</p>
<p>11. Deeply regrets that this repressive form of rule has now become a deliberate, relentless, systematic state policy, which extends to any critical activities, such as Kurdish activism, or even to events that took place prior to the attempted coup, such as the Gezi protests;</p>	<p>11. Deeply regrets that this repressive form of rule has now become a deliberate, relentless, systematic state policy, which mainly targets the participants and sympathizers of the Gulen/Hizmet movement, the Kurdish politicians or even other critical activities that took place prior to the attempted coup, such as the Gezi protests;</p>

<p>17. Notes with great concern the way that the People’s Democratic Party (HDP) has been specifically and continuously targeted by the Turkish authorities; strongly condemns the continued detention of former HDP co-chair Selahattin Demirtaş;</p>	<p>17. Notes with great concern the way that People’s Democratic Party (HDP) have been specifically and continuously targeted by the Turkish authorities; strongly condemns the continued detention of former HDP co-chair Selahattin Demirtaş and other political prisoners;</p>
<p>18. Calls on Turkey to release all imprisoned human rights defenders, journalists, lawyers, academics and others who have been detained on unsubstantiated charges and to enable them to carry out their work without threat or impediment in all circumstances; strongly condemns the re-arrest and continued detention of Osman Kavala, a prominent civil society figure;</p>	<p>18. Calls on Turkey to release all imprisoned human rights defenders, journalists, lawyers, academics and others who have been detained on unsubstantiated charges and to enable them to carry out their work without threat or impediment in all circumstances; strongly condemns the re-arrest and continued detention of Osman Kavala and Ahmet Altan, two prominent figures;</p>

* https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/TR/2018-03-19_Second_OHCHR_Turkey_Report.pdf

**https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Detention/Opinions/Session88/A_HRC_WGAD_2020_47_Advance_Edited_Version.pdf