



UNITED NATIONS  
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*Committee against Torture*

REFERENCIA: CAT/Follow-up-Turkey

9 March 2026

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur for Follow-up to Concluding Observations of the Committee against Torture, I have the honour to refer to the follow-up to the examination of the fifth periodic report of Türkiye, in accordance with the Guidelines for follow-up to concluding observations (CAT/C/55/3).

At the end of its 80<sup>th</sup> session, held from 8 to 26 July 2024, the Committee transmitted its concluding observations to your Permanent Mission. The Committee's concluding observations (CAT/C/TUR/CO/5, para. 48) requested the State Party to provide within one year further information on the specific areas of concern identified in paragraphs 17, 29 and 33 of the concluding observations.

On behalf of the Committee, allow me to express appreciation for your letter of 25 July 2025 providing your Government's response to the above-mentioned paragraphs (CAT/C/TUR/FCO/5) and to make the following comments:

Aggravated life imprisonment (para. 17 of the Committee's concluding observations)

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State Party indicating that the scope of offences requiring aggravated life imprisonment is very narrow, and that trial courts have discretion in applying aggravated life sentences, taking into account the relevant circumstances of each case. However, it remains concerned that, despite the limited range of offences which may give rise to aggravated life imprisonment, information before the Committee indicates that approximately 4,000 individuals remain incarcerated under such sentences. The Committee is also seriously concerned that, according to the information provided by the State Party, individuals sentenced to aggravated life imprisonment for having committed one of the crimes stipulated in subchapters 4, 5 and 6 of the 4th chapter of the Second Part of the Turkish Penal Code continue to have no prospect of release, in violation of international human rights standards and despite the Committee's recommendations in this regard.

.../...

H.E. Mr. Burak Akçapar  
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The Committee notes with appreciation information provided by the State Party regarding the facilitation of visits of family members and legal counsel to inmates in İmralı Prison, in particular to Abdullah Öcalan, Hamili Yıldırım, Ömer Hayri Konar and Veysi Aktaş. However, it remains concerned by information indicating that the majority of these prisoners' requests for visitation continue to be denied, and that no information was provided by the State Party regarding the regularity or continuity of such visits (2/B2).

State of emergency (para. 29 of the Committee's concluding observations)

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State Party indicating that no measures undertaken under or in the aftermath of the state of emergency in place in the State Party from 21 July 2016 to 18 July 2018 decriminalize torture or ill-treatment or provide impunity for possible perpetrators. The Committee also notes information provided by the State Party regarding the terrorist threats it considers itself to be faced with, and the available judicial remedies in cases of violations of fundamental rights or freedoms. The Committee remains concerned, however, that despite its recommendations, the amendments introduced in 2018 through Law No. 7145 remain in force, despite their supposedly transitional nature (2/C).

Gender-based and domestic violence (para. 33 of the Committee's concluding observations)

The Committee notes the information provided by the State Party in relation to legislative and policy measures in place to prevent and prosecute gender-based and domestic violence. The Committee also notes with appreciation information provided regarding the work underway to develop the Fifth National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women 2026–2030, along with information pertaining to the training of law enforcement officers and other relevant personnel, including judges and prosecutors, on combatting violence against women. Nevertheless, the Committee regrets that the State Party did not provide sufficient information for it to ascertain whether additional measures, including both legislative and policy initiatives and trainings, have been introduced since the adoption of the Committee's concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Türkiye to give effect to the recommendations contained therein, including information on the means of evaluating trainings and their outcomes. The Committee similarly regrets that, according to the information provided, the State Party does not intend to re-accede to Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).

The Committee notes that the information provided by the State Party regarding gender-based and domestic violence was limited to violence against women and children, and did not allow for a comprehensive assessment of the State Party's efforts to combat gender-based violence as a whole, including violence against individuals with diverse gender identities. In the regard, the Committee expresses its concern over reports of violence against members of the trans community, particularly in the context of public demonstrations (2/C).

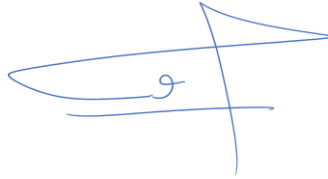
Implementation plan

Lastly, the Committee notes that the State Party provided limited information about its plans for implementing, within the coming reporting period, aspects of the recommendations included in its concluding observations. However, it regrets that the information provided did not make specific reference to the implementation of the Committee's remaining recommendations (C).

The Government of Türkiye is encouraged to provide additional information, if there is any, which would further contribute to the Committee's analysis of the progress made regarding the specific issues of concern cited above. This additional information may be provided in any subsequent report by the State Party pursuant to the Committee's request in its concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Türkiye or other future periodic reports.

The Committee looks forward to a continued constructive dialogue with the authorities of Türkiye on the implementation of the Convention.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes. The signature is centered on the page.

Abderrazak Rouwane  
Rapporteur for Follow-up to Concluding Observations  
Committee against Torture