



1986

HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION
EASTERN AND SOUTHEASTERN ANATOLIA REGION

2015

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
REPORT

DIYARBAKIR BRANCH OF HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION
2016

EVALUATION

As known, fierce conflicts have been continued in the last 6 months in our region. Unfortunately; soldiers, police, the PKK militants and civilians lost their lives. Ever-present human rights violations continue to be by widely, systematically and strikingly increasing in every sphere of life originating from conflicting environment.

Remembering the years of 2013 and 2014, we all closely experienced the will for resolution set forth in order not for conflicts, negotiations performed and the social effects and gains thanks to peaceful environment. Within this ongoing period for more than 2 years, we witnessed a decrease in violations of the right to live and fundamental human rights. Contrary to this period in which loss of lives remained at minimum, now we have been faced with a terrifying balance-sheet with regard to the conflicting environment occurred in the last 6 months.

What is essential for us as human rights defenders is to assure fundamental rights and freedoms, particularly right to live, with social sense of justice. For this very reason, we say that the only solution for the problems is dialog and negotiation. Therefore, the conflicting parties must immediately turn back to ceasefire for providing with negotiation conditions. For this, they must act with the sense of responsibility and show awareness.

The state and AKP government should put an end to military operations leading more fierce conflicts. The lockdown practices imposed on the leader of the PKK, Mr. Abdullah Öcalan, should be lifted and having regard to the contributions that he made for establishment of social peace as an important actor of the negotiation period, his work conditions should be provided. Nevertheless, PKK should suspend armed opposition as soon as possible and immediately open dialog channels. The declaration composed of 10 items and specifying the principal framework of resolution process should be brought into question.

These must be performed as immediately as possible. Because we, as people living in this country, need democracy and freedoms more than ever. Still, we know that if these are not performed, an irremediable social destruction and differentiation will take place. For this reason, action for peace must be taken by not being exposed to problems which conflicting period would cause.

Known as the “Internal Security Package”, “Public Order” laws providing law enforcement officers and local civilian bodies with broad authority entered into force as of 3 April 2015. We stated and criticized in the enactment period that this kind of laws and practices cause violations in such matters as extrajudicial execution in social living, torture and maltreatment, and exercising the right to assembly and demonstration. As a matter of fact, we have been faced with all day long and continuous arbitrary curfews under the name of “Ensuring Public Order” nowadays. Within the period of these unwarranted bans, the right to live and fundamental human rights have been violated by the operational activities performed in places where bans are declared. We performed examinations after the end of a great deal of bans and confirmed the violations on site. Particularly violation of the right to live, human rights violations in such matters as immunity of residence and person, the right to housing, health, education, communication, assembly and demonstration, unlawful house raids, arrestments and detainments have been performed. Within the period of the curfews which started from 16 August 2015 by becoming prevalent and have been declared for 59 times, totally 198 people,

33 children and 43 women, have lost their lives. Again, 192 people have been diversely wounded until this date. Some seriously wounded citizens who were hindered to be taken to hospital have not been brought to hospital and lost their lives in spite of the caution decision by European Court of Human Rights on their application.

We want to emphasize an issue: Locally, law enforcement officers are under the supervision and command of governorships or district governorships hierarchically. We have confirmed that in the practices of curfews this is only a procedure and the law enforcement officers are lawless in the course of operational activities. Our attempts towards examination and prevention of a great deal of violations have been hindered by the law enforcement officers although these were within the knowledge of local civilian authorities. We can state that lawless behaviors of the law enforcement officers during curfews are originated from lack of control and the statements by governmental bodies. This situation has provided the law enforcement officers having the reflex of "I am the state" with arbitrary behaviors. Countless arbitrary behaviors such as intentionally and targeted shooting civilians with armed weapons, holding bodies of citizens who lost their lives for days in streets, hindering wounded people's access to hospital, are among the observations performed within this period. For this reason, in this day as it was yesterday, we - as human rights defenders - demand immediate annulment of the security package laws enabling both security forces and local civilian authorities to be entitled with broad authority.

Human rights violation in our region simply hit peak together with the conflicting environment in the last 6 months. This has been become known in many varied and categorical matters as extrajudicial executions of civilians, torture and maltreatment, interventions to the right to assembly and demonstration, violations occurred as a result of military operations, freedom of thought and expression, freedom of the press, immunity of residence, violence towards women and children, losses in economic and social rights.

In our region, 150 security forces lost their lives and 406 got wounded in the armed conflicting environment taken place in 2015. 189 of the PKK militants lost their lives and 6 were wounded. 17 civilian citizens lost their lives and 47 were wounded by being among the conflicts during the operations. And 82 people were detained by the PKK militants. We want to draw attention to the fact that almost all of the data from 2015 belongs to the conflicting environment taking place in the last 6 months.

In our region, violations such as extrajudicial executions of civilians, interventions to the right to assembly and demonstration, and torture-maltreatment increased in 2015 again. 154 people lost their lives and 253 got wounded as a result of fire opened by the security forces mostly within the period of curfews. 113 demonstrations were intervened by security forces and 130 civilians diversely got wounded during the disproportionate interventions. 5.387 people of whom 400 were children, were detained and 1196 people of whom 66 were children were arrested in 2015 when 2883 house and place of business were raided. Inhumane treatments, even sexual assaults, in and outside detention places took place and human dignity was disregarded. While 110 citizens were exposed to torture in custody, 106 citizens were faced with the violence of security forces in house raids and streets.

Violations in prisons will explicitly be seen in our report. We want to state that especially violations of the right to health have been still continued and 756 sick prisoners, 300 of them are very sick, have been almost left to their fates. Banishments performed due to the

occupancy rates in prisons, lockdown-isolation, right to communication, torture and maltreatment are among the violations continuously proceeding.

Violence against women and children continued by increasing with terrifying data in the year of 2015 in our region. Again, women were murdered as a result of men violence taken place in social and domestic sphere and driven to suicide. While 53 women lost their lives, 17 women got wounded and 13 were exposed to sexual assault. 7 children got wounded as a result of violence in the year of 2015 when 13 children lost their lives. 19 children committed suicide and 2 attempted suicide and 8 were exposed to sexual assault. We want to specify that we have assessed the murders of women and children not as isolated incidents but as a result of lack of constructive social policies.

Freedom of the press in Turkey was not exposed to such suppression in the recent history. We have been experiencing a period in which the political power makes the press organs and members target under the name of political criticism. We want to state that a terrifying censorship and suppression is formed on the freedom of press by such practices as detention and arrestments, investigations and filing suit, dismissals, denying access to news sites, torture and maltreatment, and making news follow-up difficult. Violations of the freedom of thought, expression and organization did not lose any momentum in the same way. While the declaration drawn up by the academicians in hundreds calling for peace has been exposed to political lynch, in our region, 783 people - including university students and politicians - were exposed to investigations and suits, and again in the investigations and suits, 413 people were imposed to varied and unduly penalties in the year of 2015. When it comes violations economic and social rights, 535 people were made redundant, 27 people were exposed to administrative investigations and 26 people were banished.

We believe that this chart filled with the violations of the right to live in our country must change. Because, the violations in our report could be prevented. On this basis, we hope that this conflicting environment is to be over at once and a permanent nonconflicting state and the resolution process are to be negotiated by the parties over again. We wish a life in which human rights violations are over and that is filled with social peace, justice, freedoms and dignity.

**DIYARBAKIR BRANCH OF
HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION**

BALANCE SHEET OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN 2015

VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIVE		
	DEAD	INJURED
EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION (Arbitrary Killing, Violation of the Right to Use Weapon and the People Killed and Injured Disobeying Stop Warning)		
People Killed or Injured by Police and Gendarmerie	154	253
People Killed or Injured by Village Guards		2
People Killed or Injured in Prisons	3	
People Killed or Injured by Unidentified Assaults	43	522
People Killed or Injured due to Formal Defect and Neglect	16	7
SUICIDES / SUSPICIOUS DEATHS OF POLICE OR SOLDIER		
Suicides committed by Police or Soldier / Attempted Suicides	8	1
Suspicious Deaths of Police and Soldier	15	2
PEOPLE ASSAULTED		
Member / Executive of Political Party, Union, and Association	1	10
Journalist	2	8
Teacher / Academic Member		10
Student		13
Local Administrator	2	4
Worker		4
Religious Official		1
Lawyer	1	1
Doctor		9
Medical Staff		5
Sportsman		3
ARMED CONFLICTS		
Security Officer	150	406
Armed Militant	189	6
Civilians	17	47
TOTAL	356	459
<i>Note: Security officers killed or injured by explosives are included in this table.</i>		
CIVILIANS DIED OR INJURED BY THE ACTIONS OF ILLEGAL ORGANIZATIONS	1	4
DEATHS AND INJURIES ON BORDER LINES	28	38

DEATHS AND INJURIES AS RESULT OF MINE AND UNCLAIMED BOMB EXPLOSION

Men	1	5
Children	4	23

SUSPICIOUS DEATHS

Men	20	
Women	18	
Children	8	

SUICIDE (Men)

	15	1
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VIOLATIONS CAUSED BY CONFLICTING ENVIRONMENT

Forest and Field Burning		9
Ban on Field, Summer Range, Meadow and Pasture		65
Violations as a Result of Military Operations		1
Curfew		59
Denied Corpses of Militants		23
Maltreatment to Corpses of Militants		15
Disrespect Against Funeral of Militants		7
Claim for Compensation from the Families of the Militants		8
Claims of Mass Graves		
	Number of Graves	6
	Number of People	67
Revealed Mass Graves		
	Number of Graves	1
	Number of People	13
Losses and Extrajudicial Executions in Custody		
	Number of Graves	
	Number of People	

VIOLATIONS OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO LIVE

Suicides of Women

Suicide	23
Attempted Suicide	5

Women Exposed to Domestic Violence

	Dead	21
	Injured	9
Women Exposed to Violence in Public Sphere		
	Dead	9
	Injured	2
	Rape	1
	Assault	12
VIOLATIONS OF CHILDRENS' RIGHT TO LIVE		
Children Suicides		
	Suicide	19
	Attempted Suicide	2
Children Exposed to Domestic Violence		
	Dead	7
Children Exposed to Violence in Public Sphere		
	Dead	6
	Injured	6
	Rape	4
	Assault	4
TORTURE BAN		
TORTURE, MALTREATMENT, DEGRADING AND HUMILIATING TREATMENT AND PUNISHMENT		
Torture and Maltreatment Under Custody		101
Torture and Maltreatment by Village Guards		5
Torture and Maltreatment out of Custody		106
Torture in Prisons		36
Kidnapping and Threats for Agency		5
People Threatened		37
People Beaten or Injured by Security Forces During Demonstrations		130
Torture and Maltreatment by Private Security Guards		1
Violence in School		2
VIOLATIONS OF FREEDOM AND SECURITY OF PEOPLE		
People Detained		

**HRA EASTERN AND SOUTHEASTERN ANATOLIA REGION
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	Adult	4987
	Children	400
	TOTAL	5387
People Arrested		
	Adult	1130
	Children	66
	TOTAL	1196
House Raids		
		2883
People Detained by the Militants of the Organization		
		82
<i>VIOLATIONS OF FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION</i>		
Publications Collected and Banned		25
Newspapers and Media Organs Raided		3
Internet Sites Blocked		106
Violations of Freedom of Mother Language		8
INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED AGAINST PEOPLE EXPRESSING THEIR THOUGHTS		
	Number of Investigations	34
	Number of People	267
CASES OPENED AGAINST PEOPLE EXPRESSING THEIR THOUGHTS		
	Number of Cases	9
	Number of People	20
PUNISHMENTS IMPOSED ON PEOPLE EXPRESSING THEIR THOUGHTS		
	Number of Files	42
	Number of People	286
<i>VIOLATIONS OF FREEDOM OF ORGANIZATION</i>		
Political Party, Union, Association and Cultural Institutions Raided		
	Political Party	27
	Association	19
	Educational and Cultural Institutions	3
	Others	8
Political Party, Union, Association and Cultural Institutions Closed or Desired to be Closed		
	Association	3

VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO ASSEMBLY AND DEMONSTRATION

Meeting and Demonstrations Intervened by Security Forces	113
Meetings and Demonstrations Postponed and Banned	2
Investigations Conducted	2

VIOLATIONS IN PRISONS

Transfer Practices	286
Violations of Right to Health	84
Prisoners Whose Family Visits Blocked	2
Lockdown and Isolation	74
Prisoners Imposed to Disciplinary Punishment	3
Prisoners Whose Right to Communicate etc Blocked	22
Other Violations in Prisons	11

VIOLATIONS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

Occupational Accidents	
People Died in Occupational Accidents	14
People Injured in Occupational Accidents	47
People Discharged	535
Administrative Investigations	27
Punishments Imposed	13
People Exiled	26
People not Paid	201

VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

People Undergone Investigations by Disciplinary Board of Universities	469
People Received Punishment by Disciplinary Board of Universities	114
Students Investigated (Before Higher Education)	16
Students Received Suspension (Before Higher Education)	6
Students Expelled	10

<i>OTHER VIOLATIONS</i>	
Violations of Right to Health	529
Claims of Blacklisting	873
Violations of Right to Housing	12
Violations of Right to Travel	1
Violations of 2015 General Parliamentary Election	700
OTHER APPLICATIONS	132
TOTAL NUMBER OF VIOLATIONS	17640

NOTE: Within the first 3 months of 2015, 265 applications to Diyarbakir Branch, 15 applications to Van Branch, 10 applications to Batman Branch, 5 applications to Mus Branch, 5 applications to Urfa Branch, 5 applications to Antep Branch and 1 application to Elazığ branch of our association were filed.

DIYARBAKIR BRANCH OF HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION
DOCUMENTATION DEPARTMENT

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