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SPATIAL CHANGE IN TORTURE: “STREETS AND OPEN SPACES” (APPLICATIONS TO HRFT BETWEEN 2012-2021 DUE TO TORTURE IN STREETS AND OPEN SPACES)

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Aim: Torture has become widespread in recent years, and it is carried to the daily life and freedom areas of the society, to the streets, open spaces and social spaces. The interventions of the law enforcement in the streets and open spaces to evaluate the publicization and spatial change of torture; It was evaluated in terms of time, methods used, targeted people and groups, and medical consequences.

Materials-Methods: Data of 5046 people who applied to the HRFT due to torture and stated that they had been detained in the last 10 years (01.01.2012-31.12.2021); The sociodemographic characteristics of the applicants, the place and time of the detention, the torture methods applied, the physical and psychological findings and diagnoses were analyzed by frequency analysis and chi-square in the SPSS Statistics program.

Results: The number of applicants who stated that they were subjected to torture in streets and public demonstration venues in the last 10 years is 2518 (49.9%). According to their gender identities, 38.4% were female and 1.6 were nonbinary/queer, with a mean age of 32.0 (± 12.39). It was determined that there were 80 applicants under the age of 18 (3.2%) and 35 (1.4%) over the age of 65, with the lowest 2 and the highest 82. While acts of torture in streets/open areas were observed at the highest rate in 2021 (68.1%). There was a linear increase in acts of torture in streets and open spaces in the last 5 years, before 2021, one out of two people was on the street or in open areas. While talking about people being detained in open areas, it is noteworthy that approximately 3 out of 4 people were detained on the street or in open areas in 2021. The difference between years according to places of detention is also statistically significant ($X^2=232.067$, $p < 0.001$). 84.4% of those exposed to rubber bullets, 89.5% of those exposed to chemical weapons, and 78.6% of those exposed to pressurized water stated that they were exposed to these elements on the street/outdoor. It was observed that those who were tortured on the street and in the open field received relatively less physical and mental diagnoses than those tortured in other places, and the recommended treatments were limited.

Conclusion: It has been determined that acts of torture applied in the street and in open areas are increasing gradually and cause physical and mental disorders in people.

Keyword: Torture, street and in open areas, chemical weapons