



Federation of Entrepreneurs'
Associations Germany

Human Rights Committee
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FREEDOM FROM CORRUPTION

***ANTI CORRUPTION MEASURES (UN
LOIPR, PARAGRAPH 8):***

CORRUPTION AND ORGANIZED

CRIME IN TURKEY

BUV Federation of Entrepreneurs' Associations Germany e.V

FREEDOM FROM CORRUPTION ANTI CORRUPTION MEASURES (UN LOIPR, PARAGRAPH 8): CORRUPTION AND ORGANIZED CRIME IN TURKEY

1. This report has been prepared by BUV e.V, a non-governmental organization, as a contribution to the United Nations Human Rights Committee's second periodic review. This review will be conducted during the Committee's 142nd session in Geneva, from October 14 to November 8, 2024, under the framework of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
2. This report primarily aims to contribute to paragraph 8 of the "List of Issues Prior to Reporting" (LOIPR), under the section titled "Anti-corruption measures (Articles 2 and 25)." In this section, the Human Rights Committee requests the Government to provide information on several points:

‘Please:

(a) Respond to reports of money laundering, bribery, and collusion in allocating government contracts (public procurement), including allegations involving senior State officials in these corrupt practices.

(b) Address allegations concerning the expropriation of assets from targeted businesses, civil society organisations, and other associations following the attempted coup in 2016. This includes their management by government-appointed trustees, which has reportedly led to increased corruption. Provide detailed information on the legal basis and judicial oversight of the asset allocation and restoration processes.

(c) Describe in detail the institutional and legal framework currently in place to combat corruption and provide relevant information on its effectiveness’.

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3. BUV e.V a public interest organization based in Berlin with operations across Germany, is pleased to present this report to the Human Rights Committee. The report aims to provide the Committee with pertinent information on the questions it has posed to the Turkish Government.

4. BUV, an autonomous non-profit, non-governmental organization, is committed to defending human rights and assisting individuals facing persecution globally and in Turkey in particular.

5. The "right to freedom from corruption" and the "fight against corruption" are increasingly recognised as fundamental human rights. This recognition stems from corruption in public resources, tenders, and procurement, fuels authoritarian governments and undermines critical actors needed to develop social opposition, such as freedom of the press and freedom of expression. As corruption evolves into syndicates. Often aligned with political powers, these syndicates use threats and force to suppress opposition political movements. Consequently, corrupt economies erode basic human rights and stifle social opposition. Since they thrive under authoritarian regimes, they are inclined to establish a permanent criminal empire in collaboration with these governments. Recent developments in Turkey over the past decade provide a clear example. The authoritarian Turkish State Administration has been actively working to destroy, eliminate, and confiscate the assets of the Gülen Movement, which it views as its primary adversary. This has been done in concert with the mafia and organised crime organisations, using state apparatus to achieve these goals.

6. Corrupt economies primarily infiltrate the state by bribing officials in critical institutions such as the police, military, and judiciary to protect their interests. In authoritarian states, this leads to judges, prosecutors, police chiefs, senior commanders, financial inspectors, and other state bureaucrats being co-opted by the mafia and

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criminal organisations, playing a crucial role in maintaining the corrupt system. Oligarchs, shielded and supported by authoritarian governments and receive public resources, collaborate with these compromised state officials. Together, they form a large, organised structure—a network of mafia, oligarchs, and bureaucrats—that weaponizes the law and judiciary to act against opposition groups.

7. Since 2013, when the Erdoğan administration's corruption network was exposed by honest police officers, soldiers, judges, prosecutors, and other public officials in Turkey, a massive 'Witch Hunt' against the Gülen Movement was launched in retaliation for this exposure. On one front, assets belonging to businessmen allegedly linked to the Gülen Movement were expropriated and nationalized. On another, foundations, associations, trade unions, and companies were shut down, and their assets were confiscated. In total, 1,224 civil society organisations were closed by government decree without any criminal investigation. This marked the largest confiscation, liquidation, nationalisation, and capital transfer process in the history of the Republic of Turkey. The judiciary and bureaucracy, aligned with the political power, facilitated this process, resulting in the state's and its affiliated companies, businessmen, and other organisations' looting of all the resources of the Hizmet Movement.

8. According to reports and indexes published by international crime and corruption research organisations, Turkey has become a hub of corruption, bribery, and money laundering over the past decade. The purges in the public bureaucracy, particularly within the judiciary, police, financial, and tax systems, along with the dismissal and lustration of competent staff, have led to establishing a mafia state order in place of fair and honest governance. The indexes compiled by international research centres present the following overview of Turkey's situation:
 - First among European countries in ranking the existence and prevalence of organised crime markets (Criminal Markets).

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- Second among European countries (after Moldova) in the ranking of human trafficking.
- It ranks first among European countries in human smuggling.
- Arms trafficking ranks first among European countries.
- Non-renewable resource trafficking (oil, gold, precious metals), etc. (Non-renewable resource crimes) ranks first among European countries.
- Heroin trade ranks first among European countries.
- Turkey ranks first in Europe in terms of the prevalence of organised criminal actors.
- Turkey ranks second in Europe after Italy in terms of the prevalence of Mafia-style groups.
- Turkey ranks first in Europe regarding the prevalence of organised criminal networks.
- Turkey ranks first in Europe in terms of the prevalence of state-embedded actors in organised crime.
- Turkey ranks last among European countries regarding resilience in the fight against organised crime.
- Turkey ranks last in Europe in terms of political leadership and governance in the fight against organised crime.
- Turkey ranks second to last after Belarus regarding government transparency and accountability in the fight against organised crime.
- Turkey ranks second in Europe in terms of openness to international cooperation in the fight against organised crime after Belarus.
- Turkey ranks last in Europe in terms of the strength and deterrence of justice systems in the fight against organised crime (Judicial system and detention).
- Turkey ranks last in Europe in terms of the effectiveness of law enforcement in combating organised crime.
- Turkey ranks last in Europe in efforts to prevent money laundering in the fight against organised crime (Anti-money laundering).
- Turkey ranks last in Europe after Moldova in terms of performance in preventing/preventing organised crime (Prevention).

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9. Erdogan's government has become an international security challenge due to the threat of refugee flows into Europe and its dominant role in arms trafficking, drug trafficking, human trafficking and organised crime across Europe. Turkey is a source of instability for both the Middle East and Europe. Increasing nationalism, the rise of the populist right and threats to the democratic state across Europe are some of the consequences in Europe of the aggressive and imperial policies of the Erdoğan government in Syria, Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan and Iraq, and its interference in the internal affairs of these countries. Millions of people of Syrian and Iraqi origin have been forced to flee their countries because of the negative impact of the Erdoğan government and the Turkish state on the world public order. The leading role of the Turkish state in arms, drug and human trafficking crimes has been one of the main factors in the strengthening of terrorist organisations such as ISIS and al-Qaeda in the region.

METHODOLOGY

10. This report focuses on organised crime and corruption in Turkey over the last ten years, starting in 2013. In the last ten years under Erdogan's rule, Turkey has been dominated by a system of bribery and corruption at all levels of social and public life, with crony contractors and oligarch businessmen, bought media outlets, bribery and corrupt judiciary police and financial/tax system, and mass purges and dismissals of fair and honest public servants. All international studies and reports on Turkey reveal the legal collapse of the last ten years. This report is based on international rating agencies' rankings, indexes, and surveys. All statistics also reveal how the Turkish state has become one of the leading players in the last ten years in terms of world and European public order and stability. The statistics and reports show that authoritarian state governments not only cause social, economic, and social destruction within the borders of the country but also bring about a crisis of stability and confidence in the neighbouring geography, Europe and even the whole world. This report combines

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reports from Transparency International, the International Organized and Organized Crime Research Centres, and reviews, assessments and reports from national and international media outlets and organisations. The report also describes how a rotting judiciary and bureaucracy are destroying the rule of law, the nationalisation of the assets of members of the Gülen Movement on the pretext of the so-called coup attempt, the closure of civil society organisations, companies and media outlets, the corruption of the government trustees appointed to manage these organisations, and how they are threatened and bribed to close down the investigations into the so-called coup against dissidents.

AFTER JULY 15, 2016, PURGES AND LOOTING AGAINST THE GÜLEN MOVEMENT

11. Following the July 15, 2016, military uprising, the Turkish Government declared a state of emergency following the deregulation notification to the European Commission, and restrictions were imposed on individuals' constitutional fundamental rights and freedoms. Media outlets, civil society organisations, universities, schools and companies were closed, and a purge of the Gülen Movement was launched, which had nothing to do with the deregulation and state of emergency.
12. It is estimated that as of 2024, 2.2 million people have been prosecuted, detained, or arrested in terrorism investigations due to links to the Hizmet Movement. According to official Turkish government statements, 2.2 million people who had nothing to do with the incident have been prosecuted for membership of a terrorist organisation,¹ compared to 4,891 people who were convicted for the armed uprising on the night of July 15, 2016, and 4,891 people who were convicted for their actual involvement in the

¹ These 4,891 people are the number of people convicted by Turkish Courts under pressure from the political power and allegedly involved in the coup. These convicted persons have not received a fair and impartial trial. Among those sentenced are cadets and ordinary privates with no rank whatsoever. Although the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has ruled favouring individuals sentenced to life imprisonment, the Government has not implemented these rulings. On July 15, 2016, the number of people who used weapons was estimated to be less than 1,000 soldiers.

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incidents. Between July 15, 2016, and June 20, 2022, a total of 332,884 people were detained on the grounds of being a member of the Gülen Movement, 101,000 of whom were arrested, and 104,000 were subjected to judicial control. This number does not include those arrested between June 2022 and March 2024. The political power is pursuing a massive policy of purging, intimidation, and fear against the opposition by opening terror investigations against millions of people.

13. Europol statistics show that due to terrorism investigations, the entire Europe total terrorism cases/investigations: 520 in 2019, 422 in 2020, 423 in 2021 and 427 in 2022.² Again, according to Europol statistics, acts of terrorism in the entire European continent by 2021 The number of people arrested due to the terrorist attacks was calculated as 388.³ In 2022, 380 members of terrorist organisations were arrested across Europe. Considering that 2.2 million people in Turkey were processed in terrorism investigations in the period 2016-2023, it is clear how terrorism investigations in Turkey have been abused and maliciously used as a weapon against dissidents. Compared to Europol data, the number of terrorism cases in Turkey in 2022 alone is 38,910, while the number of people charged with being members of a terrorist organisation in these cases is 43,386.⁴
14. In parallel to this witch hunt against individuals, terrorism investigations have been launched against many businesspeople, traders and industrialists because they are in contact with the Gulen Movement, and their assets have been seized. Turkey's most prominent industrial Businesspeople and industrialists, such as İpek Holding, Boydak Holding, Naksan Holding, Dumankaya Construction, Orkide Oils, Aydınli Tekstil, among others, were subjected to terrorism investigations because they were in contact with the Gulen Movement, all members of these families were arrested, and the state subsequently nationalised their assets through the appointment of trustees. According

² <https://www.europol.europa.eu/publication-events/main-reports/european-union-terrorism-situation-and-trend-report-2023-te-sat#downloads>

³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/de/infographics/terrorism-eu-facts-figures/>

⁴ Republic of Turkey Ministry of Justice Official Statistics Programme General Directorate of Judicial Record and Statistics:

https://adlisicil.adalet.gov.tr/Resimler/SayfaDokuman/29032023141410adalet_ist-2022cal%C4%B1sma100kapak%C4%B1.pdf (Page 70).

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to official statements by the Turkish State, the number of companies whose boards of directors were appointed trustees and whose assets were confiscated on the grounds of the July 15, 2016, coup attempt is 620. The total size of these companies' assets is 13,2 billion dollars.

15. Among the organisations closed down and their assets confiscated, 1 Bank, 35 Hospitals, 15 Universities, 934 Kindergarten, primary and high school type schools, 109 Student Dormitory, 694 Holding, company and commercial enterprises, 151 Media companies (TV, radio, newspaper, printing press, magazine, news agency).
16. A total of 177 media outlets (televisions, newspapers, printing presses, radios, magazines, news agencies) were shut down on the grounds of the 15 July 2016 coup attempt, 26 of which were later allowed to reopen, bringing the total number of media outlets seized by the Turkish state to 151. Of these, 34 were television stations, 38 radio stations, 73 newspapers, magazines, printing presses, and six news agencies. As of 13.01.2022, 37.66 million Turkish Liras (approximately 2 million 100 thousand dollars) was generated from these media companies, and the income generated from these confiscated media companies was transferred to the Turkish State Treasury.⁵
17. A total of 694 companies have been seized by the state on the grounds of the coup attempt, and the value of these companies has been calculated as 39.5 billion liras (11.5 billion dollars), according to the official information provided by the Turkish State. By the end of 2023, the annual turnover of these companies is estimated at 123.3 billion liras (\$4.11 billion). The number of employees currently working in the companies seized on the grounds that they belong to the Gülen movement is 26,914. The total proceeds from selling the companies' assets are reported to be 16.5 billion Turkish liras (550 million dollars).⁶ These figures include only the assets of the seized commercial companies and do not include the assets of universities, schools, foundations, and student dormitories.

⁵ <https://www.tmsf.org.tr/tr/Tmsf/Kayyim/kayyim.medya>

⁶ <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/15-temmuz-darbe-girisimi/tmsfye-devredilen-sirketlerden-94unun-mulkiyeti-hazineye-gecti/3274894>

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18. Despite a period of nearly 8 years, there has been no judicial process against the universities, foundations, associations, media outlets and companies that have been closed down, and no judicial process against these decrees, as they were closed down directly by emergency-era government decrees. Since the Turkish Constitutional Court has ruled that it has no jurisdiction to review emergency decrees, these decrees have entered into force directly.
19. Applications to the State of Emergency Commission, later established on the recommendation of the ECtHR court, were rejected entirely. The Commission rejected applications concerning the closed institutions on various pretexts and procedural grounds. This large-scale expropriation and nationalisation of hundreds of associations, foundations, universities, media outlets and companies has created a culture of impunity and a culture of threat, pressure and fear on other social opposition groups and civil society organisations. The silence of the judiciary against such large-scale unlawfulness and the failure to restore their rights has also created great intimidation for opposition groups and individuals who are worried that the same fate will befall them.
20. Following the seizure of the assets of these businessmen, these companies were looted by trustees close to the political power appointed to the management of the companies. Most companies were sold and transferred to other businessmen close to political power at low prices. In 2021, the Turkish public authorities sold a company with a financial value of 1 billion 700 million Turkish liras for 335 million 500 thousand Turkish liras, one-fifth of its value.⁷ This sale was made to a close family friend of President Erdoğan without any tender. Without any tender or competitive environment, a confiscated cargo company was directly transferred to a businessman close to the political power for one-fifth of its value, and a massive transfer of resources was achieved.⁸

⁷ <https://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/haber/chpli-kusoglundan-surat-kargonun-satisinda-buyuk-yolsuzluk-iddiasi-ilgili-bakanlari-tmsf-yetkililerini-uyariyorum-1859096>

⁸ <https://serbestiyet.com/featured/surat-kargo-adina-yakisir-bir-hizla-bilal-erdoganin-arkadasina-satildi-67410/>

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21. The Boydak Holding family, one of Turkey's most oversized furniture and cable producers, had all family members arrested on the grounds that they were linked to the Gülen movement, with sentences ranging from 6 to 18 years in prison, while all their assets were nationalised. One of the 5-person board of trustees appointed to the Holding's management disappeared with 20 million euros belonging to the company.⁹ Moreover, the information that Nurettin Canikli, one of the ministers responsible for the trustees appointed to the management of the companies belonging to the Boydak family, had various shell companies established in Balkan countries and that Boydak Holding's resources were transferred to these companies was discussed in public for a long time.¹⁰
22. The owners of İpek Holding, one of Turkey's largest gold producers, which also has printing, tourism and aviation companies, were subjected to false criminal investigations and trustees were appointed. Tekin İpek, one of the owners of the company, was sentenced to prison for membership in a terrorist organisation, while trustees close to the political power were appointed in 2015 to manage all the assets of the family and 22 companies.¹¹ It is known that İpek Holding's profits were used to make large resource transfers to media organs close to the political power under the name of advertising and promotion expenses. Most recently, in 2024, the process of selling İpek Holding's real estate properties was initiated, and a property in Istanbul owned by the family was transferred to a Taiwanese company for 1 billion 100 million Turkish liras (approximately 400 million dollars).¹²
23. The Naksan Holding group is one of the holdings whose companies and assets were seized because they were close to the Gülen Movement and whose assets were sold to businessmen close to the government at a fraction of their real value, thus transferring

⁹ <https://www.indyturk.com/node/524406/t%C3%BCrki%C3%87yeden-sesler/kay%C4%B1m-d%C3%BCzeninin-sonu%C3%A7lar%C4%B1-yayg%C4%B1n-yolsuzluk>

¹⁰ <https://www.indyturk.com/node/475591/haber/kayyum-atanan-irketlerde-ya-ananlari-anlatan-eski-tmsf-yöneticisi-gelecek-partili>

¹¹ <https://tr.euronews.com/2015/10/27/koza-ipek-holding-sirketlerine-el-kondu>

¹² <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/ekonomi/koza-ipek-holdinge-ait-yali-1-1-milyar-liraya-tayvanlilara-satildi/3260919>

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wealth. The companies in this conglomerate were also transferred to businessmen close to the political power at one-fifth of their actual value. Naksan Plastik, one of the holding companies, whose machinery and land value alone was estimated at 420 million dollars, was transferred to another company for 92 million dollars, far below its value.¹³

24. Individuals and civil society organisations have been greatly affected during the State of Emergency, and thousands of civil society organisations have been closed down due to serious interventions on freedom of association. Among the closed civil society organisations are 28 workers' and civil servants' unions, 104 foundations and 1125 associations. The closures were based on government decrees issued during the state emergency, particularly government decree no. 667. There have been no trials or court decisions to close down trade unions.¹⁴ The assets of all of the closed civil society organisations have also been confiscated, and their executives and members have been charged with membership of a terrorist organisation and have faced long periods of arrest and imprisonment/conviction. Therefore, membership and management of trade unions, associations, and foundations, established with legal permission within the framework of the freedoms granted by the constitution, have been criminalised and started to be used as a justification for punishment.
25. On July 15, 2016, companies, foundations, schools, universities, and all other assets seized on the grounds of the July 15, 2016 coup attempt were first transferred to the state's ownership. Then, through government trustees appointed to these companies, these assets were sold, rented, or given free of charge to businessmen close to the political power. For example, almost all the real estate of the confiscated student dormitories was transferred to a foundation founded by the son of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.¹⁵

¹³ <https://www.boldmedya.com/2022/01/05/tmsf-arazisi-120-milyon-dolar-eden-naksani-bedava-fiyata-satti/>

¹⁴ <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2016/07/20160723-8.htm>

¹⁵ https://twitter.com/ipek_hukuk/with_replies

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The above correspondence shows that immediately after July 15, 2016, thousands of immovable properties, schools, dormitory buildings, etc., belonging to foundations belonging to the Gülen Movement that were closed down were transferred to the foundations owned by President Tayyip Erdogan's son, and in this way, the assets of non-governmental organisations such as foundations, associations, schools, etc. belonging to the Gulen Movement were looted without any court decision or trial without any compensation.

26. Some other immovable properties have been transferred to a mafia-like organisation called "Ülkü Ocakları," the Youth Branch of the Nationalist Movement Party, the ultra-fascist party and junior partner of the Erdogan government. Among these immovable properties are even those used as party buildings of political power.

27. The Zaman Newspaper building, which was shut down and its assets seized, was demolished, and destroyed by the political power and its printing facilities and printing presses were also sold.

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28. In place of the discharged 4500 judges and prosecutors, approximately 49,000 police officers, and thousands of finance and tax inspectors and bureaucrats, the political power established a civil servant staff in a very short time from its own supporters and supporters. In this system, which is based solely on loyalty to political power, judges, prosecutors, police officers, and financial and tax inspectors have created a bribery ring in which many people have been threatened with terrorism investigations and have been able to escape these investigations in exchange for bribes.¹⁶ It has been repeatedly reported by national and international media that hundreds of thousands of people, fearing arrest and confiscation of their assets, have paid huge bribes to judges, prosecutors, and police officers to avoid these bogus investigations.¹⁷
29. In another corruption and bribery system known as the “FETÖ Exchange” (Fetö Borsasi), bribery and corruption gangs established by police officers, judges, prosecutors and tax inspectors first open investigations against especially wealthy businessmen on trumped-up charges and impose curbs on their assets, and then bribes are taken from these businessmen by the same team and gang to close these investigations and acquit them.¹⁸ In all these processes, President Tayyip Erdoğan's lawyer plays a leading role and manages this bribery scheme. The terrorism investigation opened against Fettah Tamince, the owner of a chain of hotels in Antalya, on the grounds that he is a member of the Gülen Movement, and the allegations that have been made public about how this investigation was closed clearly reveal this wheel of corruption and bribery. In this process, the assets of judges, prosecutors, police officers and various financial tax inspectors have increased dramatically, which cannot be explained by their own earnings and salaries. The courts have become a commercial centre and a process where bribery and corruption bargains are made. International media outlets have also covered the allegations against Esat Toklu, the President of the

¹⁶ <https://www.sozcu.com.tr/fettah-tamincenin-dosyasini-kapatan-savciya-feto-borsasi-davasi-wp5408367>

¹⁷ <https://www.dw.com/tr/i%CC%87zmirde-operasyon-yap%C4%B1lan-gizli-olu%C5%9Fumdan-iki-savc%C4%B1-ve-akpliler-%C3%A7%C4%B1kt%C4%B1/a-60500046>

¹⁸ <https://www.sozcu.com.tr/fettah-tamincenin-dosyasini-kapatan-savciya-feto-borsasi-davasi-wp5408367>

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Ankara Regional Administrative Court, regarding the confiscated real estate and the alleged rents obtained from this real estate.¹⁹ Most recently, the President and judges of the Istanbul 15th High Criminal Court were dismissed from their posts due to increasing public pressure to release 82 defendants of a drug gang after receiving a bribe of 720 thousand dollars.²⁰

30. All these liquidation, capital transfer and looting transactions were carried out in a bribery ring established between the police, tax inspectors, judges and prosecutors in a system called the “FETÖ Exchange”, where cases were tried in exchange for huge bribes in order to be acquitted before the courts and to recover their assets. While serving as the Chief Public Prosecutor of Istanbul, İsmail Uçar, a member of the Court of Cassation, wrote a letter to the Council of Judges and Prosecutors, in which he openly revealed the bribery relationships established among judges and prosecutors in Istanbul.²¹
31. Judges, prosecutors, police officers, and tax inspectors also play leading roles in all these dirty relations. Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor Yüksel Kocaman,²² İzmir Public Prosecutor Okan Bato,²³ former AKP deputy Nükhet Hotar,²⁴ and various Supreme Court of Appeals judges are among the names that have been publicized in these processes of corruption, bribery, and looting of assets.

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¹⁹ <https://www.indyturk.com/node/505231/bir-kuleye-kaç-kavga-sı.ar-kaçak-yapıla.ma-iddialarından-fetö-soru.turmasına-sedat-peker>

²⁰ <https://serbestiyet.com/featured/mafya-uyelerini-tahliye-eden-hakimler-aciga-alindi-720-bin-dolara-anlastilar-177527/>

²¹ <https://serbestiyet.com/haberler/yargida-rusvet-carki-mektubunu-yazan-eski-bassavci-ya-taslari-serbest-birakin-ya-da-kopekleri-baglayin-166793/>

²² <https://medyascope.tv/2023/09/13/ayhan-bora-kaplanin-villa-ve-araba-aldigi-iddia-edilen-yargitay-uyesi-yuksel-kahraman-gorusmeyi-dogruladi/>

²³ <https://t24.com.tr/yazarlar/tolga-sardan-buyutec/tartisilan-savci-bato-mal-varligimdaki-kaynagin-artisi-esime-kalan-mirastir,41915>

²⁴ <https://haber.sol.org.tr/haber/deu-rektoru-nukhet-hotar-hakkinda-onemli-iddia-feto-borsasi-olarak-bilinen-yapinin-basindaydi>

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32. The moral decadence and culture of corruption in Turkey over the last 10 years has been enabled by establishing a close relationship of complicity between state officials (such as judges, prosecutors and police officers), bureaucracy, politics and mafia criminal organisations. With the purging of talented and honest staff on the grounds of terrorism investigations against the Gülen Movement, all public positions have been filled with unqualified, incompetent, and politically aligned public servants, and Turkey has been plunged into a vortex of corruption.
33. Turkey is governed by a kleptocracy/political corruption system that encompasses all areas of public bureaucracy, commercial relations, public administration, and social life. Kleptocracy is the illegitimate use of power by state officials or their associates for private gain. An example of political corruption is when an illegal action taken by an officeholder is directly related to his/her official duties or when he/she uses the power of office in business dealings even though such dealings are legal.
34. Forms of corruption take the form of bribery, extortion, nepotism, coercion, and embezzlement, and there have been significant increases in crimes such as drug trafficking, money laundering and human trafficking. Since kleptocracy is also a system of complicity, it leads to the elimination of politicians, media outlets, honest public officials and businessmen who oppose this mafia system through the suppression of political opponents and the abuse of government power, such as general police brutality. Through judges, prosecutors, police, and tax inspectors, often bought by criminal organisations, and using the law and the judiciary as a weapon, a “regime of thieves” is being established, with links to politicians. The kleptocracy or looting scheme continues in Turkey in the form of systematic robbery of all of Turkey's resources by a family and political group that has seized political power. This complicity between politics, criminal organisations, and the public bureaucracy is the biggest obstacle to Turkey's development, and it has caused a major collapse in the last 10 years.

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35. According to the United States Government's Report on Turkey²⁵, although the written law in Turkey provides criminal sanctions for the conviction of official corruption, the culture of corruption is entrenched and pervasive due to the failure of the political power to enforce the law effectively and impunity for corrupt state officials. According to Transparency International, Turkey's public procurement system is in a steady decline in transparency and competitiveness.
36. In their report on Turkey's Evaluation Round, The Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) states that only three out of 22 anti-corruption recommendations have been implemented. Such recommendations included increasing the transparency of the legislative process, including public consultation, establishing a code of ethics for members of parliament, adopting a system for asset declarations, abolishing parliamentary immunity, and strengthening the independence of the judiciary as well as the electoral process and standards of conduct.
37. Turkey's Journalists and civil society organisations are concerned that the political power retaliates with judicial and police power for reporting on and fighting corruption. The authorities are bringing criminal and civil charges against journalists who report on allegations of corruption, using expensive law offices, armies of lawyers, and bought judges and prosecutors to suppress journalists and civil society organisations fighting corruption. Courts and the Radio and Television Supreme Council, which have become the apparatus of political power, regularly block access to press reports on corruption.
38. The government is introducing regulations to criminalise reporting on corruption and other public interest stories, further restricting the work of the country's independent media. Journalists and media outlets that violate the rules face prison sentences and fines, leading to increased self-censorship on corruption issues.
39. Prosecutors issued an indictment in April demanding a six-year prison sentence for journalist Metin Cihan for publishing documents on Twitter in October 2021 about the government-linked Turkish Youth Foundation (TÜGVA), owned by Erdogan's son. The documents contained the names of hundreds of people allegedly appointed or

²⁵ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/turkey/>

FREEDOM FROM CORRUPTION ANTI CORRUPTION MEASURES (UN LOIPR, PARAGRAPH 8): CORRUPTION AND ORGANIZED CRIME IN TURKEY

considered for jobs in state institutions, including the army, judiciary, and police, at the request of TÜGVA. Due to mounting police and judicial pressure, Metin Cihan has been forced to seek political asylum in a country abroad.

40. Former Capital Markets Board chairman Ali Fuat Taşkesenlioğlu and his sister, AKP MP Zehra Taşkesenlioğlu, presidential advisor Serkan Taranoğlu, Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges member Salih Orakçı, and pro-government Hürriyet newspaper columnist Burak Taşçı were found to have accepted bribes in an organised network aimed at benefiting their companies and discrediting business rivals. The opposition has sharply criticised the insensitivity of prosecutors to these allegations and their inaction in taking action. CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu announced that his party would file a criminal complaint on the allegations and demanded that prosecutors act.
41. The political authority has been reallocating significant real estate holdings from the municipal mayors it no longer controls, redirecting them to the corporations within its own administration via a series of legal manoeuvres. Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu announced that the central government had transferred ownership of two very valuable properties worth 7.2 billion liras (\$384 million) belonging to the opposition-run municipality to the central government. The Fehime Sultan and Hatice Sultan mansions, owned by the Istanbul Municipality, were transferred to the central government-controlled Treasury and the historic buildings were transferred to Turkish Airlines' catering company THY DO&CO for conversion into hotels.
42. There were no prosecutions of senior government officials on corruption charges during the year.²⁶
43. In Turkey, which has been governed by kleptocracy for the last 10 years, corrupt politicians have enriched themselves by excluding themselves from the rule of law and by directing all the resources of the state to themselves and their associates through commissions, bribes and special privileges. In all international research reports and

²⁶ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/turkey/>

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indicators, Turkey ranks 1st among European countries in political corruption and kleptocracy.²⁷

44. Turkey's massive corruption and degeneracy are also evident in international surveys on “human rights and the rule of law rankings”. The “Respect for Human Rights and Rule of Law Index” is a rating scale measuring the relationship between states and their citizens regarding protecting fundamental human rights and freedoms and respecting democratic freedoms in countries worldwide. The higher the indicator's value, the higher the protection of human rights and the rule of law in the country. Conversely, the lower the index value, the less human rights and the rule of law are protected in that country.²⁸

Political corruption - Country rankings

* Indicates monthly or quarterly data series

- Political corruption
 - Women political empowerment
 - Academic freedom
 - Presidential elections
 - Parliamentary elections
- Infrastructure and transport characteristics
- Energy and environment
 - Industry; Oil, coal, and electricity
 - Energy mix
 - Agriculture sector
- Banking system access and depth
- Banking system efficiency and stability
- Stock market, insurance, pensions
- Financial development
- Innovation measures
- Economic freedom indexes
- Demographics
- Health spending and outcomes
 - Covid pandemic
 - Child and maternal mortality
- Healthcare resources
- Inequality and poverty
- Education spending and outcomes

Political corruption index, 2022: The average for 2022 based on 41 countries was 0.25 index points. The highest value was in Turkey: 0.814 index points and the lowest value was in Denmark: 0.002 index points. The indicator is available from 1960 to 2022. Below is a chart for all countries where data are available.

Measure: Index points; Source: Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem)

Europe

Countries	Political corruption, 2022	Global rank	Available data
Turkey	0.814	1	1960 - 2022
Bosnia & Herz.	0.768	2	1992 - 2022
Russia	0.739	3	1960 - 2022
North Macedonia	0.724	4	1991 - 2022
Serbia	0.69	5	1960 - 2022
Ukraine	0.612	6	1990 - 2022
Albania	0.586	7	1960 - 2022
Hungary	0.537	8	1960 - 2022
Montenegro	0.529	9	1998 - 2022
Belarus	0.413	10	1990 - 2022
Romania	0.362	11	1960 - 2022
Greece	0.324	12	1960 - 2022

45. The rule of law indices meticulously gauge and assess the level at which governing authorities uphold societal rights and liberties, fundamental legal principles, citizens' ownership rights, and more. They also scrutinise the independence and neutrality of security forces and courts and the assurance of the public's safety in life, property, and legal matters. Over the past decade, Turkey has substantially declined its ranking on

²⁷ https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/political_corruption_index/Europe/

²⁸ https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/human_rights_rule_law_index/Europe/

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the index. Currently, Turkey holds the unenviable position of being the third lowest among 43 European nations, trailing behind solely Russia and Belarus.²⁹

Human rights and rule of law index - Country rankings

* Indicates monthly or quarterly data series

- ▾ Shares of world totals
- ▾ Economic structure
- ▾ Industry: Diamond production and trade
- ▾ Tourism
- ▾ Minerals
- ▾ Crime statistics
- ▾ Religious composition of the population
- ▾ Fragile state index
 - ▾ Fragile state index
 - ▾ Security threats index
 - ▾ Factionalized elites index
 - ▾ Group grievance index
 - ▾ Economic decline index
 - ▾ Uneven economic development
 - ▾ Human flight and brain drain
 - ▾ State legitimacy index
 - ▾ Public services index
- ▾ Human rights and rule of law index
 - ▾ Demographic pressures index
 - ▾ Refugees and displaced persons index
 - ▾ External interventions index
- ▾ Military
- ▾ Price level
- ▾ Other indicators

Human rights and rule of law index, 0 (high) - 10 (low), 2022: The average for 2022 based on 41 countries was 2.63 index points. The highest value was in Russia: 9 index points and the lowest value was in Finland: 0.3 index points. The indicator is available from 2007 to 2022. Below is a chart for all countries where data are available.

Measure: Index points; Source: Fund for Peace

Europe

Countries	Human rights and rule of law index, 2022	Global rank	Available data
Russia	9	1	2007 - 2022
Belarus	8.2	2	2007 - 2022
Turkey	8.1	3	2007 - 2022
Hungary	5.8	4	2007 - 2022
Ukraine	5.8	5	2007 - 2022
Bosnia & Herz.	4.6	6	2007 - 2022
Moldova	4.2	7	2007 - 2022
Poland	4.1	8	2007 - 2022
Romania	3.8	9	2007 - 2022
Greece	3.6	10	2007 - 2022
Serbia	3.6	11	2007 - 2022

46. The Human Rights and Rule of Law Index ranked Turkey third in Europe, after Russia and Belarus, among the 41 European countries it examined, in terms of resistance to and lack of respect for law and human rights and 28th among the 177 countries in the world in terms of the worst situation. When Norway, the most advanced country in respect for human rights and the rule of law, was ranked first, Turkey ranked 150th among 177 world countries in respect for human rights and acceptance of the rule of law.

47. Unfortunately, in terms of respect for human rights and freedoms, Turkey is only ahead of Iraq, Equatorial Guinea, Belarus, Turkmenistan, Chad, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Bahrain, Ethiopia, Venezuela, Somalia, Libya, Libya, Burundi, Russia, Eritrea, Sudan, Burma, North Korea, Congo, Syria, Central African Republic, Egypt, China, Iran and Yemen.

48. Corruption and human rights violations have a very close relationship. These two systems feed each other and cause/cause each other. The potential human rights setbacks caused by the culture of corruption in Turkey have been demonstrated in several areas, such as independence of the judiciary, freedom of expression of journalists and reporters, freedom of assembly, detention centres, social rights, discrimination in the enjoyment of fundamental rights, and human trafficking.

²⁹ https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/human_rights_rule_law_index/Europe/

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49. Despite widespread international anti-corruption agreements such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Conventions on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, the corrupt political establishment in Turkey remains one of the biggest obstacles to the prevention and eradication of corruption.
50. As a result of the increasing authoritarianism of the Turkish state by breaking away from international law and the principles of open society/open state, international conventions have been suspended, and the recommendations and principles of the United Nations bodies, especially the European Court of Human Rights, have started to be ignored. With terrorism investigations becoming commonplace, hundreds of thousands of people are subjected to terrorism investigations on simple pretexts and their assets are seized. The biggest obstacle to the spread of democracy and political freedom, balanced and sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction worldwide is the capture of power by corrupt kleptocratic governments. A pervasive culture of corruption and corrupt politics undermines Turkish democracy and the rule of law, leads to human rights violations, distorts market balances, and erodes quality of life. Indeed, Turkey has climbed to the top of the list of countries with the highest inflation rates in the world, and the Turkish people have been reduced to a state of poverty. The involvement of state and government officials in organised crime has accelerated Turkey's slide into bankruptcy.
51. Although the Turkish government has repeatedly lost legitimacy in the last 10 years due to corruption and bribery involving the president, ministers, senior bureaucrats, judges and prosecutors, Turkey has been unable to escape the vortex of corruption due to unfair electoral systems, media manipulation, bought businessmen and politicians. Corruption and organised crime have so overtaken the Turkish state that Turkey is rapidly climbing the ranks of corrupt kleptocratic states, breaking away from

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democratic Western values and forming alliances with Russia, Hungary, Iran and other authoritarian regimes in the Middle East and Central Asia.³⁰

Freedom from corruption - Country rankings

* Indicates monthly or quarterly data series

- ▾ Freedom from corruption
 - Fiscal freedom
 - Business freedom
 - Labor freedom
 - Monetary freedom
 - Trade freedom
 - Investment freedom
 - Financial freedom
 - Economic freedom, overall index
- Demographics
- Health spending and outcomes
- Covid pandemic
- Child and maternal mortality
- Healthcare resources
- Inequality and poverty
- Education spending and outcomes
- Globalization indexes
- Shares of world totals
- Economic structure
- Industry: Diamond production and trade
- Tourism
- Minerals
- Crime statistics

Freedom from corruption index (0-100), 2023: The average for 2023 based on 41 countries was 65 points. The highest value was in Denmark: 100 points and the lowest value was in Russia: 28 points. The indicator is available from 1995 to 2024. Below is a chart for all countries where data are available.

Measure: points; Source: The Heritage Foundation

Europe ▾ [Download data from our database](#)

Countries ▲ ▾	Freedom from corruption, 2023 ▾	Global rank ▲ ▾	Available data ▲ ▾
Russia	28	41	1995 - 2024
Bosnia & Herz.	33	40	1998 - 2024
Albania	36	38	1995 - 2024
Moldova	36	39	1995 - 2024
Turkey	37	37	1995 - 2024
Serbia	38	36	2002 - 2024
Belarus	39	35	1995 - 2024
North Macedonia	40	34	2002 - 2024
Bulgaria	44	33	1995 - 2024
Hungary	45	32	1995 - 2024
Montenegro	47	30	2002 - 2024
Romania	47	31	1995 - 2024

Turkey ranks 5th in Europe after Russia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Moldova, and Albania in countries riddled with bribery and corruption.

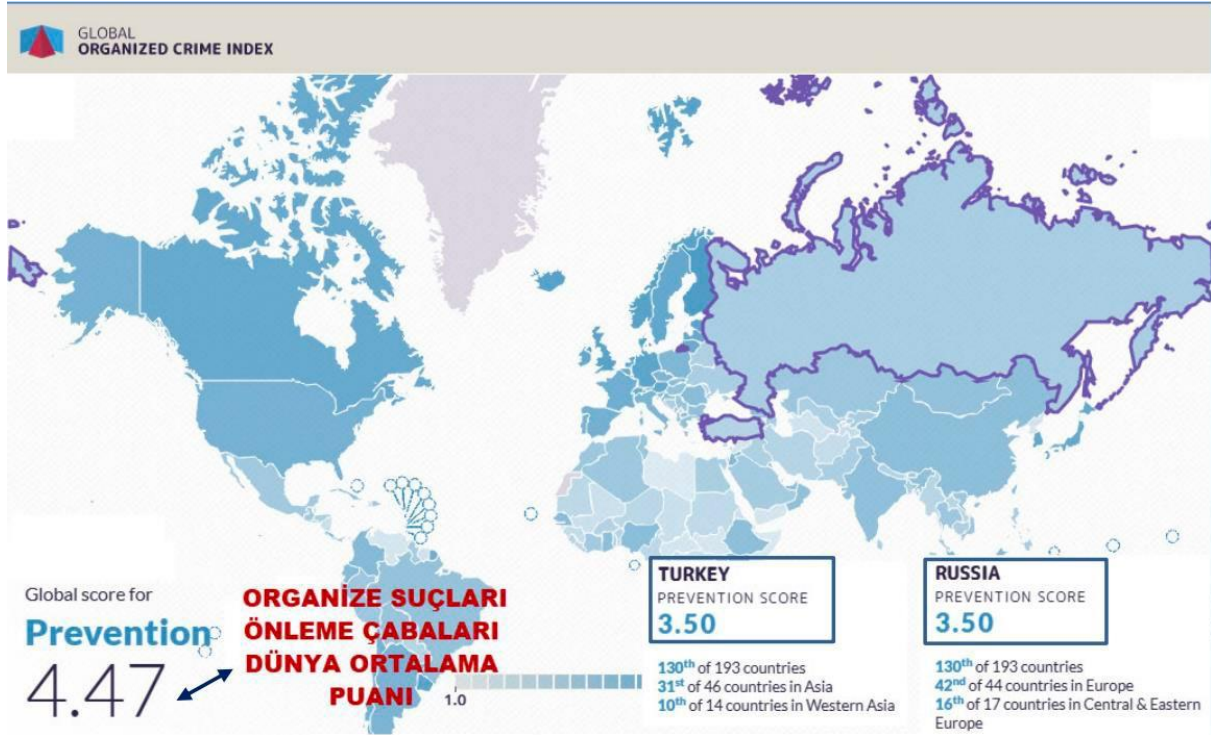
52. The most significant indicator of the fact that corrupt politics and bureaucracy are the main actors in the establishment of corruption and kleptocratic system in Turkey is the ranking and evaluations made in the “Global Organized Crime Index” in terms of Turkey's performance in preventing/preventing organised crime (Prevention). Compared to European countries, Turkey is ranked as the second weakest country in Europe after Moldova. Turkey's performance score in preventing/preventing organised crime is 3.50 out of ten, while the average score of European countries is 5.98.

53. According to the Global Organized Crime Index, Turkey's intense organized crime activities and its weak performance in preventing such activities unfortunately reinforce the argument that Turkey is a “mafia paradise.” Turkey's overall situation vis-à-vis organised crime and its weaknesses in the fight against organised crime stem from the

³⁰ https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/herit_corruption/Europe/

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deep ties that organised crime networks have established with state administrators or state institutions.



54. In the last 10 years in Turkey, the system of corruption, in which politics and bureaucracy have played a leading role, has eliminated government accountability and transparency, leading to the emergence of arbitrary and malicious behaviour. The justice system is abused as a weapon against dissenters to suppress their voices, and these arbitrary authoritarian regimes, emboldened by a culture of impunity, have become increasingly brazen. International surveys and indices document the global decline in Turkish government accountability, transparency, and rule of law. After Belarus and Russia, Turkey is the third worst country in terms of transparency and accountability of government bodies.³¹

55. The Global Organized Crime Index assesses government transparency and accountability in Turkey and European countries. The Global Organized Crime Index ranks Turkey as the third weakest country in Europe after Belarus and Russia in terms

³¹ https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/government_accountability/Europe/

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of government transparency and accountability in the fight against organised crime. In this regard, Turkey's score for government transparency and accountability towards organised crime is 3.00 out of ten, while the average score of European countries is 5.78.

56. The way public tenders are distributed and awarded in Turkey constitutes an essential area for the increase in corruption, bribery and economic crimes in transparency and accountability. With amendments to the Public Procurement Law, tenders worth hundreds of billions of dollars are awarded to companies close to political power by invitation or direct procurement without the conditions of competition, transparency and public interest. In this way, public resources are transferred to favoured contractors and businessmen, while these businessmen distribute bribes to bureaucrats, judges, prosecutors, and politicians who favour them.
57. The open tendering and bidding system in public tenders has mainly been abandoned in favour of invitation-only and negotiated tenders among those invited to tender. Naturally, only businessmen and contractors close to the political power are invited to these tenders. In tenders held without transparency, equality and free competition, public resources are shared among businessmen, politicians, and bureaucrats. According to research, in 2021, almost one in every four tenders (23.2%) was held through the bargaining procedure. Of the negotiated tenders, 89.3% were awarded only to certain businessmen. These procedures do not align with EU competition, equal treatment, and transparency directives. The political power distributes public resources to its favoured businessmen through ostensible tenders and high prices. Commissions are then shared among judges, prosecutors, bureaucrats, and politicians. Five prominent businessmen and contractors close to the Erdogan government, described as the “gang of five”, undertake all state tenders for bridges, roads, ports, tunnels, airports, construction, etc., and public resources are transferred directly to these oligarch businessmen. Public resources continue to be transferred to these oligarch businessmen without real competition through public-private partnership tenders with long-term purchase guarantees for 20-30-50 years, unplanned and unprogrammed tenders that do

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not meet any public need, and tenders with long-term purchase guarantees and price bindings against the companies of businessmen.³²

58. The “Zafer Airport” tender is one of the most striking examples of how public resources are looted and corrupted by the political power cronies in public tenders with long-term purchase guarantees. This airport, which was built only to transfer resources to favored contractors without real needs assessment and planning, is a clear indication of how public resources are looted. For example, according to the tender specifications, the number of outbound passengers guaranteed by the state in the first 7 months of 2024 was committed to 768,677, and a service purchase guarantee was given for this amount. However, the actual number of outbound passengers was only 19,122 for the same period. While the margin of error in the calculation of the requirements was 97.51%, the guaranteed payment to be made by the Treasury to the company was realised as EUR 3,967,534 for the same period.
59. In 2012, the construction cost of Zafer Airport was determined at 50 million Euros, and the guaranteed payment made to the company in the 12-year period between 2012 and 2024 amounted to 70 million 335 thousand Euros. The airport transfer date to the public is 2044, and the guaranteed payment to be made to the company until this date is 208 million Euros.
60. In other words, for an airport that costs only 50 million Euros and is used by only 19 thousand people a year, 208 million Euros will be paid to the contractor company until 2044, with a service purchase guarantee with the commitment that 768,677 people will use it annually.
61. In this way, tenders for highways, bridges, tunnels, hospitals, and airports, which are not based on real needs and have not been planned, are awarded long-term public procurement guarantees, and public resources are plundered to transfer resources to favoured contractors and to finance politics again with the money transferred.

³² <https://oad.org.tr/yayinlar/rapor/kamu-ihalelerinde-rekabet-ve-seffaflik-2/>

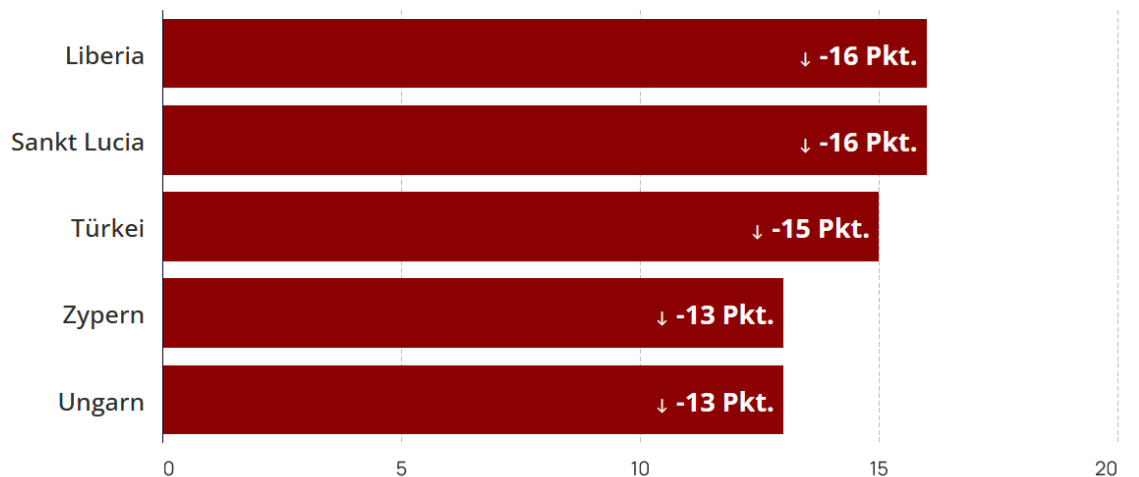
FREEDOM FROM CORRUPTION ANTI CORRUPTION MEASURES (UN LOIPR, PARAGRAPH 8): CORRUPTION AND ORGANIZED CRIME IN TURKEY

62. Parallel to procurement corruption and the looting of national resources, Turkey’s collapse of the rule of law, reflected in the Rule of Law Index since 2016, is also very worrying. Countries with weak rule-of-law structures have high levels of corruption; conversely, the comparison also shows that solid constitutional structures are associated with low perceptions of corruption.³³ The strengthening of anti-democratic forces worldwide increases corruption in the countries concerned. Corruption increases when the rule of law, independent media and civil society organisations are weakened. Unsurprisingly, Turkey (34 points since 2012, 115th place, -15 points) and Hungary (42 points since 2012, 76th place, -13 points) are among the highest-ranked countries. In addition to these two countries, Russia (26 points, 141st place), Iran (24 points, 149th place), and Venezuela (13 points, 177th place) are also among the countries with the highest increases in transparency surveys and indices.³⁴ Turkey ranks 3rd among the 5 countries in the world where corruption has increased the fastest in the last 10 years.

Die TOP 5 Absteiger über die letzten Jahre



Zeitraum auswählen (10 Jahre) ▾



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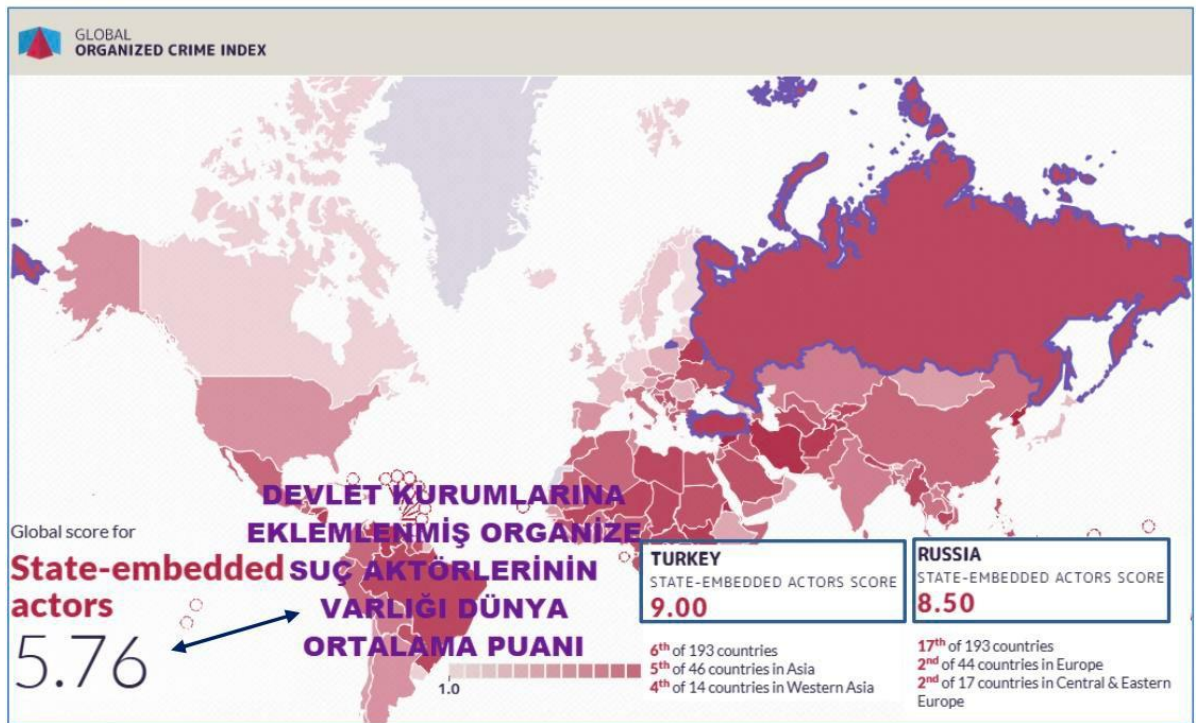
Quelle: Transparency International CC BY-ND 4.0

³³ <http://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/>

³⁴ <https://www.transparency.de/cpi>

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63. State-embedded actors are criminal actors embedded in and operating from within the state apparatus, including officials working in state institutions such as law enforcement and judicial institutions. The Global Organized Crime Index ranks Turkey 1st in Europe in terms of the presence and prevalence of organised criminal activities embedded in state institutions. Turkey's score in this regard is 9.00 out of 10, while the average score of European countries is 4.58. The indicators of how the judges, prosecutors and bureaucrats who use state power and settle in the state in Turkey cooperate and act together with organised crime organisations are revealed in international crime research indices.



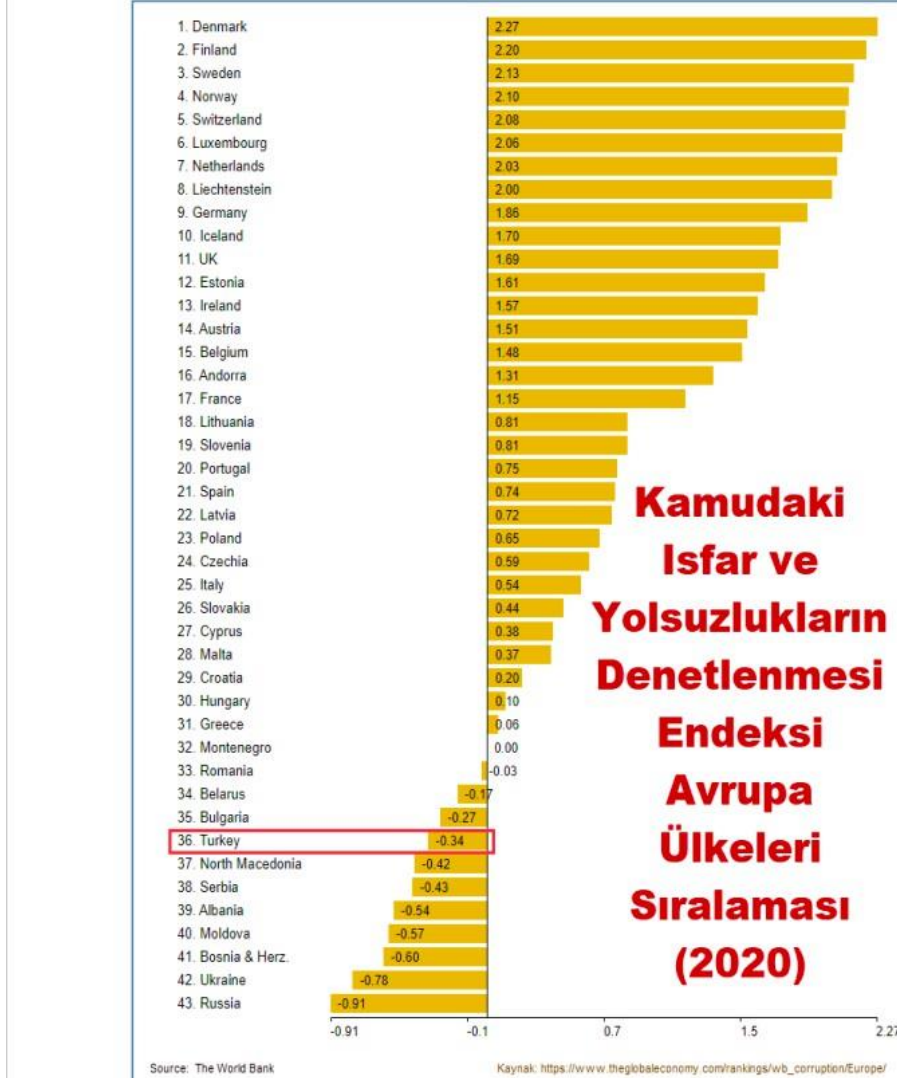
64. The Global Organized Crime Index ranks Turkey as the weakest country in Europe, i.e. 1st from the bottom, when compared to European countries in terms of political leadership and governance in the fight against organised crime. Turkey's average political leadership and governance score in the fight against organised crime is 3.00 out of ten, while the average score of European countries is 6.05.

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65. Corruption indices collect data on the extent to which ruling elites and their cronies use public power for private benefit or gain, including both petty and grand forms of corruption. Turkey lags far behind the civilised world on this index scale. Turkey ranks 36th out of 43 European countries, ahead of only Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Moldova, Bosnia, Ukraine, and Russia.
66. Of the 192 countries tracked by the index, Turkey ranks 105th, even behind countries like Uruguay, Chile, Costa Rica, Botswana, Rwanda, Namibia, South Africa, Guyana, Sri Lanka, and Gambia.

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67. The fight against corruption is also seen as a struggle for social and economic justice, human rights, peace and security for all people. Transparency International says corruption is “the entrustment of political and public abuse of public power for private gain.”

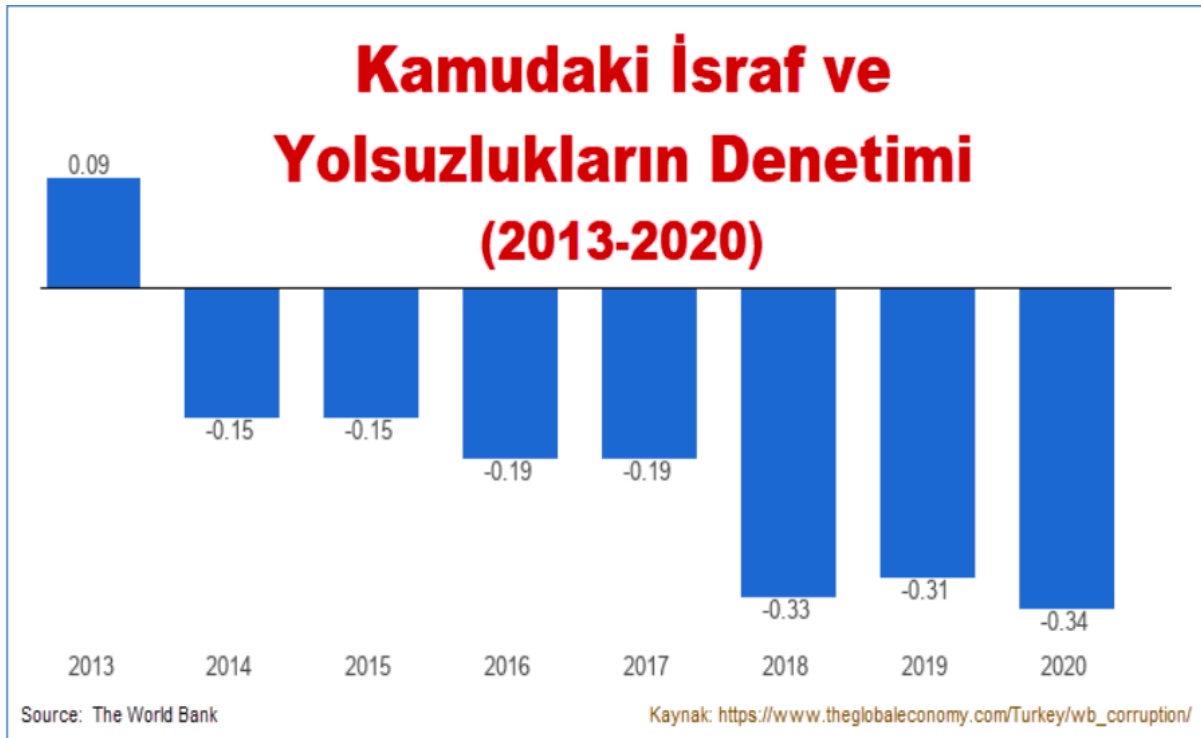
68. Transparency International does not see corruption as a simple case of ill-gotten gains or wealth transfer. It is seen as a danger that can have more profound consequences on many issues ranging from the economy to human rights, democracy to national development, ecological balance to citizens' security of law and life.

69. Corruption erodes trust in the state and social institutions, destroys the spirit of social unity, weakens democracy, hinders economic development, and creates or deepens

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economic and social inequality, poverty, social division and environmental/ecological crises. This is because corruption is also associated with some social, political, economic and environmental costs.

Audit of Waste and Corruption in Public Sector (2013-2020)



70. The political costs of corruption include damage to human rights, fundamental freedoms, freedom of the press and the rule of law in the country.
71. The social costs of corruption are that the public's power to influence public institutions and trust in the government is diminished.
72. Environmental costs: society's chances of living in a healthy environment and building a sustainable future are reduced.
73. Authoritarianism exists in countries where human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law are violated. This makes it very difficult to fight corruption. Authoritarian regimes are the primary source of corruption, and democratic functioning, law, security, and human rights in their countries are under threat. No one has security of life and property. Along with the people, the press is not accessible or

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safe. Media outlets either disagree with the government or are always at risk of being shut down.

74. Corruption and waste of public resources cause substantial economic costs and devastation for Turkish society. Instead of building wealth and creating economic growth opportunities for society, a kleptocratic minority exploits the country's resources and wealth. Oligarch businessmen, corrupt politicians and bureaucrats close to the ruling party are amassing untold wealth while poverty and misery increase for most of the population. As a matter of fact, despite all the distortions and lies of the government, the annual inflation rate in Turkey is estimated at 53,9 %. Turkey ranks 4th in the world after Lebanon, Sudan, and Zimbabwe in the list of countries with high inflation caused by corruption.³⁵
75. As can be understood, there is a close relationship and cooperation between corruption in politics and bureaucracy and organised crime in Turkey. This cooperation has led to social destruction, poverty, and misery. The Global Organized Crime Index ranks organised crime organisations, criminal networks and/or organised crime networks operating nationally or internationally in the 193 countries of the world that are members of the United Nations by analysing and evaluating the prevalence of their activities in those countries, their relationship or cooperation with social, economic and political structures, their power or influence on all social, political and economic structures in those countries, as well as the ability or weaknesses of the judicial, administrative, social, economic or political structures that carry out activities to prevent organised crime activities within each country to combat such crimes.
76. The Index examines the structures and activities of organised crime in the world's countries by dividing them into two main sections, namely “Criminality” and “Resilience”.
77. The average value of the scores of organized crimes examined under 14 headings in total gives the “Criminality” score of the countries. The activities of the states in the

³⁵ <https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/Inflation/>

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“Ability to fight against organized crime / Resilience” section are examined under 12 sub-headings. These headings are

- Political leadership and control,
- Transparency and accountability in governance,
- International cooperation,
- National policies and laws
- Judicial system, arrests and detentions,
- The state of law enforcement,
- Integrity of struggle,
- Prevention of money laundering,
- The state of economic regulatory legislation,
- Crime victims and witness support,
- Crime prevention performance,
- Non-state actors.

In the Global Organized Crime Index, due to the examinations and assessments made, Turkey was ranked 16th among the 193 countries in the world regarding the prevalence of organised crime activities, providing organised crime organisations and networks with a wide range of presence and movement areas. Furthermore, among European countries, Turkey ranked 1st in Europe in almost all organised crime categories.³⁶

³⁶ <file:///C:/Users/Human/Downloads/Global-organized-crime-index-2023-web-compressed-compressed.pdf>

FREEDOM FROM CORRUPTION ANTI CORRUPTION MEASURES (UN LOIPR, PARAGRAPH 8): CORRUPTION AND ORGANIZED CRIME IN TURKEY

Criminal actor scores

COUNTRY	CRIMINAL ACTORS (AVERAGE)	MAFIA-STYLE GROUPS	CRIMINAL NETWORKS	STATE-EMBEDDED ACTORS	FOREIGN ACTORS	PRIVATE SECTOR ACTORS
1. MYANMAR	8.60 +0.47	9.5 +0.5	8.0 +0.5	9.0 +0.5	9.0 +1.5	7.5 n/a
2. CONGO, DEM. REP	8.50 -0.50	9.0 0.0	9.0 0.0	9.0 0.0	9.0 0.0	6.5 n/a
3. PARAGUAY	8.30 +0.80	8.0 +2.0	8.0 +0.5	9.0 +1.0	9.0 +0.5	7.5 n/a
4. COLOMBIA	8.20 +0.07	9.5 0.0	9.5 +0.5	7.5 +0.5	7.5 +0.5	7.0 n/a
5. HONDURAS	8.10 -0.15	8.5 0.0	7.5 -0.5	8.5 0.0	8.0 0.0	8.0 n/a
6. IRAQ	8.00 +0.25	6.5 0.0	8.5 +1.0	8.5 +0.5	9.0 0.0	7.5 n/a
7. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	7.90 -0.48	8.0 -1.0	8.0 0.0	9.0 +0.5	9.0 +1.0	5.5 n/a
7. LEBANON	7.90 +0.27	6.0 0.0	7.5 +0.5	9.5 0.0	8.5 +0.5	8.0 n/a
9. SYRIA	7.70 +0.07	4.5 0.0	9.0 0.0	10.0 0.0	8.0 +1.0	7.0 n/a
10. SOUTH AFRICA	7.50 +0.25	7.5 +0.5	8.0 +1.0	8.0 +0.5	7.5 0.0	6.5 n/a
10. SOUTH SUDAN	7.50 +0.12	5.0 +0.5	7.5 -0.5	9.0 0.0	8.0 0.0	8.0 n/a
10. SUDAN	7.50 +0.12	6.5 0.0	7.5 0.0	8.5 +0.5	8.0 +0.5	7.0 n/a
10. YEMEN	7.50 +0.25	7.0 -1.0	8.0 +1.0	8.0 +2.0	8.5 +0.5	6.0 n/a
14. ECUADOR	7.40 +0.90	8.0 +1.5	7.5 +2.0	7.0 +0.5	8.0 +0.5	6.5 n/a
14. VENEZUELA	7.40 -0.23	9.5 0.0	5.0 0.0	9.0 0.0	7.5 +0.5	6.0 n/a
16. LIBYA	7.30 +0.30	9.0 +1.0	7.5 0.0	9.5 +1.0	5.5 +1.5	5.0 n/a
16. PANAMA	7.30 +0.30	7.5 0.0	7.0 0.0	7.5 0.0	6.0 0.0	8.5 n/a
16. TURKEY	7.30 -0.08	8.5 +0.5	8.0 +0.5	9.0 0.0	6.0 +1.0	5.0 n/a
19. AFGHANISTAN	7.20 -0.05	5.0 -2.5	8.0 -0.5	9.0 0.0	6.0 +2.0	8.0 n/a
19. NIGERIA	7.20 -0.05	5.5 0.0	8.5 -0.5	7.5 0.0	7.5 +0.5	7.0 n/a
21. GUATEMALA	7.10 +0.10	7.5 0.0	6.0 0.0	8.0 +1.0	8.0 +0.5	6.0 n/a
21. INDONESIA	7.10 +0.35	6.0 0.0	7.5 0.0	8.0 +0.5	6.0 0.0	8.0 n/a

78. The table “Ranking of World Countries in terms of the Power and Prevalence of Activities of Organized Crime Organizations (Criminality)” shows that in Turkey, many “mafia groups”, “criminal networks”, “state-established gangs”, and “foreign criminal actors” carry out all kinds of national and international organised criminal activities in the execution of all these organised criminal activities, mostly free from any serious state pressure. Considering the amount of illegal funds that organised crime groups have obtained from their criminal activities, probably in the billions of dollars, it is obvious that such uncontrolled financial resources pose a great danger to Turkey's

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economy, democracy, and the protection of the functioning structures of state institutions.

79. "The Global Organized Crime Index on the intensity and prevalence of organised crime markets (Criminal Markets) shows that Turkey ranks 12th among the world countries in terms of the prevalence of organised crime market activities. The illegal resources obtained by organised crime organisations from criminal markets pose a great danger to Turkey's economy, democracy and the protection of the effective structures of state institutions. The image of Turkey as an “organised crime paradise” worldwide and in Europe has excellent drawbacks for Turkey's national and international reputation.³⁷

Criminal market scores

COUNTRY	CRIMINAL MARKETS (AVERAGE)	HUMAN TRAFFICKING	HUMAN SMUGGLING	EXTORTION AND PROTECTION RACKETEERING	ARMS TRAFFICKING	TRADE IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS	ILLICIT TRADE IN EXCESSIVE GOODS
1. MEXICO	8.13 +0.13	8.0 +0.5	9.0 +0.5	9.0 n/a	8.5 +0.5	8.5 n/a	7.0 n/a
2. MYANMAR	7.70 +0.65	8.5 +2.0	8.0 +0.5	7.5 n/a	9.0 +1.0	6.0 n/a	7.0 n/a
3. IRAN	7.37 +0.42	8.0 +0.5	8.5 +0.5	4.5 n/a	9.0 +1.0	7.5 n/a	8.0 n/a
3. NIGERIA	7.37 +0.32	7.5 0.0	6.0 0.0	8.0 n/a	8.5 +0.5	8.0 n/a	7.0 n/a
5. COLOMBIA	7.30 +0.10	8.0 +0.5	7.5 +0.5	8.5 n/a	8.0 0.0	7.5 n/a	4.5 n/a
6. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	7.03 +0.38	8.5 0.0	6.5 0.0	5.0 n/a	7.0 +0.5	7.0 n/a	5.5 n/a
7. AFGHANISTAN	7.00 +0.10	9.0 +0.5	9.5 +1.5	6.0 n/a	9.0 +0.5	8.5 n/a	9.0 n/a
8. BRAZIL	6.93 +0.43	6.0 +1.0	5.5 +1.5	7.0 n/a	8.5 +0.5	7.0 n/a	5.0 n/a
8. KENYA	6.93 +0.28	8.0 +0.5	7.5 +0.5	7.0 n/a	7.5 0.0	7.0 n/a	6.0 n/a
10. SOUTH AFRICA	6.87 +0.87	4.5 0.0	5.0 +1.0	8.0 n/a	8.0 0.0	7.0 n/a	7.0 n/a
11. RUSSIA	6.83 +0.73	7.5 +1.0	6.5 +0.5	6.0 n/a	8.5 +4.0	4.5 n/a	6.5 n/a
12. THAILAND	6.77 +0.37	7.0 +0.5	7.0 0.0	6.5 n/a	6.5 +1.0	8.0 n/a	7.0 n/a
12. TURKEY	6.77 +0.37	8.0 +1.0	9.0 0.0	6.0 n/a	8.5 -0.5	7.0 n/a	7.0 n/a
14. ECUADOR	6.73 +0.73	6.5 +0.5	6.0 +0.5	8.0 n/a	8.0 +0.5	6.0 n/a	6.0 n/a
14. PARAGUAY	6.73 +0.83	7.5 +0.5	6.0 0.0	7.0 n/a	9.0 +0.5	9.0 n/a	7.5 n/a
16. CAMBODIA	6.70 +0.55	8.5 +1.0	7.0 +0.5	6.5 n/a	5.5 +0.5	8.0 n/a	5.5 n/a
16. INDIA	6.70 +0.40	8.0 +1.0	6.5 +0.5	7.0 n/a	6.0 +0.5	7.5 n/a	6.0 n/a
18. MALAYSIA	6.67 +0.42	7.5 +1.0	7.5 +0.5	8.5 n/a	5.5 0.0	7.5 n/a	7.0 n/a
18. PANAMA	6.67 +0.32	7.5 -0.5	6.5 +1.0	6.5 n/a	7.0 +0.5	7.5 n/a	7.0 n/a
20. INDONESIA	6.60 +0.60	7.5 +1.0	6.5 +0.5	6.0 n/a	4.5 0.0	7.5 n/a	6.5 n/a
21. LIBYA	6.57 +0.47	8.5 -1.0	9.5 +1.5	9.0 n/a	9.0 -0.5	6.0 n/a	7.0 n/a
21. PHILIPPINES	6.57 +0.27	7.5 +0.5	5.5 +0.5	5.5 n/a	7.5 0.0	7.0 n/a	6.0 n/a

80. Global Organized Crime Index includes “Political leadership and control”, “Transparency and accountability in governance”, “International cooperation”, “National policies and laws”, “Judicial system, arrest and detention”, “State of law enforcement”, ‘Integrity of the fight’, ‘Prevention of money laundering’, ‘State of economic regulatory legislation’, ‘Support for crime victims and witnesses’, ‘Crime prevention performance’, ‘non-state actors’.

81. The Index ranks the resilience of countries to organised crime starting from 1, the lowest level, to 10, the highest level. The Index ranks Turkey as a country that outperforms European and world averages in all types of organised crime activities but underperforms both European and world averages in the fight against organised crime.

³⁷ Globalfile:///C:/Users/Human/Downloads/Global-organized-crime-index-2023-web-compressed-compressed.pdf

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According to the index, while European countries perform 6.23 points out of 10 and world countries perform 4.82 points out of 10 against organised crime, Turkey's performance is 3.54. With this performance, Turkey ranks 151st globally and last in Europe. The Global Organized Crime Index ranks Turkey as the weakest country in Europe compared to European countries in terms of resilience in combating organised crime, i.e. the 1st from the bottom. Turkey's resilience score against organised crime is 3.54 out of ten, while the average score of European countries is 6.23.

82. There is a need to examine the position of law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, and courts in these relations of organised crime and political corruption. One of the underlying causes of the devastation in Turkey in the last ten years is the capacity and capability of the police force and the judiciary to fight against organised crime and corruption. As can be seen from the following indexes and surveys, the performance of law enforcement and the police in the fight against corruption and organised crime is far behind the world and European averages. The effectiveness of the police and law enforcement agencies in the fight against organised crime and corruption is 4.91 on average, while this ratio is 3.00 in Turkey. Turkey ranks 160th out of 193 countries in this category. These indicators clearly show the ineffectiveness of the Turkish police and law enforcement agencies in preventing crimes and even cooperating with criminals.³⁸
83. The strength and competence of Turkey's judiciary, courts, and judges/prosecutors in fighting corruption and organized crime are significant in terms of corruption and destruction in Turkey. Turkey ranks 174th out of 193 countries in this category. While the world average of the judiciary's combat power and effectiveness is 4.59 points, the Turkish judiciary is rated only 2 points out of 10.

³⁸ <https://ocindex.net/country/turkey>

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INDICATORS ON CIVIL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

84. As explained in detail in the introduction of the report, the process of authoritarianisation and transformation into a one-man regime in Turkey in the last ten years has led to a complete loss of the gains made in the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals and the loss of freedoms and liberties achieved during democratic periods. Civil and political rights and economic rights have been destroyed, and property rights and investment security have been eliminated. Social opposition has been crippled by terror allegations and investigations that have become commonplace. an environment of great repression has been created. Fundamental rights such as freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, property rights, and the right to social dissent are being eroded by terrorism charges, and strict prohibitions have been imposed on individuals to exercise these constitutional universal rights.
85. Turkey is the 3rd worst country in Europe in terms of civil liberties in 2024, after Belarus and Russia³⁹. As explained above, thousands of associations, 28 trade unions, 104 foundations, 15 universities, hundreds of schools, hospitals and student dormitories were closed down, their assets confiscated and handed over to the oligarchs on the grounds of the July 15, 2016 so-called coup attempt. Freedom of association has been destroyed, criminal cases have been initiated against members of foundations and associations based on membership, and convictions have been handed down. Violation decisions of the United Nations ILO International Labour Organization on the closure of trade unions and the requirements of the most recent Yüksel Yalcinkaya decision of the European Court of Human Rights on September 26, 2023, are still not being fulfilled. Terrorism investigations and sentences continue to be imposed on individuals for their membership in associations, foundations, and trade unions.
86. In terms of civil liberties, freedom of expression ranks Turkey as the second worst country in Europe after Belarus.³⁹ As explained above, during the state of emergency declared in response to the July 15 coup attempt, assemblies, demonstrations, and strikes were banned, hundreds of media outlets were closed down, and their assets were

³⁹ https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/freedom_of_expression/Europe/

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nationalised. Even unarmed, non-aggressive and non-violent press statements are considered a crime, and people who participate in these demonstrations are detained, and terrorism investigations are opened against them.

Freedom of expression - Country rankings

* Indicates monthly or quarterly data series

- ▾ Freedom of expression
 - ▾ Political corruption
 - ▾ Women political empowerment
 - ▾ Academic freedom
 - ▾ Presidential elections
 - ▾ Parliamentary elections
- ▾ Infrastructure and transport characteristics
- ▾ Energy and environment
 - ▾ Industry: Oil, coal, and electricity
 - ▾ Energy mix
 - ▾ Agriculture sector
 - ▾ Banking system access and depth
 - ▾ Banking system efficiency and stability
 - ▾ Stock market, insurance, pensions
 - ▾ Financial development
 - ▾ Innovation measures
 - ▾ Economic freedom indexes
 - ▾ Demographics
 - ▾ Health spending and outcomes
 - ▾ Covid pandemic
 - ▾ Child and maternal mortality
 - ▾ Healthcare resources
 - ▾ Inequality and poverty

Freedom of expression, 2022: The average for 2022 based on 41 countries was 0.808 index points. The highest value was in Denmark: 0.988 index points and the lowest value was in Belarus: 0.03 index points. The indicator is available from 1960 to 2022. Below is a chart for all countries where data are available.

Measure: Index points; Source: Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem)

Europe [Download data from our database](#)

Countries	Freedom of expression, 2022	Global rank	Available data
Belarus	0.03	41	1990 - 2022
Turkey	0.144	40	1960 - 2022
Russia	0.185	39	1960 - 2022
Serbia	0.536	38	1960 - 2022
Ukraine	0.545	37	1990 - 2022
Poland	0.611	36	1960 - 2022
Bosnia & Herz.	0.627	35	1992 - 2022
Hungary	0.629	34	1960 - 2022
Albania	0.681	33	1960 - 2022
North Macedonia	0.73	32	1991 - 2022
Croatia	0.78	31	1991 - 2022
Montenegro	0.809	30	1998 - 2022

87. Turkey has also suffered significant losses in academic freedoms, an essential indicator of civil liberties, in the last ten years. While 15 universities were closed down on the grounds that they were linked to the Gülen movement, nearly 7,000 academics, such as doctors, engineers, political scientists, etc., were dismissed and banned from working in universities and public institutions ever again. Academics who exercise their freedom of expression at universities are subjected to terrorism investigations and dismissed from their positions, thus creating an environment of tremendous pressure on other scholars and universities. In terms of academic freedom, Turkey is the second worst country in Europe after Belarus.⁴⁰

⁴⁰ https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/academic_freedom_index/Europe/

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Academic freedom - Country rankings

* Indicates monthly or quarterly data series

- ▾ Academic freedom
 - Presidential elections
 - Parliamentary elections
- Infrastructure and transport characteristics
- Energy and environment
- Industry: Oil, coal, and electricity
- Energy mix
- Agriculture sector
- Banking system access and depth
- Banking system efficiency and stability
- Stock market, insurance, pensions
- Financial development
- Innovation measures
- Economic freedom indexes
- Demographics
- Health spending and outcomes
- Covid pandemic
- Child and maternal mortality
- Healthcare resources
- Inequality and poverty
- Education spending and outcomes
- Globalization indexes
- Shares of world totals

Academic freedom index, 2022: The average for 2022 based on 41 countries was 0.808 index points. The highest value was in the Czechia: 0.977 index points and the lowest value was in Belarus: 0.03 index points. The indicator is available from 1960 to 2022. Below is a chart for all countries where data are available.

Measure: Index points; Source: Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem)

Europe [Download data from our database](#)

Countries	Academic freedom, 2022	Global rank	Available data
Belarus	0.03	41	1990 - 2022
Turkey	0.084	40	1960 - 2022
Russia	0.237	39	1960 - 2022
Hungary	0.338	38	1960 - 2022
Ukraine	0.396	37	1990 - 2022
Poland	0.738	36	1960 - 2022
Greece	0.771	35	1960 - 2022
Serbia	0.775	34	1960 - 2022
Bosnia & Herz.	0.794	33	1992 - 2022
Albania	0.82	32	1960 - 2022
Montenegro	0.822	31	1998 - 2022

88. Turkey ranks among the worst countries in the world in terms of guarantees for property rights and investment security. As explained above, the assets of hundreds of companies have been seized and nationalised. The Government has declared the value of the assets of these companies to be 35 billion dollars. Without any court order, these assets can be closed down, trustees appointed to their management, and their assets can be nationalised simply by a government decree. Turkey ranks 4th worst among European countries in terms of security of property rights and investment security after Belarus, Russia and Moldova.⁴¹

Property rights - Country rankings

* Indicates monthly or quarterly data series

- ▾ Property rights
 - Freedom from corruption
 - Fiscal freedom
 - Business freedom
 - Labor freedom
 - Monetary freedom
 - Trade freedom
 - Investment freedom
 - Financial freedom
 - Economic freedom, overall Index
- Demographics
- Health spending and outcomes
- Covid pandemic
- Child and maternal mortality
- Healthcare resources
- Inequality and poverty
- Education spending and outcomes
- Globalization indexes
- Shares of world totals
- Economic structure
- Industry: Diamond production and trade
- Tourism
- Minerals

Property rights index (0-100), 2023: The average for 2023 based on 41 countries was 80 points. The highest value was in Finland: 100 points and the lowest value was in Belarus: 31 points. The indicator is available from 1995 to 2024. Below is a chart for all countries where data are available.

Measure: points; Source: The Heritage Foundation

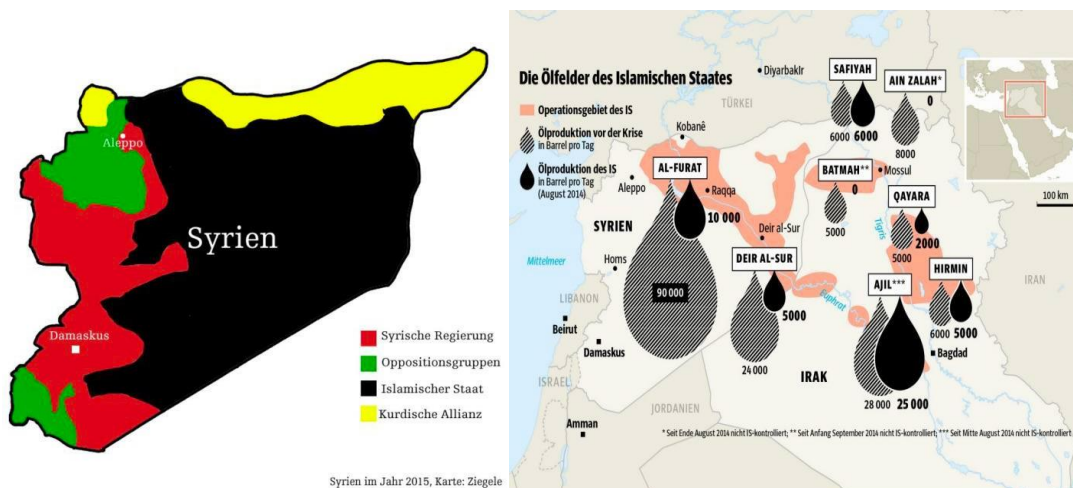
Europe [Download data from our database](#)

Countries	Property rights, 2023	Global rank	Available data
Belarus	31	40	1995 - 2024
Russia	31	41	1995 - 2024
Moldova	38	39	1995 - 2024
Turkey	41	38	1995 - 2024
Bosnia & Herz.	48	37	1998 - 2024
Albania	56	36	1995 - 2024
North Macedonia	59	34	2002 - 2024
Serbia	59	35	2002 - 2024
Montenegro	60	33	2002 - 2024
Hungary	70	32	1995 - 2024
Poland	73	31	1995 - 2024
Bulgaria	75	30	1995 - 2024

⁴¹ https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/herit_property_rights/Europe/

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89. Non-renewable resource trafficking (oil, gold, precious metals, etc. - Non-renewable resource crimes) Turkey ranks 1st among European countries. As a result of Turkey's interference in the internal affairs of the Syrian state, especially in 2012-2013, arming radical extremist groups such as ISIS, Syria lost its territorial integrity in those years, and most of its territory fell under the control of ISIS. ISIS then began to exploit Syria's natural resources, especially oil, and sell them to world markets. Most of these sales were made through energy companies owned by Erdogan's son. This international oil smuggling by the Erdogan government was later revealed to the world public by Russian intelligence through satellite images.
90. Meanwhile, the military personnel, law enforcement and police forces who uncovered these weapons smuggling in the process of illegal arms transfers to ISIS and the arming of Islamic extremist groups are all still in prison. Can Dündar, the journalist who reported the events, had to flee Turkey and seek refuge in Germany. Turkey ranks 1st among European countries in international arms smuggling and oil smuggling and is one of the most important centres in the world. The Turkish state is the leading actor in this terrorist campaign in the Middle East and has managed to turn the turmoil in this region into a system of commercial gain for itself. Turkey has caused a major upheaval in the area, causing tens of millions of people to lose their homes and become refugees in Western and European countries. Turkey uses the refugee trump card and human trafficking as a trump card and weapon against European countries.



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91. Similarly, Turkey is the dominant actor in the international cocaine trade. In addition to international crimes such as arms smuggling, oil smuggling, and human smuggling, Turkey has become a centre for the world’s organised crime syndicates in the drug and cocaine trade.⁴²



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

92. Turkey, which has rapidly transformed into an authoritarian state in the last ten years, is today a system of governance based on a kleptocratic system of looting between politics-bureaucracy-businessmen-criminal organisations. One of the victimised groups that is the most significant part of this system of plunder is the Gülen Movement. This movement, which the Erdoğan government opposed, was accused of organising a military coup in 2016 and subjected to a severe social genocide. Turkey continues to perpetuate gross human rights violations such as torture, enforced disappearance,

⁴² Global-organized-crime-index-2023-web-compressed-compressed.pdf (pp 8)

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unlawful detention, and unlawful arrest despite violations ruled by the United Nations and the European Court of Human Rights. Turkey has established a kleptocratic mafia state system with the same system of plunder and judiciary-police-political institutions against the Gülen movement. It has launched a witch hunt against the Gülen movement.

Within this framework:

- 1- Turkey should urgently implement the decisions of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, the International Labour Organization, and the European Court of Human Rights on rights violations.
- 2- Public officials such as judges, prosecutors, soldiers, and police officers who have been dismissed, arrested and sentenced to long prison terms due to international crimes and corruption committed by the political power should be released.
- 3- The mass arrests and asset seizures against members of the Gülen movement, which have been initiated on trumped-up terrorism charges, must end. Practices of launching terrorism investigations based on charges that do not comply with universal principles such as union, association membership, and newspaper subscription should be stopped.
- 4- Non-governmental organisations such as hospitals, universities, associations, foundations, schools, student dormitories, etc., that were shut down on the grounds that they belonged to the Gülen Movement must be returned to them. Fair trials must be initiated and conducted following universal principles of justice.
- 5- The shutdown of media organisations, newspapers, magazines, TV radios, and printing presses should be returned to their owners.
- 6- End terrorism investigations against businessmen whose assets have been nationalised because they belong to the Gülen Movement.