



## TURKEY'S 3<sup>RD</sup> UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) – 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020

### Fact Sheet on report

#### Abductions

Stakeholder submission by IAHRA Geneva (International Association for Human Rights Advocacy in Geneva), in cooperation with Foundation SERA (Stiftung für Erziehung, Ausbildung und Integration / Foundation for Education, Training and Integration).

#### SUMMARY

Mr. Erdogan referred to the coup attempt of July 15, 2016 as a "God's blessing" for himself, and accused the members of the Gulen Movement of being behind the coup, although the coup d'état was still underway and its military perpetrators were still unknown.

The Gulen Movement has been declared as a terrorist organization by Mr. Erdogan and a witch hunt has been launched. Widespread and intensive pressures, thousands of arrests, physical and psychological torture have been employed against its followers. Moreover, an extensive and global abduction practice has been set up by Turkey and since October 2016, more than 30 persons have been kidnapped and forcefully transported to Turkey in violation of the national and the international law. These people were subjected to physical and psychological torture, and were arrested later on in Turkey.

Mr. Erdogan controlled-MIT (National Intelligence Office) is responsible for these kidnapping, along with a small group within the intelligence organizations of the targeted countries.

It aims:

- To suppress suspicions in the opposition community about the attempted coup
- To justify the Erdogan-led regime's practices in Turkey by taking its discourse and perspective to the international arena
- To strengthen the claim of the Erdogan-led regime that Gulen and his followers have behind the coup attempt
- To force the members of the Gulen Movement to resort to violence and clashes
- To undermine the educational institutions run by the Gulen Movement abroad
- To intimidate those who know the truth about the coup attempt of July 15, 2016 and the wake of the graft and bribery scandals on December 17 and 25, 2013
- To marginalize the Gulen Movement.

Even though it goes against the international law, Mr. Erdogan's long arm has reached also to the Europe and tried to kidnap people there. Mr. Erdogan-led regime has even planned to kidnap Mr. Fethullah Gulen from the USA.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Turkey should be urged to:

- **Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED)**
- **Establish a fully independent national preventive mechanism for monitoring places of detention**
- **Ensure that criminal investigations and trial hearings of law enforcement officials take place without undue delay**
- **Repeal the regulation granting the immunity for both the State officials and the civilians**
- **Bring all perpetrators of the violations to Justice**
- **Implement sufficient safeguards to prevent occurrence of similar violations.**

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