



**INTERNATIONAL CORRECTIONAL AND PRISON ASSOCIATION (ICPA)
A HUMANITARIAN APPEAL AND INFORMATION NOTE TO MEMBER STATES**

**ICPA 2025 TURKEY WORKSHOP PREPARATORY REPORT – HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS IN TURKISH PRISONS**

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Executive Summary

Ahead of the ICPA Workshop to be held in Turkey in 2025, this report brings to the attention of the international community the serious human rights violations occurring in Turkish prisons. Reports from institutions such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the Human Rights Association of Turkey (İHD) reveal that issues of overcrowding, violations of the right to health, ill-treatment, torture, and discrimination persist across the country's correctional facilities.

Given that the workshop will be hosted in Turkey, there is a risk that temporary improvements may be made in certain prisons or that violations may be concealed. Therefore, it is crucial that the matter be addressed comprehensively.

We respectfully present these findings to the attention of the esteemed ICPA member states prior to the workshop.

Documented Human Rights Violations

Overcrowding and Poor Conditions

As of 2025, Turkish prisons are facing severe overcapacity issues. According to the most recent data, there are 419,194 inmates held in 402 prisons with a total capacity of 304,964. Among these, 356,710 are convicted prisoners, while 62,484 are detainees awaiting trial. 120,846 inmates are held in open prisons, and 298,348 in closed institutions, meaning that there is an overcapacity of approximately 115,000 people.

Many inmates are forced to sleep on the floor, share beds in shifts, and wait in line for over an hour just to use the toilet.

Source: https://cisst.org.tr/hapishane-istatistikleri/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Torture and Treatment

Incidents of physical violence, forced strip searches, solitary confinement, and degrading treatment have been documented, particularly against political prisoners.

Source: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/07/15/human-rights-watch-submission-United-Nations-committee-against-torture-turkiye>

Denial of the Right to Health

Seriously ill detainees face delayed or denied access to hospitals and are frequently refused release on medical grounds. As a result, many inmates have lost their lives due to lack of timely and adequate medical treatment.

Source: <https://www.observatoireturquie.fr/over-23000-rights-violations-recorded-in-turkish-prisons-in-2023-reports-association-duvar/>

Discrimination Against Vulnerable Groups

Women, children, elderly and disabled inmates, as well as LGBTI+ individuals, face systematic discrimination and unequal treatment.

Source: <https://www.duvarenglish.com/association-details-human-rights-violations-in-turkish-prisons-news-64441>

Sexual Violence and Rape Cases

The Finnish Immigration Service's 2024 report documented cases of rape, sexual assault, and threats against female detainees in custody.

Source: Finnish Immigration Service, 2024.

Deaths in Custody

According to CISST data, between 2019 and 2023, a total of 539 inmates died in Turkish prisons. A significant number of these deaths were directly linked to medical neglect.

Source: <https://bianet.org/haber/rights-group-documents-over-26-000-violations-in-turkeys-prisons-in-2024-310178>

International Legal Framework

Turkey is a party to the UN Convention Against Torture (CAT), the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). These international treaties absolutely prohibit torture, guarantee the right to humane conditions of detention, and require access to healthcare for all detainees. The documented violations in Turkey's prisons represent a clear breach of these international obligations.

Urgent Appeal to ICPA Member States

- Include the issue of prison conditions in Turkey on the agenda of the ICPA Workshop, addressing the problems of torture, denial of healthcare, and overcrowding.
- Ensure access to Turkish prisons for the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) and UN Special Rapporteurs.
- Support the humanitarian release of seriously ill inmates, mothers with children, and elderly detainees.
- End the culture of impunity and ensure that allegations of torture are independently investigated.
- Activate and maintain permanent international monitoring mechanisms.

The organization of ICPA 2025 in Turkey carries the risk of legitimizing violations by overlooking them, yet it also presents a historic opportunity for reform and international solidarity.

The determination of member states to uphold human dignity, the rule of law, and fundamental human rights is of vital importance in this process.

Be the voice of the hundreds of thousands imprisoned in Turkey, bring these violations to the international agenda, and stand with the victims.

Respectfully,

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