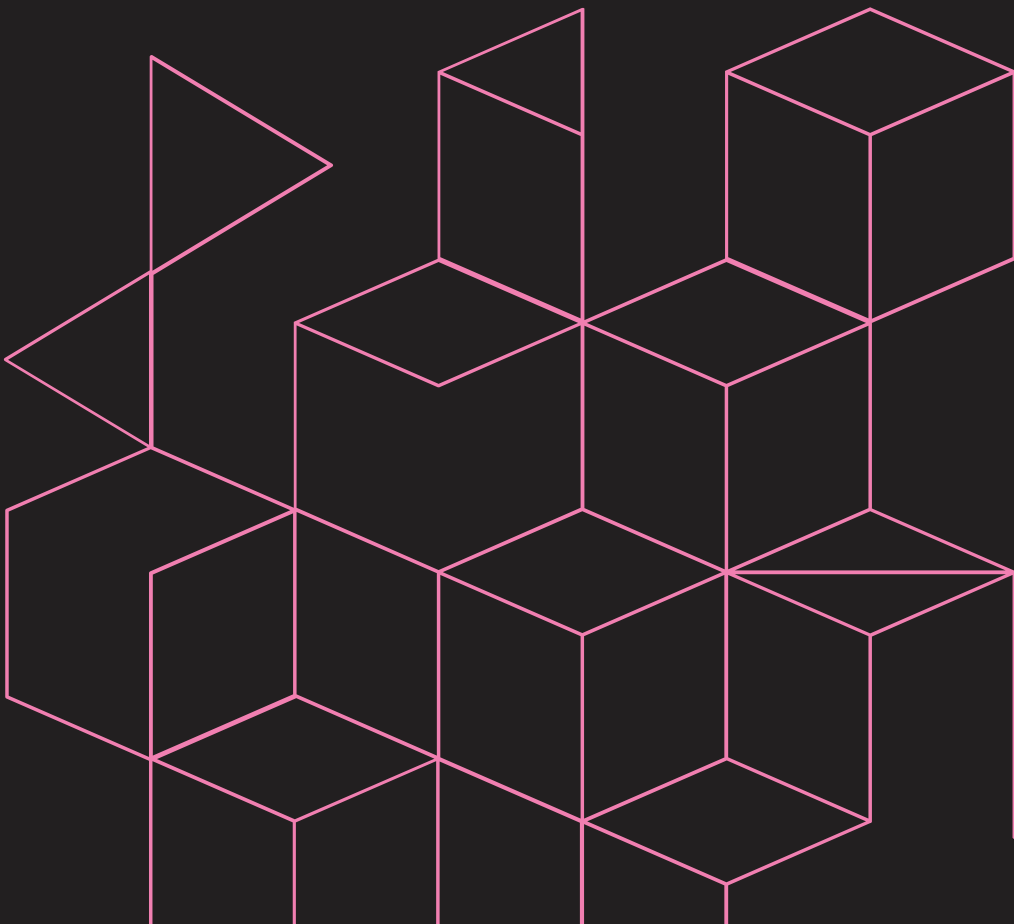


■ Repression, Obstacles and Challenges Faced by Human Rights Defenders in Turkey in 2025



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This report has been prepared within the scope of the project titled *A Bottom-up Approach for Supporting and Protecting Human Rights Actors in Turkey*, which is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (HRFT). The content of this report is the sole responsibility of the HRFT and does not in any way reflect the views of the EU.



This report has been prepared by the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (HRFT)* with the aim of making visible the repression, obstacles and challenges increasingly faced by human rights defenders in Turkey in recent years and of strengthening solidarity with human rights defenders.**

With this report, it is aimed to document the repression and obstruction directed at human rights defenders and human rights organizations throughout 2025; beyond merely presenting a numerical breakdown, the report also seeks to reveal the patterns through which these forms of repression are produced.

The report is based on the data obtained by the Regional Solidarity and Cooperation Groups established in the Eastern Anatolia, Aegean, Southeastern Anatolia, Central Anatolia, Marmara regions, and in the Earthquake-Affected Region comprising provinces impacted by the 2023 earthquakes, with the purpose of identifying the pressure and challenges faced by human rights defenders and strengthening solidarity with them. The data on human rights violations against human rights defenders included in the report cover the period between 1 March 2025 and 1 December 2025.

It should be borne in mind that the human rights violations included in this report do not reflect the entirety of violations occurring nationwide, given the reality that Turkey is governed under a state of emergency regime that has been rendered permanent/continuous through numerous regulations, and under such a regime - one that reproduces itself through uncertainty, rulelessness and arbitrariness - the exercise of rights has become the exception while human rights violations have become the rule; moreover, there are cases that could not be documented or could not be conveyed.

* HRFT is an independent human rights organization having its main office in Ankara and five representative offices in Istanbul, Izmir, Diyarbakir, and Van. Since 1990, HRFT has provided treatment and rehabilitation services to approximately 23,000 people who have been subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment. In addition to its pioneering role in the preparation of the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol), which was completed in 1999 and submitted to the relevant UN bodies, HRFT is also one of the four non-governmental organizations that contributed to the preparation of the 2022 edition of the Istanbul Protocol.

** This report was prepared within the scope of the project titled A Bottom-up Approach for Supporting and Protecting Human Rights Actors in Turkey, supported by the European Union (EU). This project, which began on January 1, 2025, is in many ways and in essence an enhanced continuation of the project titled A Bottom-Up Approach for Protecting and Supporting Civil Human Rights Actors in Post-Pandemic Turkey, which was implemented by HRFT between March 1, 2021, and August 31, 2024. This 42-month project is structured to address the need to strengthen the human rights movement in Turkey.



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Introduction

Human rights defenders¹ in Turkey are subjected to multifaceted pressure, obstacles and challenges due to the work they carry out for the protection and promotion of human rights and the prevention of human rights violations; in particular, because they make human rights violations visible to the public and oppose the policies and practices of the authorities that are contrary to human rights.

Judicial and administrative harassment practices targeting human rights defenders; attacks in the form of threats, physical violence and targeting; as well as obstructions directed at peaceful meetings, demonstrations and marches that contribute to strengthening human rights advocacy in the public sphere are addressed comprehensively in this report prepared by the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey.

During the reporting period, **at least 290 human rights defenders** were subjected to at least one form of pressure, obstacle or obstruction due to their activities in the field of human rights. Similarly, during the reporting period, **at least 7 civil society organizations** were directly or indirectly targeted and subjected to judicial and administrative harassment on the grounds of their human rights activities.

In addition to human rights defenders and human rights organizations, **at least 46 events such as marches, meetings and protests organized in 6 different cities** with the aim of drawing attention to and/or protesting human rights violations were obstructed.

¹ The project titled A Bottom-up Approach for Supporting and Protecting Human Rights Actors in Turkey, and all programs carried out within the scope of this project, are based on the [*Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*](#), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 9 December 1998 (the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders), in defining the concept of a “human rights defender.” As also stated in the [*European Union Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders*](#), which were prepared on the basis of this declaration, “Human rights defenders are those individuals, groups and organs of society that promote and protect universally recognised human rights and fundamental freedoms. Human rights defenders seek the promotion and protection of civil and political rights as well as the promotion, protection and realisation of economic, social and cultural rights. Human rights defenders also promote and protect the rights of members of groups such as indigenous communities. The definition does not include those individuals or groups who commit or propagate violence.”

Judicial Harassment

The activities carried out by human rights defenders are systematically impeded through the instrumentalization of judicial mechanisms for political purposes. In this context, judicial harassment stands out as the most frequently encountered form of pressure and obstruction faced by human rights defenders. Baseless criminal investigations and prosecutions, unlawful and arbitrary detentions and arrests, as well as investigations and lawsuits directed at civil society organizations constitute the primary manifestations of this form of harassment. The use of judicial instruments in this manner not only targets individual human rights defenders but also serves to deter human rights activity in general; by encircling the environment of human rights advocacy, it leads to the gradual shrinking of civic space.

As detention, criminal investigation and prosecution are successive processes, and since a human rights defender may be subjected to these processes at different times, the data under this category have been recorded on a case-by-case basis. During the reporting period, **299 cases** were recorded in which human rights defenders were subjected to judicial harassment.

Deprivation of liberty through custody and detention

International human rights treaties to which Turkey is a party—most notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)—clearly stipulate that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of their liberty. Under international human rights law, which is binding on Turkey, measures depriving individuals of their liberty must be based on law and must not be arbitrary. Accordingly, a detention must have a clear legal basis, be grounded in reasonable suspicion based on objective facts, and be necessary and proportionate to achieve a legitimate aim.

Various bodies of the United Nations (UN), including the Human Rights Council and the Human Rights Committee, have repeatedly emphasized that practices leading to deprivation of liberty—such as detention—carried out with the aim of preventing or punishing the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms, including freedom of expression, the right to peaceful assembly and human rights advocacy, are inherently arbitrary, even when they are based on domestic law.

In parallel, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), particularly in its jurisprudence concerning Turkey -most notably in the cases of Şahin Alpay v. Turkey, Selahattin Demirtaş v. Turkey (No. 2) and Osman Kavala v. Turkey - has clearly established that detentions not based on genuine and individualized reasonable suspicion, or those sustained for political motives, violate Articles 5 and 18 of the ECHR, and that detentions applied with the aim of silencing opposition or deterring civil society constitute an abuse of power incompatible with the rule of law.

Nevertheless, despite all these international principles and standards, it was recorded that the practice of arbitrary detention targeting human rights defenders continued during the reporting period. During this period, **at least 81 human rights defenders** were detained. In the recorded cases, it was observed that human rights defenders were held in detention for a **minimum of 1 day and a maximum of 3 days**. An examination of the substance of these detention practices reveals that human rights defenders were detained on the grounds of legitimate activities such as participating in or observing peaceful meetings and demonstrations.

Systematic Detention of Environmental Human Rights Defenders

İlayda Çekiç and Emir Döner, who have been actively involved in the environmental struggle in the Kurtderesi neighborhood of Samandağ, Hatay, were detained by law enforcement officers on 25 September 2025. The two environmental human rights defenders were targeted due to peaceful protests against the entry of law enforcement officers into private lands and were released without their statements being taken.

Within the scope of the environmental struggle carried out in the same area, İlayda Çekiç and Tuncay Yılmaz were detained on 16 October 2025. They were released following one day of detention. These repeated interventions reveal a pattern of systematic pressure directed at environmental defenders in Kurtderesi.

Criminal investigations

At least 33 human rights defenders were subjected to judicial harassment through criminal investigations initiated on the grounds of their human rights advocacy activities. An examination of the data recorded during the reporting period reveals an alarming pattern.

Article 6(c) of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders which defines the role of individuals, groups and civil society organizations in the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms recognizes the right of human rights defenders and their organizations to examine, investigate, document and assess whether human rights are respected in practice and in law, and to draw public attention to human rights violations through these findings and other appropriate means. This provision demonstrates that human rights defenders' authority to carry out work on violations and to share such work with the aim of raising public awareness is guaranteed under international law.

Article 12 of the same Declaration further broadens this protection by explicitly stating that everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to participate in peaceful activities against violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms (Article 12/1). In parallel, it imposes an obligation on states to take all necessary measures to ensure the effective protection of human rights defenders against violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure discrimination, pressure and other arbitrary actions resulting from the legitimate exercise of these rights (Article 12/2). The Declaration also lists among the obligations of states the duty to ensure that individuals and groups who react peacefully against acts leading to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including those attributable to the state are effectively protected by national law (Article 12/3).

Although this Declaration has also been adopted by Turkey, it has been observed that law enforcement officers and judicial authorities increasingly criminalize the monitoring and observation activities carried out by human rights defenders.

At least 14 human rights defenders were subjected to criminal investigations during the reporting period on the grounds of the observation activities they carried out. An examination of the substance of these cases shows that human rights defenders were subjected to investigations on suspicion of "participating in unlawful meetings and demonstrations and not dispersing despite warnings" (Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations, Article 32), "resisting to prevent the performance of duty" (Turkish Penal Code, Article 265), and even "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" (Anti-Terror Law No. 3713, Article 7/2), merely because they were present in the field to document potential human rights violations that might occur during interventions against the March 19 protests and events related to LGBTI+ rights.

Criminalization of the Observation Activities of Lawyers Affiliated with the Izmir Bar Association

On 24 March 2025, during the protests held in Izmir against the detention and arrest of Ekrem İmamoğlu, a total of eight lawyers, including Attorney Özkan Yücel, who were present in the field as observers on behalf of the Izmir Bar Association were detained through house raids.

These lawyers, who had been officially assigned by the Bar Association and were solely carrying out observation activities, were processed under the charge of “not dispersing despite warnings” within the scope of Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations. Although they were released on the same day, a criminal investigation was initiated against them by the Izmir Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office.

The Activities of the Prison Commission of the Istanbul Branch of the Human Rights Association Linked to Terrorism

Nihat Göktaş, a member of the Prison Commission of the Istanbul Branch of the Human Rights Association (İHD), and İHD member Hülya Gerçek were detained during police raids carried out at their homes in Istanbul on 5 May 2025. Göktaş and Gerçek were targeted within the scope of an investigation conducted on the grounds of “prevention of the financing of terrorism.” Following three days of detention, they were referred to the Istanbul 1st Criminal Judgeship of Peace, where the request for their arrest was rejected; however, heavy judicial control measures such as house arrest and a ban on leaving the country were imposed.

Mehmet Acettin, a member of the Central Executive Committee and the Prison Commission of the İHD, was detained in 2024 due to his human rights advocacy activities concerning prisoners and was subjected to a judicial process that continued into 2025. Acettin, against whom a lawsuit was filed under Law No. 6415 on the Prevention of the Financing of Terrorism, continues to stand trial before the Istanbul 14th Heavy Penal Court. After having been detained and placed under house arrest at the beginning of 2024, Acettin’s trial was adjourned multiple times throughout 2025. His trial is ongoing.

It was recorded that, in both cases, the investigation authorities—who are obliged under the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) and international standards on the right to a fair trial to collect both incriminating and exculpatory evidence—ignored the fact that the symbolic amounts of money sent in solidarity with prisoners within the scope of the activities of the Prison Commission of the İHD Istanbul Branch were transferred to prison administrations in accordance with the “Regulation on the Use of Personal Funds Entrusted to Convicted and Detained Persons” and were administered by these authorities.

An examination of the investigations recorded during the reporting period shows that the most frequently cited offense was that regulated under Article 32 of Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations (“participating in unlawful meetings and demonstrations and not dispersing despite warnings”). **At least 97 human rights defenders** were accused of this offense. It was also observed that various charges regulated under the Anti-Terror Law No. 3713 and Law No. 6415 on the Prevention of the Financing of Terrorism were brought against **at least 40 human rights defenders**.

Terrorism Investigation Against the Demand for Truth and Justice for the Enforced Disappearance of Necmi Çağan

The Hakkâri Branch of the Human Rights Association issued a press statement on 28 December 2024 demanding truth and justice for Necmi Çağan, who was forcibly disappeared after being taken into custody on 29 December 1993. Because the statement mentioned the name of Korkmaz Tağma, who was the Provincial Security Commander of Bitlis at the time of Necmi Çağan’s enforced disappearance, Sibel Çapraz, Co-Chair of the HRA Hakkâri Branch who read out the press statement, was summoned to give a statement on 26 September 2025 on suspicion of “disclosing or publishing the identities of public officials who have taken part in counter-terrorism efforts, or targeting individuals through such means” (Anti-Terror Law No. 3713, Article 6/1).

The investigation, which was initiated one year after the press statement, was closed with a decision of non-prosecution issued on 30 October 2025.

Targeting the Trade Union Struggles: Detentions, House Arrests and Prison Sentence

Mehmet Türkmen, President of BİRTEK-SEN, was detained twice and subsequently arrested in Gaziantep in February 2025 due to his trade union activities and public statements. A criminal case was filed against him under Articles 301 and 214 of the Turkish Penal Code. After being held in detention for 36 days, Türkmen was released; however, house arrest and judicial control measures were imposed. The Gaziantep 55th Criminal Court of First Instance acquitted Türkmen of one charge, while sentencing him to 6 months and 7 days of imprisonment for the other charge, with the pronouncement of the verdict deferred.

In Tokat, Buse Kara, who carries out work in the field of workers’ rights, was detained in November 2025 on the charge of “insulting the President.” Heavy measures such as house arrest and electronic monitoring were imposed against her.

Criminal Proceedings

During the reporting period, **at least 173 human rights defenders** were subjected to judicial harassment through criminal cases filed against them on the grounds of their activities in the field of human rights. An examination of the substance of these criminal proceedings reveals that human rights advocacy activities themselves and the exercise by human rights defenders of their freedom of expression in order to draw attention to human rights violations are increasingly being criminalized.

Enes Hocaogulları Placed in Pre-Trial Detention for Speaking about Torture in Turkey at the Council of Europe

Enes Hocaogulları, International Advocacy and Resource Development Coordinator of ÜniKuir, was arbitrarily detained and arrested without legal grounds on 5 August 2025 at Ankara Esenboğa Airport while returning from an event held at the Council of Europe. The investigation against was based on a speech Enes Hocaogulları delivered on 27 March 2025 as a youth delegate at the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. In this speech, Hocaogulları drew attention to democratic backsliding in Turkey, the removal of opposition mayors from office, and the use of force amounting to torture and other forms of ill-treatment during law enforcement interventions against protests that took place from 19 March 2025 onwards.

Following the targeting of Enes Hocaogulları by certain circles, the prosecutor's office initiated an investigation and assessed the speech under the offense of "publicly disseminating misleading information," regulated under Article 217/A of the Turkish Penal Code, which entered into force in 2022, and requested that Hocaogulları be punished with imprisonment.

The Ankara 86th Criminal Court of First Instance accepted the indictment on 14 August 2025. At the first hearing held on 8 September 2025, the court ruled that the continuation of detention would be disproportionate and decided to release Hocaogulları, imposing judicial control measures including the obligation to sign in at the nearest police station on the first Monday of every month.

Two Detentions, Two Arrests and a Trial Lasting Two Years

Attorney Şüheda Ronahi Çiftçi—who is a member of the Antalya Branch of the Human Rights Association, the Antalya Branch of the Progressive Lawyers' Association, and the Antalya Representation of the Lawyers for Freedom Association—was subjected to a prolonged process of judicial harassment due to her documentation and reporting activities concerning human rights violations in prisons.

An investigation was launched against Çiftçi in November 2023. She was detained in February 2024 and arrested on the charge of “membership in an armed terrorist organization.” She was detained and arrested again in June 2024. After spending a total of 161 days in detention, Çiftçi was released. The trial held before the Antalya 2nd Heavy Penal Court continued throughout 2025 with several hearings and ultimately concluded with an acquittal on 10 June 2025.

An examination of the charges directed at human rights defenders within the context of prosecutions shows that the same pattern observed in criminal investigations also prevails here. Accordingly, **at least 92 human rights defenders** were tried on the charge of “participating in unlawful meetings and demonstrations and not dispersing despite warnings,” while **at least 40 human rights defenders** were tried on various terrorism-related charges.

Moreover, the practice of harassing human rights defenders through long-running criminal cases conducted in violation of their right to a fair trial continued during the reporting period. **At least 73 human rights defenders** appeared before judges in cases that were originally filed as early as 2016 and that continued throughout the reporting period.

During the reporting period, **a total of 55 human rights defenders were acquitted of all charges brought against them in 5 different cases** that were concluded. In 2 different cases concluded during the reporting period, human rights defenders were sentenced to **a total of 4 years and 7 months of imprisonment**.

Four Years of Judicial Harassment Targeting the Saturday Mothers/People

The 700th week gathering of the Saturday Mothers/People, planned to be held at Galatasaray Square on 25 August 2018, was banned by the Beyoğlu District Governorate pursuant to Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations. As justification for the ban, it was claimed that Galatasaray Square was not a “legally designated meeting area” and that no notification had been submitted 48 hours in advance. Then-Minister of Interior Süleyman Soylu defended the ban decision by accusing the Saturday Mothers/People of “exploiting motherhood” and “hiding terrorism behind motherhood.”

Following the ban decision, the police intervened—using force amounting to torture and other ill-treatment—against individuals who had gathered at points near the square hours before the meeting. Many people, including members of the Saturday Mothers, were detained. After this intervention, gatherings at Galatasaray Square were prevented indefinitely; the square was enclosed with barriers and subjected to a permanent police presence.

On 12 October 2020, the Terror Crimes Investigation Bureau of the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office prepared an indictment against 46 people on the charge of “participating in an unlawful meeting/demonstration without weapons and not dispersing despite warnings” pursuant to Law No. 2911. The indictment was accepted by the Istanbul 21st Criminal Court of First Instance and the trial commenced.

Despite this, in its decisions dated 16 November 2022 (Maside Ocak Kışlakçı) and 29 March 2023 (Gülseren Yoleri), the Constitutional Court ruled that the ban and police intervention violated the right to freedom of assembly and transmitted its decisions to the administration in order to prevent further violations.

Nevertheless, despite the Constitutional Court’s rulings, the trial of the Saturday Mothers/People continued for two more years. The final hearing of the case was held on 14 March 2025. The court concluded that the legal elements of the offense imputed to the 46 individuals—who had been detained after being subjected to torture and other ill-treatment on 25 August 2018—had not occurred and acquitted all defendants. In its reasoning, the court did not make reference to the Constitutional Court’s decisions.

Judicial harassment of civil society organizations

In 2025, civil society organizations operating in the field of human rights were also subjected to judicial harassment through investigations, lawsuits and other legal proceedings directed at their institutional structures, executives and activities.

It has been recorded that at least 7 civil society organizations, including the Istanbul Bar Association and the Tarlabaşı Community Support Association were subjected to direct or indirect judicial harassment during the reporting period.

Systematic Judicial Harassment Targeting the Istanbul Bar Association for Defending the Right to Life

The legal processes initiated in 2025 against the Istanbul Bar Association and its elected executive bodies constitute a systematic example of judicial harassment directed at the professional independence of the bar association and the guarantees of a fair trial. On 21 March 2025, the Istanbul 2nd Civil Court of First Instance ruled for the removal from office of the elected President and Executive Board of the Istanbul Bar Association pursuant to Article 77/5 of the Law on Attorneyship.

This decision followed a public statement issued by the Bar Association on 21 December 2024 calling for an independent investigation into the killing of two journalists in Syria. The statement constituted a human rights intervention grounded in the universal norms of the legal profession and the principles of the rule of law. Despite this, the court decision was assessed as a political intervention aimed at weakening the institutional independence of the Bar Association.

Within the same scope, criminal proceedings were initiated against Bar Association President Prof. Dr. İbrahim Kaboğlu and members of the Executive Board on charges of “making propaganda for a terrorist organization” and “publicly disseminating misleading information” in relation to the same statement. The prosecution sought prison sentences of up to 12 years and the imposition of political bans. During this period, the civil lawsuit seeking the removal of the Istanbul Bar Association’s executive bodies and the criminal case against its executives were pursued in parallel.

Threats, Physical Violence, Targeting and Reprisals

Human rights defenders are subjected to continuous threats and insults by public officials, physical attacks, targeting and various forms of reprisals due to their activities in the field of human rights. These practices take the form of physical surveillance of human rights defenders, subjection to violence by law enforcement officers, frequent and arbitrary identity checks and General Information Gathering (GBT) inquiries, deprivation of liberty, attempts to coerce cooperation, or being explicitly targeted by public authorities.

During the reporting period, **at least 8 human rights defenders** were subjected to torture and other ill-treatment by law enforcement officers.

In Diyarbakır, it was recorded that **at least 2 civil society activists** were subjected to persistent surveillance and threats by individuals who identified themselves as law enforcement officers.

Banned, Intervened or Obstructed Peaceful Assemblies and Demonstrations

Throughout the reporting period, the freedom of peaceful assembly and demonstration continued to be widely and systematically restricted across Turkey. Press statements, marches, forums, commemorative events and other peaceful actions organized by human rights defenders, women's and LGBTI+ organizations, labor and environmental movements, and local initiatives were obstructed through ban decisions issued by administrative authorities and through de facto interventions by law enforcement officers.

The 59 recorded cases during the reporting period demonstrate that interventions against the right to peaceful assembly have become not exceptional but routine and foreseeable practices. Nearly half of the recorded obstructions occurred in Ankara, followed by Istanbul and Van. This indicates that public space in the capital, in particular, is subject to intensive control aimed at civil society and human rights advocacy activities.

It was observed that the vast majority of the obstructed actions consisted of:

- press statements concerning human rights violations,
- commemorative and protest events,
- protests related to women's and LGBTI+ rights,
- pro-peace protests,
- protests aimed at defending the environment.

Interventions aimed at obstructing peaceful activities were found to cluster around several core methods:

- Blanket or time-bound ban decisions issued by administrative authorities,
- Refusal by the police to allow press statements by sealing off the area without citing any formal ban decision,
- Encirclement of the assembly area by law enforcement officers prior to the event,
- Dispersal of participants or their removal from the area by law enforcement officials who resort to use of force amounting to torture and other forms of ill-treatment.

It was recorded that these methods were often employed simultaneously.

Conclusion

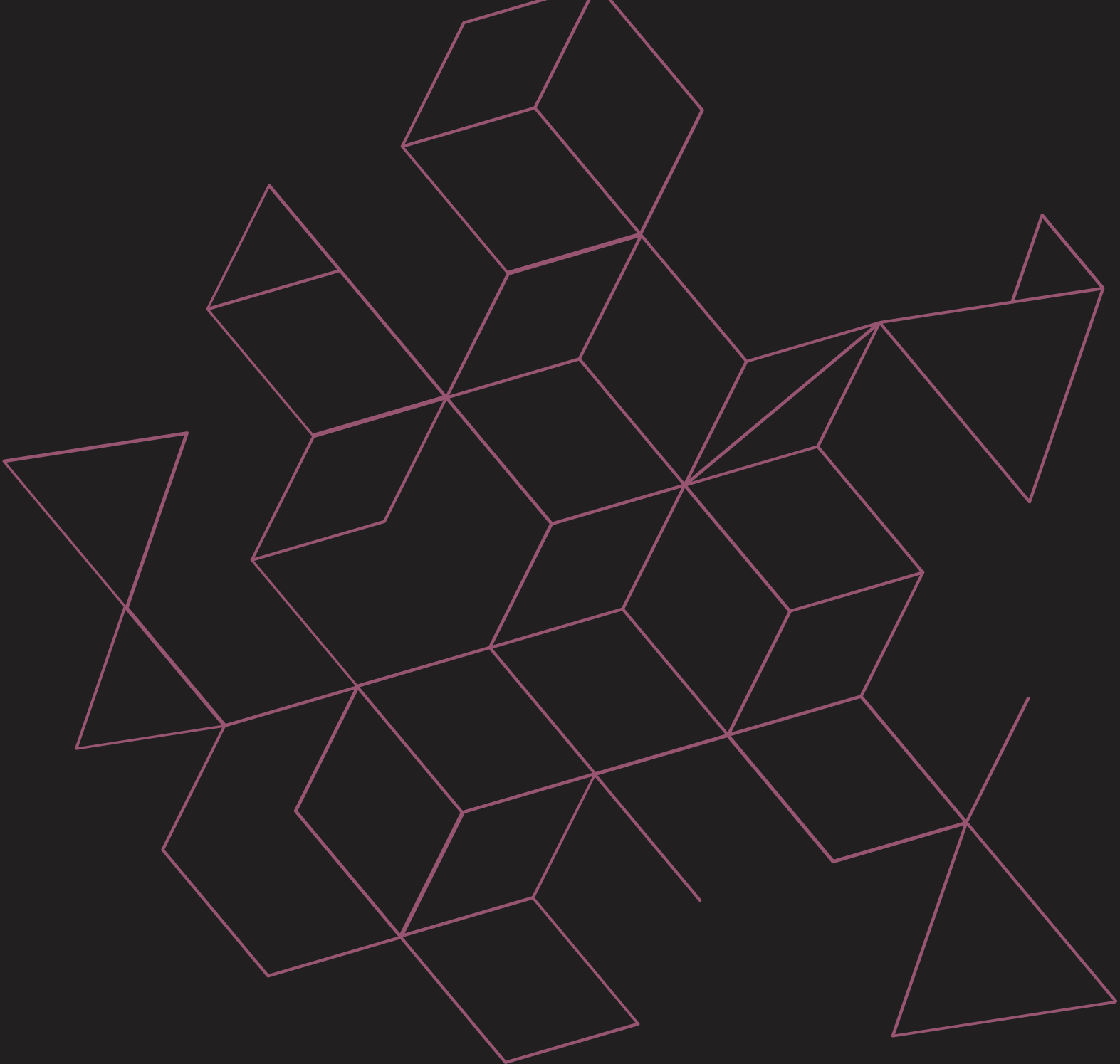
Throughout 2025, the repression, obstacles and challenges directed at human rights defenders and civil society actors unfolded in structural incompatibility with the principles and standards enshrined in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and UN Human Rights Council Resolution 22/6.

The quantitative findings and case examples presented in the report demonstrate that the legitimate nature of human rights advocacy activities is not recognized in practice; on the contrary, activities aimed at monitoring, documenting and publicly reporting human rights violations are systematically targeted through judicial and administrative instruments. However, Articles 1, 5 and 6 of the Declaration define the protection and promotion of human rights, the investigation of violations, the dissemination of findings to the public, and the rights to peaceful assembly and association as integral components of human rights advocacy. Article 12 explicitly establishes the obligation of states to protect human rights defenders against all forms of violence, threats, retaliation and arbitrary interference directed at the legitimate exercise of these rights.

Despite this, the data for 2025 reveal that human rights defenders were subjected to frequent and repetitive detentions, baseless investigations and prosecutions, prolonged trials, and heavy judicial control measures; although many of these practices resulted in decisions of non-prosecution or acquittal, they nonetheless served a deterrent function. When read together with the obligation - emphasized in Human Rights Council Resolution 22/6 - to ensure a "safe and enabling environment," and the requirement that legislation, particularly criminal law, must not be used to suppress human rights advocacy, the patterns documented in the report point to violations of international standards.

Indeed, the hundreds of cases of judicial harassment, dozens of detentions and numerous obstructed assemblies recorded in the report created an effect that materially hindered the ability of human rights defenders to continue their activities and narrowed the space for organization and expression. This picture is incompatible with the absolute prohibition of reprisals and intimidation enshrined in UN instruments and demonstrates the erosion of the principles of fair trial and proportionality.

In conclusion, the data for 2025 confirm that the pressure faced by human rights defenders in Turkey while exercising rights guaranteed under international law is not incidental but manifests itself in predictable and recurring patterns, creating a deterrent climate not only for human rights advocacy activities but for civil society as a whole.



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