

Dear Sir Madam,

L'Association européenne pour la défense des droits et des libertés, ASSEDEL, is a Strasbourg-based human-rights advocacy association. Its objective is to disseminate, promote and defend human rights and fundamental freedoms in the spirit of the European Convention on Human Rights, both within the Council of Europe system and at local, national, and international levels. The organization guides and supports victims of human rights violations.¹

In this briefing, we would like to inform the UN-SPT Group ahead of your 2022 Turkey visit about the torture and ill-treatment that have been systematically continuing since 2016 in Turkey. Turkey has experienced a marked resurgence of torture and ill-treatment in custody over the past six years. Lack of condemnation from higher officials and a readiness to cover up allegations rather than investigate them have resulted in widespread impunity for the security forces. According to information published on the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs website, the country is currently party to 16 UN human rights conventions and 121 of the CoE's 225 conventions and has signed 31 other conventions. Yet in the recent past, the Turkish government has continuously disregarded the provisions of the constitution and failed to uphold its international obligations. For instance, Turkey has blocked the publication of a report by a CoE delegation that paid fact-finding visits to Turkey in 2016 and in 2021 to investigate allegations of torture and ill treatment in Turkish correctional facilities.² Nevertheless, the CoE's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) confirmed in two reports published in August 2020 the continued existence of ill-treatment, torture, informal questioning and restricted access to a lawyer as well as a fundamentally flawed medical screening system in Turkish detention facilities.³

According to the annual report of main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) İstanbul MP and Deputy Chair of the Parliamentary Human Rights Investigation Commission Sezgin Tanrıku, 3,145 individuals were subjected to torture and ill-treatment in 2021.⁴ The capital city, Ankara, is the most mentioned location in torture and ill-treatment allegations in Turkey.

Based on the narrations of the former victims, two 'nonexisting' but popular torture centers of the Turkish Intelligent Service (MIT) can be identified in Ankara. Allegedly, the first torture center is at the basement of the Headquarters of MIT in Yenimahalle (a metropolitan district of Ankara Province) and the second one is at the intersection of Anadolu Boulevard and Marşandiz, in the same district not so far from the headquarters of MIT. The popular name of the place is 'Çiftlik'

¹ <https://assedel.org>

² <https://usercontent.one/wp/stockholmcf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Human-Rights-in-Turkey-2021-.pdf?media=1643837595>

³ <https://usercontent.one/wp/stockholmcf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Human-Rights-in-Turkey-2021-.pdf?media=1643837595>

⁴ <https://bianet.org/english/human-rights/256940-right-to-life-of-2-946-people-violated-in-turkey-in-2021>

(Chiftlique).⁵

Lately, in January 2022, dozens of people were gathered at the Ankara Police Department (TEM) and were forced to become whistleblowers.⁶ Among these individuals, there are housewives whose spouses have been sentenced to life imprisonment, military spouses who have been suspended from their duties, and students from the closed police academy. The allegations of detainees' lawyers claimed ill-treatment and torture, where the physicians did not state the situation in their reports.⁷ After receiving complaints of torture and mistreatment, lawyers from the Ankara Bar Association's human rights committee interviewed the detainees and compiled their findings in a report. According to the report citing the lawyers' findings, detainees said they were subjected to beatings, forced nudity, torture involving the use of water and threats of rape. The report was presented to the management of the Ankara Bar Association; however, they decided not to publish the report, opting to instead file a criminal complaint with the public prosecutor's office.⁸

The bar association's decision sparked indignation among the lawyers who had drafted it, and six lawyers on the human rights committee resigned in protest. Rıza Türmen, a former judge at the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and head of the Ankara Bar Association's human rights committee, has resigned from the bar due to its refusal to publish a report on allegations of torture made by detainees held at a police detention center. Türmen represented Turkey at the ECtHR between 1998 and 2008.⁹

In this brief report, we have summarized the recent allegations of torture and ill-treatment in Turkey. In order to contribute to the emergence of the allegations, we kindly request Ankara Police Department, Yenimahalle MIT center, and Chiftlique torture centers to be visited by UN-SPT Group.

In addition to visiting these establishments, **we request that people who have been ill-treated and tortured**, who have no proven crimes other than the charges attributed by the regime, **listed in the table below, should also be visited**. We suggest UN-SPT Group to visit at least three establishments, Silivri Prison in Istanbul, Sincan Prison in Ankara, and a third prison the Group may prefer. We kindly request UN-SPT Group to meet all individuals within these establishments to comprehend their suffer, on-site.

Interviewing the suggested prisoners, we believe, will provide valuable insights to the UN-SPT Group to understand the realities and the high-level human rights violations that people experience in Turkey.

Should we can provide you further details about this report, kindly contact us by our email. Thank you for your consideration.

ASSEDEL, L'Association européenne pour la défense des droits et des libertés
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⁵ <https://stockholmcf.org/victim-reveals-systematic-torture-in-detention-camp-100-meter-away-from-ankara-courthouse/>

⁶ <https://artigercek.com/haberler/ankara-emniyet-mudurlugu-nde-iskence-iddiasi-meclis-te-soruldu>

⁷ <https://www.gazeteduvar.com.tr/gundem/2020/03/08/ankara-emniyet-mudurlugunde-iskence-iddiasi>

⁸ <https://www.turkishminute.com/2022/02/09/rmer-ecthr-judge-resigns-from-ankara-bar-over-censored-report-on-torture/>

⁹ <https://ahvalnews.com/ankara/head-human-rights-center-ankara-resigns-police-torture-scandal-deepens>

THE LIST OF THE PRISONERS WHO COULD BE INTERVIEWED IN UN-SPT TURKEY VISIT 2022

#	Name and Surname	Name of the Prison/Station	Former occupation	Reason
1	Osman Kavala	Silivri Prison - Istanbul	Businessman – Rights activist	In its decision of December 2019, the ECtHR stated that Osman Kavala's detention is in violation of Articles 5.1, 5.4 and 18 of the European Convention on Human Rights.
2	Selahattin Demirtas	Edirne Prison	Lawyer - Politician	ECtHR Decision of Demirtas dated 22 December 2020 and the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe call for his release.
3	Ismet Ozçelik	Denizli T-Type Prison	Teacher	UN's resolution CCPR/C/125/D/2980/2017 dated 28 May 2019 is not implemented.
4	Turgay Karaman	n/a	Teacher	UN's resolution CCPR/C/125/D/2980/2017 dated 28 May 2019 is not implemented.
5	Hüsamettin Uğur	Afyon No.1 T-Type Prison	Member of the Supreme Court	He has been kept in solitary confinement for five years and subjected to psychological violence. He was sentenced to 10 years and 6 months in prison. He was subjected to physical and psychological torture in prison. He filed a criminal complaint against 5 guards and prison doctors.
6	Murat Arslan	Sincan Prison - Ankara	President of the Association of Judges and Prosecutors	He was sentenced to 10 years in prison for being a member of an armed terrorist organization.
8	Nesibe Özer	Bakırköy Prison – Istanbul	Member of the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors	She was kept in solitary confinement more than 50 months.
9	Neslihan Ekinci	Tekirdag Prison	General Secretary of the Supreme Board of Judges and Prosecutors	She was kept in solitary confinement for 22 months, psychologically tortured. Her treatment was delayed. She was denied the right to meet his family.
10	Alpaslan Altan	Sincan Prison – Ankara	Member of the Constitutional Court	ECtHR decision Altan v. Turkey
11	Erdal Tercan, Prof.	Sincan Prison - Ankara	Member of the Constitutional Court	He was kept in solitary confinement for a long time. He was sentenced to 10 years, 7 months and 15 days in prison. Although his wife was a cancer patient, he was not allowed to see her before her death.
12	Ahmet Kaya	Sincan Prison - Ankara	Member of the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors	He was subjected to psychological violence by being isolated in solitary confinement for a long time, contrary to the legal regulations.
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	Berberoğlu	- Ankara	High Council of Judges and Prosecutors	being isolated in solitary confinement for a long time, contrary to the legal regulations. He was sentenced to 12 years, 9 months and 27 days in prison.
14	Mahmut Sen	Sincan Prison - Ankara	Member of the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors	He was subjected to psychological violence by being isolated in solitary confinement for a long time, contrary to the legal regulations.
15	Hüseyin Serter	Sincan Prison - Ankara	Member of the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors	He was subjected to psychological violence by being isolated in solitary confinement for a long time, contrary to the legal regulations.
16	Omer Koroglu	Keskin Prison – Kirikkale	Member of the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors	
17	Mustafa Babayigit	Kandira Prison - Kocaeli	Judge	He suffers from thyroid cancer.
18	Zafer Turanli	Sincan Prison - Ankara	Supreme Court Judge	Referred to the Bakırköy Mental and Neurological Disease Hospital due to severe psychological problems.
19	Zeki Vatan	Gaziantep L-Type Prison	Public prosecutor	Reportedly takes strong medication due to his psychological problems.
20	Atilla Rahman	Menemen Prison - İzmir	Judge	He is using high doses of sedatives due to psychological breakdown in prison conditions.
21	Orhan Inandi	Sincan Prison - Ankara	General Director of Sapat Education, Kyrgyzstan	He has kidnapped in Bishkek, tortured and his right hand broken, brought to Turkey. He still can not use his right hand.
22	Gokhan Turkmen	Sincan Prison - Ankara	Chemist	He was sentenced to 44 years after exposing that he was severely tortured for 271 days.
23	Üzeyir Tayyip Şur	Silivri Prison - Istanbul	Cadet	He was ill-treated by the guards in the prison, he was banned from seeing relatives.
24	Murat Can Güney	Silivri Prison - Istanbul	Cadet	He lost his parents while in prison.
25	Ayşe Neşe Gül	Bolu Prison	President of the Justice Academy	She is in solitary confinement.