



1986

HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION
DİYARBAKIR BRANCH

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FREE ELECTIONS

STATE-APPOINTED TRUSTEES TO MUNICIPALITIES
THE DETENTION AND ARREST OF MUNICIPAL MAYORS
AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

4 November 2019-DİYABAKIR

CONTENTS

- **INTRODUCTION**
- **FACT SHEET ON VIOLATIONS HAPPENING AFTER 31ST March 2019 LOCAL ELECTIONS**
- **DETAILED INFORMATION ON VIOLATIONS HAPPENING AFTER 31ST March 2019 LOCAL ELECTIONS**

INTRODUCTION

The Government declared a country-wide state of emergency following the failed military coup on 15 July 2016. The state of emergency, which was updated in 3-month periods and continued for 2 years, was turned into an authoritarian tool against the opposition groups. With the emergency decree laws (aka. Presidential Law), numerous human rights violations of rights in the fields of freedom of thought and expression, freedom of press, right to vote, economic and social rights, and personal security arose. The state of emergency, during which the obligations of the government within the scope of the constitution and international conventions were ignored, became an instrument of arbitrary practices of the Government, and social groups opposing anti-democratic practices were threatened with imprisonment or deprived of their economic and social rights. Although the state of emergency was abolished legally, it continues to be implemented especially in our region. Prohibitions and interventions going beyond the scope of the state of emergency still continue to occur.

One of the areas where the most serious violations have been experienced since the state of emergency is the practices and decisions that are against the right to free elections. During the state of emergency, the practices, which led to serious human rights violations, manifested itself as the appointment of state-trustees to supersede 93 DBP (Democratic Regions Party) municipal mayors (out of 102 DBP municipalities in total), and more than 65 municipal co- mayors (*translator's note: co-mayor: a legally elected HDP or BDP mayor works with an associate of opposite gender to promote gender equality and both persons are referred as co-mayors. The other is usually an elected councillor*) were arrested by decree laws. We would like to point out that the co-mayors of many municipalities are still in detention.

The same practices as those in the state of emergency period have continued since local elections on 31 March 2019. Those who were elected as co-mayors, councillors and mukhtars (neighbour representatives) could not get their certificates of election on the grounds that they had been expelled by decree laws before the elections. The municipal co-mayors and municipal councillors, the majority of whom were candidates from the Peoples' Democratic Party, were confirmed to be eligible for election by the Supreme Board of Elections. However, after the end of the elections, the municipal co-mayors and councillors were not given their certificates, but instead the certificates were given to other candidates, which means state-trustee appointments began. Since 31 March 2019, the co-mayors of 6 municipalities have not been granted their legal rights and documents on the grounds that they had been dismissed from their position by state of emergency decrees previously, and some other mayoral candidates losing the elections were declared as mayors. Furthermore, previously dismissed and newly elected 47 persons (43 candidates to municipal councils and 4 members to the Provincial Assembly (or Council)) were not granted their certificates. The co-mayors of 15 municipalities (3 metropolitan, 1 provincial and 11 district municipalities) were removed from office on various charges and replaced by trustees. In this process, a total of 26 co-mayors, 18 of whom were officially elected, were detained and 13 co-mayors, 9 of whom were officially elected, were arrested. In addition, 4 female co-mayors and 9 female municipal councillors were not granted their certificates despite being elected, and after the election, 9 female municipal co-mayors were dismissed from office and replaced by trustees. This also shows that women's identity is clearly targeted in politics and local administrations.

Principle of local administration is the oldest and deep-rooted form of decentralization. 127/4 of the Constitution reads as follows: "Loss of status and objections regarding the acquisition of the status of elected organs of local administrations shall be decided by judiciary. However, as

an interim measure until the final court judgment, the Minister of Interior may remove from office those organs of local administration or their members against whom an investigation or prosecution has been initiated on grounds of offences related to their duties.” With this provision, it is regulated that the elected bodies of local administrations can be dismissed as a temporary measure only if an investigation or prosecution is launched against them for a crime related to their duties. To conclude, for the dismissal of a mayor or a councillor, an investigation or prosecution should first be opened and this investigation / prosecution should be opened for a crime related to their duties. Even in this case, the dismissal measure is not mandatory but optional. However, these investigations, which are put forward as reasons for the trustee appointments, are the ones that were initiated before most of them were elected as mayors. We would like to point out in particular that investigations initiated before taking office could not have been opened on a criminal charge about their duties. As can be seen in the example of Adnan Selçuk Mızraklı, co-mayor of Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality, all those processes were not legally conducted seeing that the government correspondence regarding his removal from office was dated 01 April 2019, one day after the election day, and that the election results had not been announced and he had not reported for duty till then. After the election of the co-mayor and the elected officials of the municipality in which a trustee was appointed, it is obvious that no investigation or prosecution was started against him for a crime related to his duty.

The administrative autonomy of the municipalities was restricted by the Government unlawfully by the appointment of a trustee, and the municipal administration was connected to the central government as the municipal administration was completely abolished due to the appointment of the local governor as a trustee (*t/n: a governor is a state official appointed by the central government to a province or district to represent the central government and carry out certain duties; she/he is not an elected local administrator*).

Article 47 of the Law no. 5393 states that the bodies of the municipalities or the members of these bodies under investigation or being prosecuted over an offence related to their duties may be dismissed by the Minister of Interior until the final provision by the court, and there is no provision in this article regarding how the assignment shall be made. Article 45 of the same law stipulates that in case of dismissal due to a crime he has committed regarding his duty, a deputy mayor will be elected by the city council among its members. However, as it can be seen in all the places where a trustee was assigned after the dismissal of the elected mayors, the highest government official of that place was appointed as a trustee, which is contrary to law.

Article 44 of the Law No. 5393 clarifies under which conditions the status of a mayor would be terminated, and Article 45 resolves the procedures to be carried out in the event of the discharge of the mayor. An additional paragraph was added to this article, which was amended by Article 38 of the Decree Law no 674, issued on 18.08.2016 (later enacted by a resolution of parliament on 10 November 2016, Law no. 6758, Article 34). Trustee appointments have been made in accordance with this regulation. Furthermore, although it is based on a decree issued during the state of emergency and its implementation under the Constitution should be limited to that period, we would like to state that it was unconstitutional to perpetuate this practice as it was not submitted to the approval of the Turkish Parliament in due of time.

The mayors’ removal from office and being replaced by a government trustee without an investigation or a prosecution over an offence related to his duty is a violation of the Constitution, the Law 5393, and the will of the people, and it undermines the democratic order that must be protected.

We would like to mention that the Kurdish problem is Turkey's most important one, and unfortunately we have been experiencing severe forms of devastation as a result of not solving the problem. The Government's understanding of problem-solving methods based on war and violence deepens all kinds of crises the country has faced. Nevertheless, the government insists on its authoritarian and violent policies. These severe violations of the right to elect and to be elected have caused severe destruction in the understanding of democratic rule of law and increased polarization in society. These unlawful practices against the elected have almost brought an end to the public's trust in the elections. Making the elections meaningless is a great danger for the notion of democracy. The fact that such decisions are carried out without judicial supervision in an arbitrary manner, and with impunity; in other words, disregarding the right to free election, which is the basis of democracy, can lead to irreparable damages.

As a result, we would like to state that the best way of Turkey's democratization and minimizing the violations of human rights is to assure the right to free election, to end the ongoing armed conflict, and to resolve the Kurdish problem by means of peaceful methods and dialogue.

HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION (HRA)
DİYARBAKIR BRANCH

FACT SHEET on VIOLATIONS FOLLOWING 31 MARCH 2019 LOCAL ELECTIONS

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION NOT SUBMITTED TO WINNERS			TOTAL
CO-MAYORS	Officially Elected	6	14
	Other	8	
MEMBERS OF MUNICIPAL COUNCILS			43
MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL COUNCILS			4

REMOVAL FROM OFFICE-TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT			TOTAL
TRUSTEE-APPOINTED MUNICIPALITIES	Metropolitan Municipality	3	15
	Municipality	1	
	District/County Municipality	11	
Arrested Co-Mayors	Officially Elected	9	13
	Other	4	
Co-Mayors Removed from Office			15
Municipal Council Members Removed from Office			37

DETENTION-ARRESTS¹		
Municipal Co-Mayors	Detained	26 (officially 18)
	Arrested	13 (officially 9)
Council Members	Detained	40
	Arrested	11

PROTESTS AGAINST TRUSTEES	TOTAL
Police Intervention	60
²Detained during Protests by the Police	224

¹ It includes data on detention and arrests of HDP Municipal Co-Mayors and members of the councils since 31 March 2019.

² Data on those detained in the interventions by security forces against protests applies to 19-26 August 2019. The number in the fact sheet is to be considered as ‘the minimum number’.

DETAILED INFORMATION ON VIOLATIONS HAPPENING AFTER THE LOCAL ELECTIONS ON 31 MARCH 2019

CO-MAYORS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

WHO WERE NOT GRANTED THEIR ELECTION CERTIFICATES

In the local elections held on March 31, 2019, the application of the candidates was approved by the Supreme Board of Elections (YSK), but the municipal co-mayors and councillors who won the elections were not given their certificates of election on the grounds that they had previously been expelled from the public institutions and professions by state of emergency decree-laws.

In a statement made on 10 April 2019 after a meeting, the Supreme Electoral Council decided that the winning candidates having been dismissed by order of decree-laws previously should not be given the certificate of election, but instead the candidate finishing in the second place would take the certificate. It was learned that this decision was taken in accordance with the provisions of the relevant law and the Decree Law, which read as follows: "Those who have been dismissed in this way cannot be employed in public service again, and may not work in public institutions and organizations". It was learned that the decision not to give certificates was unanimously adopted and the decision to assign the one in the second place was approved by majority vote. The 4 members who disagreed with the majority rule stated that the election should be renewed in these places.

The names of Municipal Co-Mayors, and of Members of Municipal and Provincial Councils, whose candidacies had been validated by the Supreme Court of Elections, but not declared winners are as follows:

A- Co-Mayors Whose Certificates were Revoked (Legally Elected Mayors)

1. Bağlar District Municipality, Diyarbakır : Zeyyat Ceylan
2. Çaldıran District Municipality, Van : Leyla Atsak,
3. Edremit District Municipality, Van : Gülcan Kaçmaz Sağyiğit,
4. Tuşba District Municipality, Van : Yılmaz Berki,
5. Tekman District Municipality, Erzurum : Müzahit Karakuş,
6. Dağpınar *Belde* Municipality, Digor District, Kars : Abubekir Erkmən
(t/n: *belde*: a type of small rural town)

B- Legally Elected Municipal Councillors Assigned as Co-Mayors and Whose Certificates were Revoked

1. Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality : Hülya Alökmen Uyanık
2. Diyarbakır-Yenişehir District Municipality : İbrahim Çiçek
3. Diyarbakır-Kayapınar District Municipality : Necati Pirinççioğlu
4. Hakkari Municipality : Seher Kadiroğlu Ataş
5. Mardin-Kızıltepe District Municipality : Salih Kuday
6. Mardin-Savur District Municipality : Mehmet Yasin Kalkan

7. **Siirt Municipality** : Resul Kaçar
8. **Van-Erciş District Municipality** : Mahmut Pala

C- Elected Municipal Councillors Whose Certificates were Revoked

1. **Ağrı-Taşlıçay District Municipal Councillor** Fecri Aydın
2. **Batman Municipal Councillor** Ahmet Yılmaz
3. **Batman Municipal Councillor** Erkan Kaygusuz
4. **Batman Municipal Councillor** Mustafa Yurtsever
5. **Batman Municipal Councillor** Reşat Akıncı
6. **Batman Municipal Councillor** Abdulmecit Çeken
7. **Batman Municipal Councillor** Ahmet Aslan
8. **Bitlis-Tatvan District Municipal Councillor** Saffetullah Akyüz
9. **Bitlis-Tatvan District Municipal Councillor** Veysi Altıntaş
10. **Diyarbakır-Yenişehir District Municipal Councillor** Ramazan Akkoç
11. **Diyarbakır-Kayapınar District Municipal Councillor** Neriman Baran Yiğit
12. **Diyarbakır-Kayapınar District Municipal Councillor** Amber Ceylan Ak
13. **Diyarbakır-Kayapınar District Municipal Councillor** Mehmet Vecih Aydoğan
14. **Diyarbakır-Kayapınar District Municipal Councillor** Dilan Yakut
15. **Diyarbakır-Kayapınar District Municipal Councillor** Eser Özbek
16. **Diyarbakır-Kayapınar District Municipal Councillor** Ali İhsan Karahan
17. **Diyarbakır-Kayapınar District Municipal Councillor** Yusuf Gezer
18. **Diyarbakır-Kayapınar District Municipal Councillor** Süleyman Okur
19. **Diyarbakır-Bağlar District Municipal Councillor** Hava Karahancı
20. **Diyarbakır-Bağlar District Municipal Councillor** Şükran Şimşek
21. **Diyarbakır-Bağlar District Municipal Councillor** Derya Berktaş Açmaz
22. **Diyarbakır-Bağlar District Municipal Councillor** Sevgi Süer
23. **Diyarbakır-Bağlar District Municipal Councillor** Abdulkadir Önen
24. **Diyarbakır-Bağlar District Municipal Councillor** Aziz Turay
25. **Diyarbakır-Dicle District Municipal Councillor** Songül Can Şimşek
26. **Diyarbakır-Sur District Municipal Councillor** Berivan Savaş Apaçık
27. **Diyarbakır-Ergani District Municipal Councillor** Müslüm Öcay
28. **Diyarbakır-Ergani District Municipal Councillor** Erdal Tekdemir
29. **Iğdır Municipal Councillor** Yılmaz Hun
30. **Mardin-Kızıltepe District Municipal Councillor** Şeyhmus Akbaba
31. **Mardin-Kızıltepe District Municipal Councillor** Mehmet Ali Çiçek
32. **Mardin-Derik District Municipal Councillor** Mehmet Gezici
33. **Muş-Varto District Municipal Councillor** Hakkı Bingöl
34. **Siirt Municipal Councillor** Fatma Kayar
35. **Siirt-Kurtalan District Municipal Councillor** Ercan Başar
36. **Urfa-Bozova District Municipal Councillor** Müslüm Kuşçu
37. **Urfa-Suruç District Municipal Councillor** Reşat Demirkol
38. **Urfa-Suruç District Municipal Councillor** Osman Kaya
39. **Urfa-Viranşehir District Municipal Councillor** Abdulcelil Çelebi

40. **Şırnak-Cizre District Municipal Councillor** Dünder Yağarcık
41. **Van-İpekyolu District Municipal Councillor** Salih Kara
42. **Van-İpekyolu District Municipal Councillor** Mesude Demir
43. **Van-İpekyolu District Municipal Councillor** Sibel Harman Tertemiz

D- Elected Provincial Councillors Whose Certificates were Revoked

1. **Ağrı-Doğubayazıt District Provincial Councillor** Sabri Karayel
2. **Hakkari-Yüksekova District Provincial Councillor** Deniz Öztekin
3. **Hakkari-Yüksekova District Provincial Councillor** Ferhat Özdil
4. **Şırnak Provincial Councillor** Selahattin Barınç

REMOVAL FROM OFFICE AND GOVERNMENT-APPOINTED TRUSTEES

Following the local elections held on March 31, 2019, the trustee appointments, the dismissed municipal co-mayors and councillors are as follows:

A- CO –MAYORS REMOVED FROM OFFICE AND REPLACED BY TRUSTEES

1. Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality

On 19 August 2019 Adnan Selçuk Mızraklı, co-mayor of Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality, was dismissed and Hasan Basri Güzeloğlu, Governor of Diyarbakır, was appointed as a trustee. Mızraklı was taken into custody by the gendarmerie on 21 October 2019 and arrested on 22 October 2019 over being a member of a terrorist organization.

2. Diyarbakır / Bismil District Municipality

Co-Mayor Orhan Ayaz was detained in his house after a police raid on 21 October 2019 and released on bail on 22 October 2019. Three separate investigations were filed against Ayaz charging him for propaganda of a terrorist organization, inciting hatred and enmity, and membership of an armed terrorist organization. Co-mayor Ayaz was replaced by District Governor Kerem-Süleyman Yüksel as the trustee.

3. Diyarbakır / Kayapınar District Municipality

Co-Mayor Keziban Yılmaz was detained in a house raid on 21 October 2019 and arrested on 22 October 2019 over being a member of a terrorist organization. While she was in custody, she was notified that she had been removed from office, and District Governor Ünal Koç was appointed as the trustee.

4. Diyarbakır / Kocaköy District Municipality

Co-Mayor Rojda Nazlier was detained in a house raid on 21 October 2019 and arrested on 22 October 2019 over being a member of a terrorist organization. While she was in custody, she was notified that she had been removed from office, and District Governor Yusuf Turhan was appointed as the trustee

5. Diyarbakır / Kulp District Municipality

On September 13, 2019, Kulp Municipality Co-Presidents Mehmet Fatih Taş and Fatma Ay were detained in the investigation initiated after the mine explosion that killed nine people during the passage of a minibus near the village of Ağaclar in Kulp district of Diyarbakır on 12 September 2019. After the police took their statements, the two co-mayors, who were brought to the court, were arrested. On September 17, 2019, Mustafa Gözlet, the district governor of the Kulp, was appointed as the trustee.

6. Erzurum / Karayazı Municipality

On 17 September 2019, Karayazı Co-Mayor Melike Göksu, detained in a facility outside the city of Karayazı on the way to Aydın from Karayazı district of Erzurum Province, was arrested after the court sentenced him to 7 years and 6 months. (*Göksu had been arrested on charges of "being a member of the organization" on 10 July 2017 and released after being detained for 5 months. After the Supreme Court of Appeals approved the punishment, the arrest warrant was issued for Göksu.*) On 18 September 2019, Karayazı Co-Mayor Melike Göksu was removed from office and District Governor Mesut Tabakcioğlu was assigned as the trustee.

7. Hakkari Municipality

On 15 October 2019, Hakkari Municipality Co-Mayor Cihan Karaman was detained during house raids by police in Hakkari. Co-chair Karaman was transferred to the courthouse 17 October 2019 after his statement was taken. He was arrested over the allegations of membership of a terrorist organization and terrorist propaganda. Provincial Governor İdris Akbıyık was appointed as the trustee.

8. Hakkari / Yüksekova District Municipality

On 15 October 2019, during police raids in Yüksekova district of Hakkari Province, the co-mayors Remziye Yaşar and İrfan Sarı were detained. Co-mayors were arrested on charges of membership of an armed organization and terrorist propaganda on 17 October 2019. Co-mayor Remziye Yaşar was dismissed from service on 18 October 2019. District Governor Osman Doğramacı was assigned as the trustee in her office.

9. Mardin Metropolitan Municipality

On 19 August 2019, Ahmet Türk, the co-mayor of Mardin Metropolitan City, was dismissed from service and replaced by Mardin Governor Mustafa Yaman.

10. Mardin / Nusaybin District Municipality

On 15 October 2019, co-mayors Semire Nergiz and Ferhat Kut were detained in house raids in Nusaybin District of Mardin Province. It was learned that the co-mayors were arrested on 17 October 2019 on charges of "being a member of an armed organization". On 18 October 2019, Mehmet Balik, the district governor of Nusaybin, was appointed as the trustee in place of Semire Nergiz, who was removed from office.

11. Mardin / Kızıltepe District Municipality

On 4 November 2019, Nilüfer Elik Yılmaz was dismissed from service by order of Ministry of Interior and District Governor Hüseyin Çam was commissioned as trustee.

12. Şırnak / Cizre District Municipality

On 29 October 2019, Cizre Municipality Co-Mayor Mehmet Zırığ was temporarily suspended from his post by the Ministry of Interior on the grounds of ongoing lawsuits and investigations against him. District Governor Mehmet Zırığ was appointed as a trustee.

13. Van Metropolitan Municipality

On 19 August 2019, Bedia Özgökçe Ertan, Co-Mayor of the Van Metropolitan Municipality, was dismissed from service and replaced by Van Governor Mehmet Emin Bilmez as a trustee.

14. Van / Erciş District Municipality

On 15 October 2019, during police raids in Erciş district of Van Province, the co-mayors Yıldız Çetin and Bayram Çiçek were detained. Co-mayors were arrested on charges of membership of an armed organization and terrorist propaganda on 22 October 2019. Co-mayor Yıldız Çetin was dismissed from service on 22 October 2019. District Governor Nuri Mehmetbeyoğlu was assigned as the trustee in her office.

15. Van / Saray District Municipality

Co-mayor Caziye Duman of Saray District Municipality, who was detained on 01 November 2019, was suspended from her post by the Ministry of Interior. District Governor Mehmet Halis Aydın was appointed as a trustee.

B- Members of Municipal Councils Removed from Office

1. **Bitlis-Tatvan District Municipal Councillor** Serap Çakmak Genç
2. **Bitlis-Tatvan District Municipal Councillor** Diyar Orak
3. **Bitlis-Tatvan District Municipal Councillor** Suat Yetişkin
4. **Bitlis-Tatvan District Municipal Councillor** Ahmet Sağnıç
5. **Bitlis-Tatvan District Municipal Councillor** İsa Taş
6. **Bitlis-Tatvan District Municipal Councillor** Şükrü Aydemir
7. **Bitlis-Tatvan District Municipal Councillor** Mehmet Nedim Türemiş

8. **Bitlis-Tatvan District Municipal Councillor** Çetin Yılmaz
9. **Bitlis-Tatvan District Municipal Councillor** Selami Karahan
10. **Diyarbakır-Bağlar District Municipal Councillor** Nurettin Bakan
11. **Diyarbakır-Bağlar District Municipal Councillor** Mehmet Akdoğan
12. **Diyarbakır-Bağlar District Municipal Councillor** Halime Bayram
13. **Diyarbakır-Bağlar District Municipal Councillor** Hüsnü Aslan
14. **Diyarbakır-Bağlar District Municipal Councillor** Naşide Bulut Tekincan
15. **Diyarbakır-Bağlar District Municipal Councillor** Panayır Çelik
16. **Diyarbakır-Kayapınar District Municipal Councillor** Adnan Akgül
17. **Muş Municipal Councillor** Kader Erol
18. **Muş Municipal Councillor** Filiz Aydın
19. **Muş Municipal Councillor** Ceyhan Aydemir
20. **Muş Municipal Councillor** Suat Kalın
21. **Muş Municipal Councillor** Mehmet Şakir Tuğrul
22. **Muş Municipal Councillor** Musa Kaya
23. **Muş Municipal Councillor** Mehmet Demir
24. **Van-Çaldıran District Municipal Councillor** Faruk Demir
25. **Van-Çaldıran District Municipal Councillor** Pınar Demir
26. **Van-Çaldıran District Municipal Councillor** Necmettin Şahin
27. **Van-Çaldıran District Municipal Councillor** Hülya Darak
28. **Van-Çaldıran District Municipal Councillor** Mehmet Sıddık Moraner
29. **Van-Edremit District Municipal Councillor** Medeni Özer
30. **Van-Edremit District Municipal Councillor** Savaş Encü
31. **Van-Edremit District Municipal Councillor** Sevinç Şeker
32. **Van-Edremit District Municipal Councillor** Atiye Şen
33. **Van-Tuşba District Municipal Councillor** Ercan Yılboğa
34. **Van-Tuşba District Municipal Councillor** İsmet Tan
35. **Van-Tuşba District Municipal Councillor** Mizgin Bor
36. **Van-Tuşba District Municipal Councillor** Serap Güvenç
37. **Van-Tuşba District Municipal Councillor** Hatice Kiye

DETAINED AND/OR ARRESTED CO-MAYORS AND COUNCILLORS

HDP co-mayors and councillors who were detained and arrested since the local elections on 31 March 2019 were as follows:

On April 11, 2019, Patnos Municipality Council Member Erdal Altay was detained in the workplace raid in Patnos district of Ağrı. Altay, who was brought to the court after the procedures at the police station on 14 April 2019, was arrested on the grounds that he had been sentenced to 3 years 45 days over "committing a crime on behalf of a terrorist organization without being a member of the organization."

Leyla Atsak, who was elected as the co-mayor of the district but her certificate was not issued on the grounds that she had previously been dismissed from service by a state of emergency

decree-law, was taken into custody during the simultaneous house raids organized by police and gendarmerie in Çaldıran district of Van on 21 May 2019. Atsak was sent to the courthouse after her statement was taken on 24 May 2019 in the police department and released.

On 27 June 2019, during the house raid conducted by the police in Ceylanpınar district of Urfa, Dilan Ablay, a member of the HDP Municipality Council, was detained together with her family members.

Karayazı Co-Mayor Burhanettin Şahin and the District Council Members Yüksel Kişin, Erdal Bayram, Mahmut Çimendağ and Metropolitan Municipality Council Member Mehmet Latif Karakuş were detained during the house raids in the Karayazı district of Erzurum Province on 11 July 2019. It was learned that after their statements were taken, on 16 July 2019, all were released by the court.

Bağlar District Municipal Councillor Nursel Örmek was detained on 23 July 2019 by the police, following a house raid.

On 24 July 2019, Co-mayor Ferhat Kut and Councillor Mehmet Emin Alkan were taken into custody in Nusaybin district of Mardin. Within the scope of the same investigation, Bismil Municipality Co-Mayor Gülşen Özer was detained during the police raid in Diyarbakır. It was learned that the co-mayors and councillors, who were taken into custody, were released after giving their statements on 30 July 2019.

On 2 August 2019, during the house raids in Patnos district of Ağrı, Mehmet Şahin Savcı, a member of the Municipal Council, was taken into custody and arrested on 5 August 2019.

During house raids on 6 August 2019 in Bitlis city centre and Tatvan district, HDP Provincial Councillor Medeni Yalçınkaya was detained.

Following the appointment of a trustee to Diyarbakır, Mardin and Van Metropolitan Municipalities, the Ministry of Interior announced on August 19, 2019 that 418 people, including municipal councillors, party executives and executives of various associations, were detained in the operations carried out in 29 provinces. Data on detainees verified as follows: There were arrest warrants issued for 187 people Diyarbakır and at least 99 of them were taken into custody. 12 people were detained in the house raids in Tekman and Karakoçan districts of Erzurum. During the house raids in Ahlat district of Bitlis, 8 people including Nihat Çağlayan, a member of the Provincial Council, were taken into custody. During the raids in Dersim, HDP Party Assembly member Dursun Demirtas was detained. 40 out of 85 people who were detained during the operations carried out in Diyarbakır were released by the court on 22 August 2019 and 1 person was arrested over the allegations of being a member of a terrorist organization '.
** This data is not reflected in the statistics, it is kept in the report because it has data related to the period.*

On 28 August 2019, İsmail Bardakçı, a member of the municipal council of Kayapınar District of Diyarbakır, was taken into custody.

On 29 August 2019, during the house raids in Suruç District of Urfa, HDP municipal councillors Fatma Taş Ekmez and Suphi Koçyiğit were detained.

Protesting against the appointment of a trustee to HDP municipalities, 7 people were detained on 3 September 2019 in Turgut Özal Boulevard in Bağlar district of Diyarbakır. The names of

the detainees are as follows: *Lice Municipality Co-Mayors Tarık Mercan and Ruken Yılmaz and Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality Council members Sevim Çoşkun and Şehriban Zuğurlu, Leyla Karak Keçi, Algeria Çaytaş, Ceylan Çelik*. It was confirmed that 7 of the detained were released on 6 September 2019.

On 12 September 2019, an explosion occurred during the passage of a vehicle in the village of Ağaçkorur in Kulp district of Diyarbakır. 7 people, 3 of them village guards, were killed and 10 people were injured. On September 13, 2019, Kulp Municipality Co-Mayor Mehmet Fatih Taş, HDP Kulp District Co-Mayor Abidin Karaman and Şener Aktaş, the Director of Public Works and Engineering of Kulp Municipality, were detained for the allegations of links to the explosion. On September 16, 2019, it was learned that Kulp Municipality Co-Mayor Fatma Ay and Mehmet Emin Ay, whose candidacy for mayorship had been rejected, were taken into custody. Following the completion of police operations, 5 people were taken to the Kulp District Court and were arrested *because of the features of the crime, the fact that the investigation is in progress, the possibility of obtaining new evidence, strong criminal suspicion and their denying the accusations in an attempt to get away with the criminal offence*.

On 17 September 2019, Karayazı Municipality Co-Mayor Melike Göksu was detained during house raids in Karayazı district of Erzurum. Göksu, transferred on the same day to the courthouse after the statement procedures at the police department were completed, was arrested on the grounds that she had a prison sentence to serve.

On 29 September 2019, during the house raids organized by the police in Dersim, Nurgül Yalay, a member of the Municipal Council, was taken into custody and released on bail on 02 October 2019.

On 6 October 2019, after a house raid by the police in Suruç district of Urfa, Ahmet Örçin, a member of Suruç Municipality Council, was taken into custody.

During simultaneous house raids in the centre and the districts of Mardin on 10-11 October 2019, Co-mayor Şerif Kıran of Derik Municipality, Councillor Mehmet Ali Amal of Artuklu Municipality, Kızıltepe's Municipal Councillors Hasip Özdemir and Halil Yağın, Savur Municipal Councillor Derya Akyol, Dargeçit Municipal Councillors Ismail Kaya, and Nusaybin Municipal Councillors Nazim Kök and Nezir Özbey were detained.

On 10 October 2019, during house raids in Urfa city center and districts Halil Sarıkaya, Birecik Municipality Councillor; Naime Bayram, Halfeti Councillor, and Viranşehir Municipality Councillor Kemal Kudin were taken into custody.

On 11 October 2019, it was learned that police detained co-mayors Gülşen Özer and Orhan Ayaz of Bismil district of Diyarbakır. Co-mayors were detained in the city hall for social media posts, but later were released by the prosecutor's office.

Fehime Saruhan, a member of Silopi Municipality Council, was detained in the house raids by the police in Cizre and Silopi districts of Şırnak on 13 October 2019 and remanded over the charges of "being a member of a terrorist organization" on 14 October 2019.

Police raided homes in Hakkari and Yüksekova districts on 15 October 2019. During these operations, Hakkari Municipality Co-Mayor Cihan Karaman and Yüksekova Municipality Co-Mayors Remziye Yaşar and İrfan Sarı were taken into custody. They were arrested over "membership in a terrorist organization" and "propaganda on behalf of terrorist organisations".

On 15 October 2019, co-mayors Semire Nergiz and Ferhat Kut were detained in house raids in Nusaybin District of Mardin Province. It was learned that they were arrested on 17 October 2019 for "being a member of a terrorist organization". On 18 October 2019, Mehmet Balik, the district governor of Nusaybin, was appointed as the trustee in place of Semire Nergiz, who was removed from office.

On 15 October 2019, in the house raids organized by the police within the scope of the investigation carried out by the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office in Erciş district of Van, Erciş Co-mayors Yıldız Çetin and Bayram Çiçek and 13 members of Municipal Council were detained. On 22 October, Co-mayor Yıldız Çetin and 8 councillors were arrested for being a member of a terrorist organization ve and propaganda on behalf of a terrorist organisation.

On 21 October 2019, Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality Co-Mayor Adnan Selçuk Mızraklı was detained by the gendarmerie in his home and arrested on 22 October 2019 for being a member of a terrorist organization.

On 21 October 2019, Co-Mayor Orhan Ayaz was detained in a house raid in Bismil district of Diyarbakır, and released on bail on 22 October 2019.

On 21 October 2019 Kayapınar Municipality Co-Mayor Keziban Yılmaz was detained during a house raid by the police and arrested on 22 October 2019 for being a member of a terrorist organization.

On 21 October 2019, Kocaköy Municipality Co-Mayor Rojda Nazlıer was detained in the house raid by the police in the district of Kocaköy in Diyarbakır. She was taken to court and arrested for being a member of a terrorist organisation.

PROTESTS AGAINST GOVERNMENT-APPOINTED TRUSTEES and VIOLATIONS OF RIGHT TO PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY

On 19 August 2019, the police intervened in the protests in Diyarbakır with gas bombs and water cannons. Protests and interventions continued throughout the day. There were reports that the citizens were injured and taken into custody.

On 19 August 2019, police intervened in the group including co-mayors and HDP MPs, who gathered in front of the Van Metropolitan Municipality building. No one was reported detained during the protests.

On 19 August 2019, police intervened against the group and HDP MPs and detained six people who wanted to make a press statement at Taksim Square in Istanbul.

On 19 August 2019, the police intervened to stop the press release on Sakarya Street in Ankara and detained 9 people including HDP Ankara Co-Chair Hüseyin Geveri. The detainees were released after the police interrogation on the same day.

On August 19, 2019, the police intervened in the press release in Sınırsızlık Square (Muğla) and detained 22 HDP members including HDP Party Assembly member Adalet Aydın. The detainees were released after the police interrogation.

On 20 August 2019, the police intervened with gas bombs and water cannons against the protesters in front of the Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality. HDP's Batman MP Ayşe Acar Başaran was injured due to police violence.

On August 20, 2019, the police used physical violence to prevent the protest against police blockade around the HDP Diyarbakır HQ. HDP Hakkari MP and DTK (Democratic Society Congress) Co-Chair Leyla Güven, HDP Diyarbakır MP Semra Güzel and HDP Muş MP Gülistan Koçyiğit were injured during the intervention.

On 20 August 2019, the police intervened in the protests in Van. As a result of the intervention, it was reported that 14 people were detained by using physical violence. HDP Ağrı MP Abdullah Koç and Van Municipal Co-Mayor Bedia Özgökçe Ertan were injured during the intervention.

On 20 August 2019, the police intervened in the protests by using pepper spray and plastic bullets. During the intervention, HDP Adana MP Tülay Hatimoğulları and HDP İzmir MP Serpil Kemalbay were taken to hospital. In addition, a group who wants to come to the centre of Mardin from Dargeçit district was prevented from entering the city centre. In the group were Mardin Metropolitan Municipality Council members Rıdvan Çelik, Fatma Duran and Hasan Arıkan, who were reportedly detained.

On 20 August 2019, the police forcibly intervened against lawyers who wanted to stage a protest in front of the Çağlayan Courthouse in Istanbul.

On 20 August 2019 the police intervened by force against the protestors in the district of Kadıköy in Istanbul. 16 people were taken into custody during the intervention. On 22 August 2019, the 16 detainees were released on bail by the court.

On 20 August 2019, the police intervened in the public gathering organised by Batıkent Solidarity Platform in Yenimahalle district of Ankara. One person named Murtaza Kocabaş was detained during the intervention.

Police intervened against the protest in Van on 21 August 2019. During the intervention, one person was detained by police using physical violence. Police detained the person while hitting him with a helmet, the footage of which appeared in social media and in the press. The statement made by Van Governorship on 21 August 2019 regarding the police violence read as follows *“The person who attacked was caught by force after police pursuit. The person had joined PKK terrorist organization in 2013 and surrendered to the security forces in the province of Diyarbakır in 2014. It was understood that he had many criminal records, as well as a psychological disorder (schizophrenia).”*

On 21 August 2019, the police responded to the protestors in Diyarbakır with tear gas and water cannons. At least 30 people were detained as a result of the intervention. During the intervention HDP MPs were also subjected to physical violence by the police and HDP Diyarbakır MP Remziye Tosun felt faint. Police also reportedly threatened to detain journalists following the protests.

On 21 August 2019, the police intervened in two separate press statements made by HDP members in Bodrum and Datça districts of Muğla, and detained forcibly 35 persons including

HDP Muğla Provincial Co-Chair Belgin Koç, HDP Datça Co-Chair Hürriyet Karadeniz and academicians Faruk Alpkaya and Zeliha Etöz. The detainees were released on 22 August 2019 their statements were taken at the police station on 22 August 2019.

On 21 August 2019, police intervened with pepper spray, water cannons and plastic bullets against those who wanted to protest in Van.

On 22 August 2019, member lawyers of ÇHD (Progressive Lawyers Association), ÖHD (Association of Lawyers for Freedom), and HRA (Human Rights Association) wanted to make a press statement in front of Bayraklı Courthouse to protest the appointment of government trustees to municipalities and the 10-day prohibition of public assemblies, issued by the İzmir Governor's Office. 26 lawyers and reporters Seyri Sokak and Oktay İnce were forcibly detained.

On 22 August 2019, police intervened and forcibly detained 9 people who want to perform a protest in Burhaniye District of Balıkesir Province. It was reported that the detainees were released on 23 August 2019 following judicial procedures.

On 22 August 2019, police intervened in the press release organised by Ankara Mamak Platform in Mamak district of Ankara. During the intervention, the police reportedly tried to handcuff B.A., a 12-year-old boy, and then they got him on the ground and stepped on his back. Police detained 17 people by physical violence. The 17 detainees were released on 23 August 2019 after the police interrogated them.

On 22 August 2019, the press release planned by HDP in Kadıköy District of Istanbul was prevented by the police who had blockaded the square.

On 22 August 2019, the police intervened in the protests in Mardin by using pepper gas, water cannons, and plastic bullets. 4 people were detained as a result of the intervention

On 24 August 2019, the police intervened in the press release in Van.

On 25 August 2019 the police intervened in the protest march in Van and reportedly detained 6 people by using physical violence. 6 people were released on the same day.

On 25 August 2019, police intervened violently with HDP MPs, who wanted to release a press statement in Karayollari Park in Mardin.

On 24 August 2019, the police intervened in the press statement planned by the Women Stronger Together Platform in Beşiktaş District of Istanbul and detained 23 women and journalist Taylan Öztaş by using physical violence. It was reported that the detainees were released after forensic examination on the same day.

On 23 August 2019, the police intervened in the press release organised by the HDP Youth Assembly in Kadıköy District of Istanbul and detained 11 people, including journalists Berfin Aslan and Mehmet Şahin. The detainees were released on 24 August 2019 by the court on condition of judicial control.

On 26 August 2019, the police prevented the press releases in Van, Mardin and Keçiören District of Ankara.