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Human Rights Association (İnsan Hakları Derneği -İHD)

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Human Rights Association (İnsan Hakları Derneği-İHD) is a non-governmental, independent, and voluntary body. The association, which was founded in 1986 by 98 human rights defenders, today has 28 branches, 6 representative offices, and 7,945 members. İHD is the oldest and largest human rights organization in Turkey and its “sole and specific goal is to promote ‘human rights and freedoms.’”

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Human Rights Association (*İnsan Hakları Derneği* -İHD) is the oldest and largest human rights organization in Turkey. As a non-governmental and voluntary body the association has been working to protect and promote fundamental human rights and freedoms without any discrimination regarding race, ethnic background, language, religion or sect and faith, color, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, political and philosophical views, etc. since its foundation in 1986. The association's central office is located in Ankara, Turkey and has 28 local branches along with 6 representative offices and 7,945 members.

İHD is also among the founders of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (HRFT) and the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), founding member of the Human Rights Joint Platform (HRJP), and member of the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), EuroMed Rights (EMHRN), and the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT). İHD submits its views in respect of Turkey before the UN Human Rights Committee's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) procedure both in its own capacity and in collaboration with other human rights organizations in Turkey.

İHD, within this scope, would like to remind the Committee of the review as part of the 35th Session held in Geneva on 28 January 2020 and 30 January 2020 along with the 321 recommendations for Turkey by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on 28 January 2020.

İHD has also submitted another report in collaboration with FIDH of which it is a member.

2. Article 1 of the CCPR

The UN Human Rights Committee offered an extensive argumentation about the peoples' right to self-determination in its General Comment No. 12 of 1984.

When Article 1 of the CCPR is taken together with Articles 2 and 25, it is seen that the single ethnic group described in the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey is the "Turks" while no other ethnic groups are recognized as constitutional and legal. There are only lesser administrative regulations pertaining to the fact that different ethnic groups' local languages can be spoken. It is known, based on these, that the Kurdish mayors elected after the latest local elections held on 31 March 2019 in the pre-dominantly Kurdish cities in Eastern and Southeastern Regions of Turkey have been removed from office by orders delivered by the Minister of Interior and have been replaced by the governors or district governors of the concerned city or

district, while the municipal council and general provincial council members have been removed from office.¹ Council of Europe, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities drafted a report on the situation of mayors and municipal council members in Turkey and offered its recommendations. The report significantly underlines that the systematic dismissal and replacement of elected mayors with appointed officials is particularly symptomatic of the weakening of local democracy in Turkey while pointing out to the fact that the municipal council members who are removed from office are replaced by individuals who are close to, or are members of the ruling party.²

Turkey not only is in violation of Article 1 of the CCPR by removing the elected mayors of the Kurdish population living in a certain region from office but also violates prohibition of discrimination enshrined in Article 2 along with Article 25 which prescribes the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives. The problem in this field is one that is quite serious.

3. Articles 2 and 3 of the CCPR

Article 2 prohibits discrimination on various grounds. The Constitution of the Republic of Turkey and the related legislation do not cite such discriminatory bases as “ethnic background,” “different faith or lack thereof,” “sexual orientation” or “gender identity.” Therefore, Kurds and other ethnic groups are not recognized officially, while Alevis are not recognized as a group with a different religious faith and their houses of worship, i.e. *Cemevi*, are not recognized as such. Gender identity rights of the LGBTI+ are also denied.

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) offered quite extensive recommendations for Turkey to adopt and implement an action plan providing for the protection of the LGBTI+ against hate speech, violence and discrimination; improvement of their living conditions, and to materialize their right to equality. But the recommendations have been largely disregarded by Turkish authorities.³

Turkey, in an alarming move, has also announced its withdrawal from the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) on 20 March 2021 through a presidential decree. Such an ill-advised decision has already taken its toll on women in the country where femicide has virtually become an epidemic. The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), too, indicated that Turkey has not been effectively implementing its legislation on gender equality.⁴

4. Articles 4 and 5 of the CCPR

Although the coup d'état attempt of 15 July 2016 was quenched merely a day after in Turkey, the Turkish

¹ For further information please see “The Trustee Regime in Turkey and Denial of the Right to Vote and Right to Be Elected.” <<https://www.hdp.org.tr/Images/UserFiles/Documents/Editor/12%20Trustee%20report%202019.pdf>> and Council of Europe, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. “Local elections in Turkey and Mayoral re-run in Istanbul.” 31 October 2019.

<<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900001680981fcf>>

² Council of Europe, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. “Fact-finding mission on the situation of local elected representatives in Turkey.” 29 March 2017. <<https://rm.coe.int/16806fbf0d>>

Council of Europe, Venice Commission. “Opinion the Replacement of Elected Candidates and Mayors.” 18 June 2020. <[https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD\(2020\)011-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD(2020)011-e)>

³ ECRI. “ECRI Conclusions on the Implementation of the Recommendations in Respect of Turkey Subject to Interim Follow-Up.” 6 June 2019. <<https://rm.coe.int/interim-follow-up-conclusions-on-turkey-5th-monitoring-cycle-168094ce03>>

⁴ ECtHR judgments in the cases of, *inter alia*, *Opuz v. Turkey* (33401/02), *M.G. v. Turkey* (646/10), *Halime Kılıç v. Turkey* (63034/1).

government declared a nation-wide state of emergency on 20 July 2016 which lasted until 19 July 2018. Yet, a special law (Law No. 7145) that incorporated a significant portion of state of emergency powers went into effect on 31 July 2018.

Fundamental rights and freedoms were restricted during the state of emergency in violation of Article 4 of the CCPR. A total of 31 emergency decrees restricting such rights and freedoms were issued during this period. All these emergency decrees were passed into permanent laws most of which are still in effect. About 135,000 public employees were dismissed from their posts during the state of emergency by way of appended lists to these decrees without a due process of law. Law No. 7145 provided for the continuation of the power to dismiss public servants for another three years,⁵ however, such an extension is in violation of Article 5 of the CCPR.

Legal procedure was rendered almost impossible for individuals adversely affected by the state of emergency. The Inquiry Commission on the State of Emergency Measures was established on 22 May 2017, in sheer non-compliance with all the criteria set forth in the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) opinions⁶ on state of emergency measures, while the Inquiry Commission has announced that it accepted a mere 13,170 applications and rejected a great majority, 99,140 applications out of a total of 112,310 over the course of four years.⁷

5. Article 6 of the CCPR

NGOs, including the İHD, have submitted Rule 9 appeals before the Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers regarding the monitoring and implementation of judgments delivered by the ECtHR on violations of the right to life committed by Turkey. İHD would like to remind you that Turkey is under political monitoring by the Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers on this issue.

Armed conflict has restarted and is still going on between the armed forces of the state and the PKK militants in Turkey since 24 July 2015. Long-term curfews have been declared in many cities and districts since 16 August 2015 on the grounds that armed militants were present in the cities within the scope of such armed conflict and that these militants were erecting barricades in the cities. According to data collected by HRFT's Documentation Center,⁸ at least 381 curfews were declared in a total of 11 cities and 51 districts between 16 August 2015 and 1 January 2020. At least 310 civilians, including 72 children, were killed due to the armed conflict during the curfews.⁹

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), too, issued its "Report on the Human Rights Situation in South-East Turkey: July 2015 to December 2016"¹⁰ putting forth important

⁵ For further information please see: İHD. "İHD's Views Regarding Law No. 7145 Regulating Permanent State of Emergency." 1 August 2018. <<https://ihd.org.tr/en/regarding-law-no-7145-regulating-permanent-state-of-emergency/>> and Human Rights Joint Platform. "State of Emergency in Turkey: Updated Situation Report." 17 April 2018. <https://ihop.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/SoE_17042018.pdf>

⁶ Council of Europe, Venice Commission. "Opinion(s) on Emergency Decree Laws." <[https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/?pdf=CDL-PI\(2020\)003-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/?pdf=CDL-PI(2020)003-e)>

⁷ The Inquiry Commission on the State of Emergency Measures. "Activity Report: 2020." <https://soe.tccb.gov.tr/Docs/SOE_Report_2020.pdf>

İHD. "2019 Report on Human Rights Violations in Turkey." 5 May 2020. <<https://ihd.org.tr/en/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/İHD-2019-VIOLATIONS-REPORT.pdf>> (p.5)

⁸ HRFT. "16 August 2015-1 January 2020 Fact Sheet." <<https://en.tihv.org.tr/curfews/16-august-2015-1-january-2020-fact-sheet/>>

⁹ HRFT and Hafıza Merkezi. "Report on Curfews and Civilian Deaths." <<https://tihv.org.tr/arsiv/tihv-ve-hafiza-merkezinin-calismasi-ile-sokaga-cikma-yasaklari/>>

¹⁰ OHCHR. "Report on the Human Rights Situation in South-East Turkey: July 2015 to December 2016." February 2017. <https://www.ohchr.org/documents/countries/tr/ohchr_south-east_turkeyreport_10march2017.pdf>

recommendations for Turkey to follow. Yet the government did not do so. The authorities particularly do not undertake their responsibility to conduct effective investigations into the death of civilians. Moreover, they have made the investigation of such violations that occurred during the course of homeland security operations dependent upon permissions granted by authorities through a special law, i.e. Law No. 6722 on Amendments to the Law on Turkish Armed Forces Personnel and Some Other Laws which was published in the *Official Gazette* on 14 July 2016 and is still in force with retroactive force. The shield of impunity in homeland security operations has been provided through this law.

According to data collected by İHD's Documentation Center, the number of civilians who were killed and wounded during armed conflict between 2015 and 2019 are as follows:

| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Killed | 13 | 37 | 12 | 4 | 18 |
| Wounded | 92 | 153 | 14 | 4 | 26 |

According to data collected by İHD's Documentation Center, the number of civilians who were killed and wounded summary executions and assaults between 2015 and 2019 are as follows:

| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Killed | 289 | 594 | 33 | 30 | 38 |
| Wounded | 572 | 437 | 62 | 56 | 93 |

Last but not least, more than a hundred civilians were killed in Ankara on 15 October 2015 at the planned "Labor, Peace and Democracy" meeting in what came to be known as the deadliest attack in Turkish history. Suicide bomb attack perpetrated by ISIS claimed the lives of 103 civilians.

6. Article 7 of the CCPR

İHD would like to remind you of the recommendations for Turkey offered by the UN Committee against Torture (CAT)¹¹ and Council of Europe Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)¹² on this issue.

Cases of enforced disappearance have reemerged in Turkey following the attempted coup d'état. The fates and whereabouts of Mr. Yusuf Bilge Tunç and Hüseyin Galip Küçüközyiğit are still unknown. İHD has submitted applications before the UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) to this end and contributed to WGEID's report¹³ on Turkey based on its visit in March 2016. We would like to

¹¹ UN CAT. "Concluding Observations on the Fourth Periodic Reports of Turkey." 2 June 2016.

<<https://www.refworld.org/publisher,CAT,,TUR,57a98fe64,0.html>>

¹² CoE CPT. "Report to the Turkish Government on the Visit to Turkey Carried out by the CPT from 6 to 17 May 2019." 5 August 2020. <<https://rm.coe.int/16809f20a1>>

¹³ UN WGEID. "Report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on Its Mission to Turkey." 27

remind you of WGEID's recommendations to Turkey on this issue as well.

Further, numerous human rights activists, journalists and politicians are subjected to harassment by the law enforcement through coercion and threats with persons sometimes taken into custody off-the-record for a few hours. According to İHD's data there were 160 such cases in 2018 and 150 in 2019 in Turkey.¹⁴ All these acts fall under prohibition of torture.

Moreover, acts of strip-search and enforced stripping prove to be one of the alarming facets of systematic torture in Turkey. These acts are committed as acts of torture and ill-treatment that violate persons' privacy, target their moral values and social identity, upset their psychological integrity which amount to sexual violence.¹⁵

7. Article 10 of the CCPR

The rights of persons deprived of their liberty in Turkey are not compatible with the UN's Mandela Rules. Enforcement conditions were aggravated particularly for prisoners incarcerated within the scope of the Anti-Terror Code (ATC) by way of amendments introduced to Law No. 7242 on the Enforcement of Sentences¹⁶ leaving such prisoners in a disadvantaged position. İHD submitted an amicus curiae brief before the Constitutional Court on this issue.¹⁷ There is discrimination against inmates within the penal system of Turkey. Such discrimination is committed having taken into account such criteria as under which law inmates were sentenced to prison and the types of prisons they are incarcerated in. For instance, the term for conditional release for prisoners incarcerated under the ATC is 3/4, the same term for those sentenced to imprisonment within the scope of other time-limited sentences -except for murder in the first degree- is 1/2. For instance, an activist who expresses their opinion can be sentenced to one to five years in prison. If they are sentenced to five years imprisonment, they will be incarcerated for 3 years and 9 months. A person who is sentenced to five years imprisonment for theft, on the other hand, will merely be incarcerated for 2.5 years. Further, prisoners (except for those imprisoned under the ATC) can now be freed under supervised release while serving the last three years of their sentences having not yet completed the enforcement of their sentences under Law No. 7242. The current penal system in Turkey is quite severe and unacceptable with regards to political prisoners.

Turkey has İmralı F-Type Maximum Security Island Prison. Abdullah Öcalan and three other prisoners are held in this prison. These individuals are not allowed to have visitations by their families and lawyers for a long time. Turkey has not been complying with CPT's recommendations on this issue.¹⁸

Further, according to the data collected by İHD, there is a total of 1,605 sick prisoners including 604 in critical

July 2016. <<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G16/166/87/PDF/G1616687.pdf?OpenElement>>

¹⁴ İHD. "Special Report on Enforced Statements, Interviews, Informant-Making, and Abductions through Coercion and Threats." 5 November 2020. <https://ihd.org.tr/en/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/20201105_IHD-Special-Report-on-Informant-Making-and-Abductions-1.pdf>

¹⁵ İHD. "2020 Prisoners' Rights Monitoring Report." 10 April 2021. <<https://ihd.org.tr/en/ihd-2020-prisoners-rights-monitoring-report/>> (p. 38)

Turkish Medical Association. "Çıplak Arama Ölçülülük, Yasallık ve Gereklik İlkeleri Dışına Çıkarılarak İşkence Uygulamasına Dönüştürülmektedir!" 29 December 2020. <<https://www.ttb.org.tr/875yids>>

¹⁶ İHD. "İHD's Primary Concerns on the Amendment to the Law on the Enforcement of Sentences." 22 April 2020. <<https://ihd.org.tr/en/ihs-primary-concerns-on-the-amendment-to-the-law-on-the-enforcement-of-sentences/>>

İHD. "Special Report on the Bill to Amend the Enforcement Law." 3 April 2020. <https://ihd.org.tr/en/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SR20200402_IHD-Enforcement-Law_Special-Report.pdf>

¹⁷ İHD. "Amicus Curiae Submission on Law No. 7242 before the Constitutional Court." 28 June 2020.

<<https://ihd.org.tr/en/ihs-amicus-curiae-submission-on-law-no-7242/>>

¹⁸ CoE CPT. "Report to the Turkish Government on the Visit to Turkey Carried out by the CPT from 6 to 17 May 2019." 5 August 2020. <<https://rm.coe.int/16809f20a1>> (p. 23).

condition in Turkish prisons. Prisoners in critical condition are not being released.¹⁹

8. Article 14 of the CCPR

The right to a fair trial also proves to be a quite challenging and problematic area in Turkey. The government announced a judicial reform strategy document²⁰ in 2019 having recognized these problems but it still has not taken the necessary steps to comply with all the provisions of this document. Criminal Peace Judgeships²¹ and Heavy Penal Courts with Special Powers²² prove to be very problematic in the right to a fair trial.

In addition, the government yet again announced its Human Rights Action Plan in March 2021 with no steps taken as of yet. Moreover the plan the government released is quite insufficient as were the previous ones.²³

The fact that Turkey has not implemented the ECtHR Grand Chamber's judgments in the cases of *Selahattin Demirtaş v. Turkey* and *Osman Kavala v. Turkey* is further proof that the right to a fair trial has been quite eroded in Turkey in terms of legal certainty.

Another significant problem emerges in the "anonymous witness" practice in violations of the right to a fair trial in Turkey. This practice should be removed in its entirety based on the Constitutional Court's judgments²⁴ to this end.

9. Article 15 of the CCPR

The Turkish Penal Code (TPC) does not have a complete definition of crimes against humanity. Particularly enforced disappearance and disappearance in custody have not been defined. Human rights organizations' reports reveal that there have been at least 1,388 cases of disappearance in custody or enforced disappearance since 1979. Turkey, however, has not signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Statute of limitations should not apply in cases of disappearance in custody as per the ECtHR's judgment in the case of *Meryem Çelik and Others v. Turkey* but the Constitutional Court ruled for statute of limitations in its judgment in the case of *Nurettin Yenigöl* which, thus, brings about impunity in these cases for state officials. For instance, the defendant police officers and soldiers were acquitted in the murder of nine villagers in Vartinis village located in Muş's Korkut District on 2 October 1993.²⁵

In one of the latest instances of such blatant impunity, the investigation file into the disappearance of Cemil Kırbayır while in custody in 1980 was closed down on the grounds of statute of limitations despite the fact that there was a report on the case by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey's Human Rights Inquiry

¹⁹ For a detailed account of the human rights situation in Turkish prisons please see: İHD. "2020 Prisoners' Rights Monitoring Report." 10 April 2021. <<https://ihd.org.tr/en/ihd-2020-prisoners-rights-monitoring-report/>>

²⁰ İHD. "Report and Recommendations on the Judicial Reform Strategy Document." 4 October 2019. <https://ihd.org.tr/en/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/IHD-Report-on-the-Judicial-Reform-Strategy-Documents_4-Oct-2019_final.pdf>

²¹ Venice Commission. (Op. No. 852/2016). 13 March 2017. <<https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD%282017%29004-e>>

²² Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights. "Report: Administration of Justice and Protection of Human Rights in Turkey." 10 January 2012. <<https://rm.coe.int/16806db70f>>

²³ Also see İHD. "Opinion and Recommendations on the 'New Human Rights Action Plan.'" 21 January 2020. <https://ihd.org.tr/en/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/20200121_IHD-Report_Human-Rights-Action-Plan_EN.pdf>

²⁴ Constitutional Court. Cases of *Serdar Batur* (2014/15652), *Baran Karadağ* (2014/12906), and *Önder Siğircikoğlu* (2014/13176).

²⁵ Faili Belli. Perpetrator Not-Unkown. <<https://www.failibelli.org/en/>>

Committee.²⁶

Statute of limitations was also found to be applicable in the case brought against the perpetrators of the 12 September 1980 coup d'état while the case could not be finalized as the suspects died.

10. Article 18 of the CCPR

Military service is considered to be a national service according to the 1982 Constitution in Turkey. The right to conscientious objection is not recognized in the country. Law No. 1111 on Military Service of 1927 and the recent Law No. 7178 on Conscription, which went into force on 25 June 2019 replacing the former, render military service compulsory. Turkey, therefore, is in non-compliance with the ECtHR Grand Chamber's judgment in the case of *Bayatyan v. Armenia* (2011).

Alevis right to equal citizenship is not granted. The European Commission on Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) had offered its recommendations for Turkey to eliminate discrimination against Alevis in its report of 2010,²⁷ yet Turkey has not implemented any of its recommendations. Similarly the ECtHR ruled for a violation in its judgment in the case of *Mansur Yalçın and Others v. Turkey*²⁸ holding that Turkey forced Alevi children to take religion courses focusing on Sunni Islam. The ECtHR, at the same time, ruled for violation under Articles 9 and 14 of the ECHR in another landmark case finding that the funds allocated to *Cemevis*, Alevis' house of prayer, revealed that the state was discriminating against the Alevis.²⁹

11. Article 20 of the CCPR

Propaganda for war is not prohibited in Turkey. On the contrary, those critical of Turkey's military offensives into Syria and Iraq are subjected to judicial harassment. For instance, central council members of the country's largest medical association, the Turkish Medical Association, were arrested after the police raided their houses and were held in custody for eight days because they criticized Turkey's military offensive into Syria's Afrin region in January 2018. The physicians were then sentenced to two years in prison having been found guilty of "inciting hatred and hostility" just because for saying that "War Is a Public Health Problem!"³⁰

Further, others voicing their criticism about the same offensive, including İHD's central executive board member Nuray Çevirmen Aykol and journalists, were also held in custody of a couple of days while the lawsuits brought against them are pending.

Turkey does not have a special legislative regulation punishing racist hate crimes.³¹

²⁶ İHD. "Cemil Kırbayır Dosyasının Kapatılmasına İzin Vermeyelim." 15 September 2020.

<<https://www.ihd.org.tr/cemil-kirbayir-dosyasinin-tbmm-raporuna-delillere-belgelere-taniklara-ragmen-kapatilmasina-izin-vermeyelim/>>

²⁷ ECRI. "ECRI Report on Turkey." 10 December 2020. <<https://rm.coe.int/fourth-report-on-turkey/16808b5c7e>>

²⁸ ECtHR. *The Case of Mansur Yalçın and Others v. Turkey*. 16 September 2014. App. No. 21163/11.

<[https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{"itemid":\["001-146487"\]}](https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{)>

²⁹ ECtHR. *The Case of Cumhuriyetçi Eğitim ve Kültür Merkezi Vakfı v. Turkey*. 19 February 2019. App. No. 32093/10.

<[https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{"itemid":\["001-190026"\]}](https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{)>

³⁰ Turkish Medical Association. "War is a public health problem!" 24 January 2018.

<https://www.ttb.org.tr/haber_goster_eng.php?Guid=28de85da-00e5-11e8-a05f-429c499923e4>

Also see the case of Academics for Peace. <<https://barisicinakademisyenler.net/node/1>>

³¹ İHD. "Special Report on Hate Crimes and Racist Attacks in Turkey." 22 September 2020. <https://ihd.org.tr/en/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/sr20200922_Hate-Crimes-and-Racist-Attacks-Report_Sept-2020.pdf>

12. Article 21 of the CCPR

Gross violations of the right to peaceful assembly have been committed in Turkey, specifically after the declaration of the state of emergency.³²

Saturday Mothers had been holding peaceful vigils in İstanbul's İstiklal Street to ask for the whereabouts of their disappeared children demanding that the perpetrators stand trial and justice be served. Yet their 700th vigil on 26 August 2018 was banned and the ban is still pending as of today.³³ The peaceful sit-in was intervened into by the police and the protestors now stand trial for violating Law No. 2911.³⁴

In another recent incident, Boğaziçi University students' right to peaceful assembly and protest was banned and they were subjected to police violence. At least 801 persons were arrested having been subjected to violence amounting to torture and ill-treatment.³⁵

Circular letters issued by the Ministry of Interior and city governors' offices effectively ban people's right to peaceful assembly under the disguise of COVID-19.³⁶

13. İHD will share its views on the other articles of the CCPR with the Committee following the submission of the State report.

³² OBS-İHD. "A Perpetual Emergency: Attacks on Freedom of Assembly in Turkey and Repercussions for Civil Society." 29 July 2020. <<https://ihd.org.tr/en/a-perpetual-emergency-attacks-on-freedom-of-assembly-in-turkey-and-repercussions-for-civil-society/>> and "Turkey's Civil Society on the Line: A Shrinking Space for Freedom of Association." 6 May 2020. <<https://ihd.org.tr/en/obs-ihd-report-turkeys-civil-society-on-the-line-a-shrinking-space-for-freedom-of-association/>>

³³ İHD-HRFT. "Joint Statement on the Attack against Saturday Mothers, Families of the Disappeared, and Human Rights Defenders before the 700th Sit-In." 26 August 2018. <<https://ihd.org.tr/en/joint-ihd-thiv-statement-on-the-attack-against-saturday-mothers-families-of-the-disappeared-and-human-rights-defenders-before-the-700th-sit-in/>>

³⁴ OBS. "Urgent Appeal." 24 February 2021. <<https://ihd.org.tr/en/obs-urgent-appeal-saturday-mothers/>>

³⁵ HRFT. (Preliminary Report) "Boğaziçi Üniversitesi'ne Cumhurbaşkanı Tarafından Rektör Atanmasına Yönelik İtiraz Sürecinde Yaşanan Hak İhlallerine Dair Ön Değerlendirme Raporu." 24 February 2021. <<https://tihv.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/BogaziciRapor.pdf>>

³⁶ İHD. Special Report. "COVID-19 ile Mücadele Kapsamında Alınan Tedbirlerin Yasallığı ve İdari Para Cezaları Özel Raporu." 12 August 2020. <<https://www.ihd.org.tr/covid-19-ile-mucadele-kapsaminda-alinan-tedbirlerin-yasalligi-ve-idari-para-cezalari/>>