



TURKEY'S 3RD UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) – 28th JANUARY 2020

Fact Sheet on report

Torture and Enforced Disappearances

Individual submission by IAHRA Geneva (International Association for Human Rights Advocacy in Geneva)

SUMMARY

In Turkey, persons accused of terrorism or of being linked to the July 2016 attempted coup are at risk of torture in police custody. Some common types of torture are beatings, kicking, punching, verbal assaults, threats of sexual violence, long-term painful positions, handcuffing, water, food, and sleep deprivation and rape. Furthermore, there has been a spate of reported cases of men being abducted, some of whom were held in secret detention places, with evidence pointing to the involvement of State authorities.

During the examination of Turkey's fifth periodic report, the United Nations Committee against Torture referred to a list of reported torture cases and asked clarification from the Turkish authorities. In particular, in the Committee's letter of 31 August 2016 information was requested concerning legal safeguards, investigations into allegations of torture and ill-treatment, and independence of the judiciary during the state of emergency. Similarly, Reports by Human Rights Watch and other observers indicate that torture and ill-treatment in police custody in Turkey has become a widespread problem.

On the other hand, there are huge barriers to documenting torture in Turkey, because allegations are not properly investigated, the majority of complaints being ignored. For example, doctors mostly indicated no interest in physical evidence of torture about the detainees who were brought before them for medical report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Turkey should be urged to:

- **Effectively and independently investigate all the allegations of torture and ill-treatment and enforced disappearances**
- **Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED)**
- **Bring all the perpetrators of violations to justice**
- **Make a separate public apology to the violations**
- **Prevent the recurrence of the violations**
- **Implement broader legislative or institutional changes, or initiatives such as training for Government officials, that would assist in preventing future violations.**

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