

TÜRKİYE

- **TUR-188:** Aykut Erdoğan
- **TUR-COLL-02:** 66 parliamentarians
- **TUR-COLL-04:** 41 parliamentarians
- **TUR-55:** Mehmet Sincar



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

Türkiye

Decision adopted by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians at its 181st session (Arusha, 4–8 October 2026)



Aykut Erdoğan © Complainant

TUR-188 – Aykut Erdoğan

Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Arbitrary arrest and detention
- ✓ Lack of due process at the investigation stage
- ✓ Lack of fair trial proceedings
- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression

A. Summary of the case

Mr. Aykut Erdoğan is a former member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and former Vice-Chairman of the Republican People's Party (*Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi* – CHP). He previously served as a senior official at the Ministry of Treasury and Finance and became known for publicly exposing alleged corruption. The complainant reports that, following Mr. Erdoğan's candidacy in the March 2024 local elections in Istanbul – where he significantly reduced the electoral margin in a traditionally ruling party stronghold – and his vocal criticism of the March 2025 arrest of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu and other opposition figures, Mr. Erdoğan was detained on 31 May 2025 and arrested on 3 June 2025.

According to the complainant, Mr. Erdoğan has been charged with mediating bribery in connection with a

Case TUR-188

Türkiye: Parliament affiliated to the IPU

Victim(s): Male opposition member of parliament

Qualified complainant(s): Section I.1(a) of the Committee Procedure (Annex 1)

Submission of complaint(s): February 2026

Recent IPU decision: - - -

IPU mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearing(s): Hearing with the Turkish delegation to the 153rd IPU Assembly (October 2026)

Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: Letter from the head of the Turkish delegation (August 2026)
- Communication from the complainant: March 2026
- Communication to the authorities: September 2026
- Communication to the complainant: July 2026

municipal waste-to-energy project, with the alleged acts dating back to 2020, when he was serving as a member of parliament and CHP Vice-Chairman. The complainant affirms that the accusations rely primarily on the statement of a co-accused, who testified under the “effective remorse” provision and that no concrete or corroborating evidence supports the allegations. The complainant further reports inconsistencies in witness statements, delays in gathering testimony from alleged bribe-givers and the absence of investigative steps concerning other individuals allegedly involved, while noting that key witnesses were released after a brief detention. The complainant also indicates that telecommunications data submitted in the case file do not substantiate the accusations.

The complainant reports that an indictment was issued approximately six months after Mr. Erdoğan's arrest and that the case was pending before the Istanbul 40th High Criminal Court, with the first hearing held in March 2026. According to the complainant, Mr. Erdoğan has remained in pre-trial detention throughout, despite the absence of a strong suspicion of guilt and under circumstances where detention should be exceptional.

Public reports confirm that trial proceedings in the case continued throughout 2026. Following an administrative reorganization of the Istanbul assize courts in late June 2026, the same trial panel continued hearing the case under the designation of Istanbul 33rd High Criminal Court. As of 3 September 2026, Mr. Erdoğan remained in pre-trial detention after the court ordered the continued detention of 51 of the 53 defendants then in custody.

The complainant indicates that recent legislative provisions allowing for the release of certain detainees appeared applicable to Mr. Erdoğan, yet he had not benefited from them, unlike many others. The complainant concludes that the proceedings against him were politically motivated. Official information confirms that these provisions benefited tens of thousands of convicted prisoners, although their direct applicability to Mr. Erdoğan's pre-trial detention has not been established before the Committee. The complainant nevertheless considers his continued detention to be disproportionate and politically motivated.

In a communication dated 26 August 2026, the Turkish delegation to the IPU rejected the allegation that the proceedings are linked to Mr. Erdoğan's political statements or activities. Citing information from the judicial authorities, the delegation stated that the indictment was based on statements by Mr. Erdoğan's co-defendants, a bank record showing the withdrawal of USD 1.25 million and base station records which, according to the prosecution, place relevant individuals at the locations in question and show communications between them. The delegation emphasized that the case concerned alleged corruption and that the allegations must be assessed by the competent courts.

At a hearing with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians during the 153rd IPU Assembly in October 2026, a member of the Turkish delegation belonging to the governing Justice and Development Party (AKP) reiterated his delegation's position that the criminal proceedings against Mr. Erdoğan concerned alleged acts of corruption and were unrelated to his political activities. The delegation member stated that Mr. Erdoğan was accused of requesting a bribe in connection with a municipal project and that an agreement for the transfer of rights was signed following the alleged payment. In the delegation member's view, requests to see the indictment and evidence from an ongoing criminal case went beyond the Committee's mandate and were incompatible with the principle of judicial independence established under Article 138 of the Turkish Constitution. According to the delegation member, even the Turkish parliament could not seek such information while proceedings were ongoing, but the judicial decision could be shared once the case was concluded.

B. Decision

The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

1. *Notes* that the complaint was submitted in due form by a complainant qualified under Section I.1(a) of the Procedure for the examination and treatment of complaints (Annex I of the revised Rules and Practices of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians);
2. *Notes* that the complaint concerns an incumbent member of parliament at the time of the initial allegations;
3. *Notes* that the complaint concerns allegations of arbitrary arrest and detention, lack of due process at the investigation stage, lack of fair trial proceedings and violation of freedom of

opinion and expression, allegations which fall within the Committee's mandate;

4. *Considers*, therefore, that the complaint is admissible under Section IV of the Procedure; and *declares itself* competent to examine the case;
5. *Thanks* the Turkish authorities for their cooperation and the information provided; *thanks* in particular a member of the Turkish delegation to the 153rd IPU Assembly for meeting with the Committee; and *takes note* of the delegation's position that the proceedings against Mr. Erdoğan concern alleged corruption and are unrelated to his political activities, as well as of the explanations provided concerning the limitations on sharing information and evidence while judicial proceedings are ongoing;
6. *Remains concerned* that Mr. Erdoğan has been held in pre-trial detention since June 2025; and *wishes* to receive detailed information on the precise legal and factual grounds for his continued detention, the judicial review thereof and why less restrictive measures have not been considered sufficient, in particular given that other individuals are allegedly involved in the same proceedings;
7. *Wishes*, in particular, to receive information on the options available under Turkish law for Mr. Erdoğan to be released pending trial, including whether he may benefit from recent provisions allowing for release or alternative measures; and *also wishes* to be kept informed of the progress and expected timetable of the proceedings against Mr. Erdoğan and the safeguards available for challenging the evidence used against him and presenting his defence;
8. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the relevant Turkish authorities and the complainant;
9. *Decides* to continue examining the case.



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

Türkiye

Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 218th session (Arusha, 9 October 2026)



A demonstrator holds up a picture of Figen Yüksekdağ, co-leader of the pro-Kurdish People's Democratic Party (HDP), in front of the court in Ankara during her trial on 13 April 2017. © ADEM ALTAN/AFP

TUR-69 – Gülser Yıldırım (Ms.)
TUR-70 – Selma Irmak (Ms.)
TUR-71 – Faysal Sariyildiz
TUR-73 – Kemal Aktas
TUR-75 – Bedia Özgökçe Ertan (Ms.)
TUR-76 – Besime Konca (Ms.)
TUR-77 – Burcu Çelik Özkan (Ms.)
TUR-78 – Çağlar Demirel (Ms.)
TUR-79 – Dilek Öcalan (Ms.)
TUR-80 – Dilan Dirayet Taşdemir (Ms.)
TUR-81 – Feleknas Uca (Ms.)
TUR-82 – Figen Yüksekdağ (Ms.)
TUR-83 – Filiz Kerestecioğlu (Ms.)
TUR-84 – Hüda Kaya (Ms.)
TUR-85 – Leyla Birlik (Ms.)
TUR-86 – Leyla Zana (Ms.)
TUR-87 – Meral Daniş Beştaş (Ms.)
TUR-88 – Mizgin Irgat (Ms.)
TUR-89 – Nursel Aydoğan (Ms.)
TUR-90 – Pervin Buldan (Ms.)
TUR-91 – Saadet Becerikli (Ms.)
TUR-92 – Sibel Yiğitalp (Ms.)
TUR-93 – Tuğba Hezer Öztürk (Ms.)
TUR-94 – Abdullah Zeydan
TUR-95 – Adem Geveri
TUR-96 – Ahmet Yıldırım

TUR-107 – Ferhat Encü
TUR-108 – Hişyar Özsoy
TUR-109 – Idris Baluken
TUR-110 – Imam Taşçier
TUR-112 – Lezgin Botan
TUR-113 – Mehmet Ali Aslan
TUR-114 – Mehmet Emin Adiyaman
TUR-115 – Nadir Yıldırım
TUR-116 – Nihat Akdoğan
TUR-118 – Osman Baydemir
TUR-119 – Selahattin Demirtaş
TUR-120 – Sirri Süreyya Önder
TUR-121 – Ziya Pir
TUR-122 – Mithat Sancar
TUR-123 – Mahmut Toğrul
TUR-124 – Aycan Irmez (Ms.)
TUR-125 – Ayşe Acar Başaran (Ms.)
TUR-126 – Garo Paylan
TUR-128 – Aysel Tuğluk (Ms.)
TUR-129 – Sebahat Tuncel (Ms.)
TUR-130 – Leyla Güven (Ms.)
TUR-131 – Ayşe Sürücü (Ms.)
TUR-132 – Musa Farisogullari
TUR-133 – Emine Ayna (Ms.)
TUR-134 – Nazmi Gür
TUR-135 – Ayla Akat Ata (Ms.)

TUR-97 – Ali Atalan
TUR-98 – Alican Önlü
TUR-99 – Altan Tan
TUR-100 – Ayhan Bilgen
TUR-101 – Behçet Yildirim
TUR-102 – Berdan Öztürk
TUR-106 – Ertuğrul Kürkcü

TUR-136 – Beyza Ustün (Ms.)
TUR-137 – Remziye Tosun (Ms.)
TUR-138 – Kemal Bulbul
TUR-140 – Gültan Kışanak (Ms.)
TUR-141 – Semra Güzel (Ms.)
TUR-142 – Salihe Aydeniz (Ms.)
TUR-143 – Can Atalay

Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Failure to respect parliamentary immunity
- ✓ Lack of due process at the investigation stage
- ✓ Lack of fair trial proceedings and excessive delays
- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression
- ✓ Violation of freedom of assembly and association
- ✓ Arbitrary arrest and detention¹
- ✓ Ill-treatment²
- ✓ Abusive revocation or suspension of the parliamentary mandate³

A. Summary of the case

Over 600 criminal and terrorism charges have been brought against members of parliament belonging to the People's Democratic Party (HDP) since 20 May 2016, when the Turkish Constitution was amended to authorize the wholesale lifting of parliamentary immunity. They are being tried on terrorism-related charges and for offences such as defamation of the President, Government or State of Türkiye. Some of the individuals concerned also face earlier charges linked to proceedings in connection with the Kurdistan Communities Union (*Koma Civakên Kurdistan* – KCK) while others face more recent charges. In these cases, their parliamentary immunity was allegedly not lifted.

Since November 2016, scores of parliamentarians have been detained, and others have gone into exile. Over 30 parliamentarians have been sentenced to prison terms in recent years, and several have lost their parliamentary mandates, largely as a result of their criminal convictions. Five current and former parliamentarians are in prison, namely the former HDP co-chairs, Mr. Selahattin Demirtaş and Ms. Figen Yüksekdağ, as well as Ms. Leyla Güven, Mr. Nazmi Gür and Mr. Can Atalay.

Some of the individuals concerned were arrested in September 2020 in connection with the 2014 Kobane protests. In May 2024, several former HDP parliamentarians, including Mr. Demirtaş, were convicted in this context and sentenced to lengthy prison terms, while others were acquitted or released pending appeal. Mr. Can Atalay (TUR-143), elected to parliament in 2023, also remains in prison despite an August 2024 Constitutional Court ruling declaring the revocation of his mandate null and void. The authorities have not implemented that ruling. Moreover, in October 2025, Member of Parliament Mr. Berdan Öztürk was sentenced to six years and four months in prison on charges of aiding a terrorist organization and engaging in terrorist propaganda.

According to the complainant, the charges against HDP parliamentarians are groundless and stem

Case TUR-COLL-02

Türkiye: Parliament affiliated to the IPU

Victim(s): 66 members of the opposition (32 men and 34 women)

Qualified complainant(s): Section I.(1)(c) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

Submission of complaint(s): June 2016

Recent IPU decision: April 2026

IPU mission(s): June 2019; December 2025

Recent Committee hearing(s): Hearings with the Turkish delegation and the complainant at the 152nd and 153rd IPU Assemblies (April and October 2026)

Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: Letter from the head of the Turkish IPU Group (September 2026)
- Communication from the complainant: September 2026
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the head of the Turkish IPU Group (September 2026)
- Communication to the complainant: September 2026

¹ Concerns only the members of parliament placed in detention, as listed in the case report (section on detention).

² Concerns only three male members of parliament (Mr. Adıyaman – TUR-114; Mr. Behçet Yildirim – TUR-101; Mr. Mahmut Toğrul – TUR-123) and three women members of parliament (Ms. Feleknas Uca – TUR-81, Ms. Besime Konca – TUR-76 and Ms. Sibel Yigitalp – TUR-92).

³ Concerns 10 members of parliament (Ms. Selma Irmak – TUR-70; Mr. Faysal Sariyildiz – TUR-71; Ms. Besime Konca – TUR-76; Ms. Figen Yüksekdağ – TUR-82; Ms. Leyla Birlik – TUR-85; Ms. Nursel Aydoğan – TUR-89; Ms. Tugba Hezer Oztürk – TUR-93; Mr. Ahmet Yildirim – TUR-96; Mr. Ferhat Encü – TUR-107; and Mr. Osman Baydemir – TUR-118).

primarily from peaceful political speech and activities, including public statements, participation in demonstrations and other actions carried out in the exercise of their parliamentary functions, which fall within the scope of the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association.

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has, in several judgments, found violations of the rights of HDP parliamentarians, notably of the rights to freedom of expression, liberty and security and free elections, and has called for the immediate release of Mr. Demirtaş. On 8 July 2025, the ECHR delivered its judgment in *Selahattin Demirtaş v. Türkiye* (No. 4), finding that Mr. Demirtaş's renewed detention since 2019 violated Article 5, paragraphs 1, 3 and 4, and Article 18 in conjunction with Article 5, paragraph 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court concluded that the Turkish authorities had deliberately circumvented its previous Grand Chamber judgment of 2020, which had ordered Mr. Demirtaş's release, by filing new but substantially identical charges with the aim of prolonging his detention. In September 2026, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe called on Türkiye to secure the immediate release of Mr. Demirtaş and Ms. Yüksekdağ in the context of its supervision of the relevant judgements.

An IPU trial observer concluded in 2018 that the prospects for Ms. Yüksekdağ and Mr. Demirtaş receiving fair trials were remote and that the political nature of both prosecutions was evident. It should be noted that, on 17 July 2022, the Constitutional Court ruled in one of the cases against Ms. Yüksekdağ that her rights to freedom of thought and expression, as well as to be elected, were violated when she was stripped of her parliamentary immunity in 2016. A 2018 IPU review of 12 court decisions issued against HDP members reached similar conclusions.

The Turkish authorities reject allegations that HDP parliamentarians have been politically targeted. They stress that counter-terrorism offences require conduct linked to an organized structure and, in cases of propaganda, the legitimization, praise or encouragement of violence or coercion. The authorities also maintain that the 2016 temporary constitutional amendment on parliamentary immunity was general in scope and led to the cases of 144 parliamentarians from various political parties being referred to the judiciary. According to the authorities, only ten immunity cases concerning five parliamentarians have been approved by the relevant parliamentary committee since 2016, of which parliament has authorized judicial proceedings in three cases concerning two parliamentarians. The authorities further highlighted Türkiye's judicial independence, available domestic and international remedies and high overall rate of execution of European Court judgments. The complainant disputes that these safeguards have prevented the selective or disproportionate use of criminal proceedings against opposition parliamentarians.

On 17 March 2021, the chief prosecutor of the Turkish Court of Cassation referred a request for the dissolution of the HDP to the Constitutional Court, accusing the HDP of terrorist activities. It appears that the prosecution drew heavily on the trial against several HDP politicians in the 2014 Kobane case referred to earlier. Facing dissolution, the HDP leadership refrained from formally dissolving the party; its members decided to run in all 2023 elections under the Green Left Party (YSP) banner, a legally distinct but politically aligned structure. In October 2023, the YSP renamed itself the DEM Party (Peoples' Equality and Democratic Party), hence becoming the *de facto* successor to the HDP.

A delegation from the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians carried out an on-site mission to Türkiye from 10 to 12 December 2025. The delegation found that the legislative and jurisprudential clarifications introduced in recent years were positive but limited, and its members remained concerned by terrorism-related charges involving political speech and activities, the cumulative impact of repeated legal proceedings and the difficulties in implementing certain binding judgments. The delegation also considered that the work of the Turkish parliament's National Solidarity, Sisterhood/Brotherhood and Democracy Committee could offer an important opportunity for peace and democratic reform.

At a hearing with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians during the 153rd IPU Assembly in October 2026, a member of the Turkish delegation belonging to the governing Justice and Development Party (AKP) highlighted the adoption of a new legislative framework by 467 of the 600 members of parliament on 10 August 2026: the Law on Strengthening National Solidarity and Social Integration, which aims to address cases linked to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and related organizations. The Turkish delegation member explained that, once the National Security Council had confirmed the dissolution and disarmament of the PKK and related structures, ongoing investigations, trials and sentences would be suspended for five or ten years depending on the seriousness of the offence, with pre-trial detention and judicial supervision measures lifted if the law's conditions were met. If no new offence were committed during the suspension period,

proceedings would be terminated and sentences deemed fully served. According to the delegation member, most former HDP parliamentarians and others with cases before the Committee concerning terrorism-related convictions would be eligible to benefit, subject to a written application.

B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Thanks* the Turkish authorities for their continued cooperation with the Committee; *thanks* in particular a member of the Turkish delegation to the 153rd IPU Assembly for meeting with the Committee and providing detailed information on that occasion; and *welcomes* the authorities' ongoing readiness to engage in frank and constructive dialogue with the Committee;
2. *Welcomes* the adoption, with broad parliamentary support, of a new legislative framework intended to help resolve cases linked to the PKK and related activities; *notes with interest* that most of the former HDP parliamentarians concerned are expected to fall within the scope of this new framework and that, once its conditions are met, their investigations, prosecutions and sentences may be suspended and their detention measures lifted; and *expresses the strong hope* that the new framework will swiftly produce tangible progress, including the release of those currently detained;
3. *Expresses concern*, however, that submission of an individual written application will be required to benefit from the new framework; *considers* that once the framework has entered into force, it should in principle apply automatically to all persons investigated, prosecuted or convicted for offences that fall within its scope, rather than require them to come forward to request it; and *hopes* that implementing arrangements will be designed accordingly;
4. *Recalls* in this regard that legitimate political expression and activity should not be conflated with terrorism; *stresses* that the implementation of the new framework provides an important opportunity to remedy the consequences of criminal proceedings in which political speech and association and other legitimate parliamentary and political activities may have been treated as acts related to terrorism; and *expresses the strong hope* that the framework will be used to resolve the situations of Mr. Demirtaş, Ms. Yüksekdağ and other current and former parliamentarians concerned in this case;
5. *Notes* that binding national and international judicial decisions have yet to be implemented for several individuals concerned in this case; *highlights*, in particular, continuing calls for the release of Mr. Demirtaş and Ms. Yüksekdağ and the situation of Mr. Atalay; and *stresses* that implementation of the new framework should complement, not replace, the full and timely implementation of the aforementioned judicial decisions and the provision of effective remedies;
6. *Wishes* to be kept updated on the entry into force and implementation of the new framework, including with regard to the requirements for its application, the establishment and work of the parliamentary monitoring mechanism and the concrete implications for each of the current and former parliamentarians concerned in this case;
7. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the relevant authorities, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
8. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

Türkiye

Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 218th session (Arusha, 9 October 2026)



Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM) on 15 October 2023 in Ankara.

© DEM Party press office

- | | |
|---|--|
| TUR-144 – Ayten Kordu (Ms.) | TUR-167 – Oya Ersoy (Ms.) |
| TUR-146 – Burcugül Çubuk (Ms.) | TUR-168 – Pero Dundar (Ms.) |
| TUR-147 – Ceylan Akça Cupolo (Ms.) | TUR-169 – Sabahat Erdoğan Sarıtaş (Ms.) |
| TUR-148 – Dilan Kunt Ayan (Ms.) | TUR-170 – Sait Dede |
| TUR-149 – Fatma Kurtulan (Ms.) | TUR-171 – Serhat Eren |
| TUR-151 – Gülderen Varlı (Ms.) | TUR-172 – Serpil Kemalbay (Ms.) |
| TUR-152 – Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit (Ms.) | TUR-173 – Sezai Temelli |
| TUR-153 – Hakkı Saruhan Oluç | TUR-174 – Sümeyye Boz (Ms.) |
| TUR-154 – Hasan Özgüneş | TUR-175 – Tülay Hatimoğulları Oruç (Ms.) |
| TUR-155 – Hüseyin Kaçmaz | TUR-176 – Yılmaz Hun |
| TUR-156 – Hüseyin Olan | TUR-177 – Zeynep Oduncu (Ms.) |
| TUR-157 – Kamuran Tanhan | TUR-178 – Zülküf Uçar |
| TUR-158 – Kemal Peköz | TUR-179 – Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar (Ms.) |
| TUR-159 – Keskin Bayındır | TUR-180 – Ömer Öcalan |
| TUR-160 – Keziban Konukcu Kök (Ms.) | TUR-181 – Öznur Bartin (Ms.) |
| TUR-161 – Mehmet Rüştü Tiryaki | TUR-182 – Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu |
| TUR-162 – Mehmet Zeki Irmez | TUR-184 – Çiçek Otlı (Ms.) |
| TUR-163 – Murat Çepni | TUR-185 – George Aslan |
| TUR-164 – Nejla Demir (Ms.) | TUR-186 – Heval Bozdağ |
| TUR-165 – Nevroz Uysal Aslan (Ms.) | TUR-187 – Sinan Çiftyürek |
| TUR-166 – Nuran İmir (Ms.) | |

Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Ill-treatment
- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation
- ✓ Lack of due process in proceedings against parliamentarians
- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression
- ✓ Violation of freedom of assembly and association

A. Summary of the case

This case concerns 41 incumbent and former opposition parliamentarians from the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM), the Democratic Regions Party (DBP), and the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) in Türkiye. The alleged violations concerning them span from 2018 to 2025 and reflect an intensifying pattern of harassment, intimidation, criminal prosecution and violence targeting Kurdish and other opposition parliamentarians.

According to the complainant, the alleged violations occurred across Türkiye, particularly in provinces with significant Kurdish populations and in Ankara, where legal proceedings are handled by the investigative bureau for parliamentary crimes. Incidents reportedly took place during demonstrations, party events, parliamentary debates and peaceful marches, including the "Great Freedom March" in February 2024 and protests over electoral interventions in Van and Bitlis in April 2024. Other allegations relate to earlier events, including the 2014 Kobane protests and Newroz celebrations between 2019 and 2023.

The complainant states that many parliamentarians face investigation or prosecution for offences such as "terrorist propaganda", "membership in a terrorist organization", "incitement", or "participation in unlawful assemblies", often in connection with speeches, demonstrations, funerals, social media posts or political activities. Several parliamentarians have also faced travel restrictions, police raids and passport confiscations. Four current members of parliament – Ms. Fatma Kurtulan, Ms. Ayşe Acar Başaran, Ms. Besime Konca and Ms. Pero Dundar – have sought asylum abroad, citing fear of persecution.

Several members of parliament, including female members, reported physical assaults, intimidation, and surveillance by law enforcement, particularly during protests in Hakkari, Van, Siropi, İzmir, Şanlıurfa and Diyarbakır. Complaints of police violence are reportedly frequently dismissed or remain unresolved, contributing to a climate of impunity. Smear campaigns and death threats, often amplified by senior government officials, have allegedly further undermined the safety of members of parliament and their ability to represent their constituents.

According to the complainant, most of the legal proceedings are handled by public prosecutors' offices in Ankara and involve the use of anti-terrorism laws and related legislation restricting political speech and activity. Parliamentary immunity has allegedly been disregarded or lifted in summary proceedings in numerous cases. Although none of the 41 parliamentarians in this case have been convicted at final instance, the complainant argues that overlapping investigations, prosecutions, threats, restrictions and alleged violence impair their ability to carry out their mandates and, in some cases, to continue their political careers after leaving parliament. The complainant also stated that scores of parliamentarians were the object of *fezleke*: prosecutorial case summaries that are sent to the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye requesting the lifting of parliamentary immunity so that criminal proceedings may be pursued. At a hearing with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians during the 152nd IPU Assembly in April 2026, a member of the Turkish delegation belonging to the governing Justice and Development Party (AKP) stated that *fezleke* are rarely acted upon; unless they concern serious matters, they are generally not considered until the end of a parliamentarian's mandate.

Case TUR-COLL-04

Türkiye: Parliament affiliated to the IPU

Victim(s): 41 opposition members of parliament (20 men and 21 women)

Qualified complainant(s): Section I.(1)(a), (b) and (c) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

Submission of complaint(s): March 2025

Recent IPU decision: April 2026

IPU mission(s): December 2025

Recent Committee hearing(s): Hearings with the Turkish delegation and the complainant at the 152nd and 153rd IPU Assemblies (April and October 2026)

Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: Letter from the head of the Turkish IPU Group (September 2026)
- Communication from the complainant: September 2026
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the head of the Turkish IPU Group (September 2026)
- Communication to the complainant: September 2026

The complainant argues that the above developments are part of a broader trend of deteriorating democratic space in Türkiye and the use of the judiciary and other State institutions to target legitimate opposition voices. The Turkish authorities reject this characterization, arguing that criminal proceedings are based on individual conduct and the applicable law, that parliamentary immunity does not remove criminal responsibility and that judicial independence and effective remedies are constitutionally guaranteed.

Similarly, a delegation of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians that travelled to Türkiye in December 2025 heard very different assessments from the authorities, the opposition and legal counsel. Delegation members welcomed certain legal reforms and the authorities' willingness to engage but considered that the pressures affecting opposition parliamentarians had not fundamentally changed. The delegation remained concerned by repeated legal proceedings linked to political expression and assembly, allegations of excessive use of force against parliamentarians, the ongoing effects of the wholesale lifting of parliamentary immunity in 2016 and the difficulties encountered in implementing certain binding judicial decisions. The delegation also found, however, that a new peace process being launched could provide an opportunity to move towards a more inclusive political framework, provided it was accompanied by concrete reforms in the areas of human rights, rule of law and public institutions.

As part of renewed efforts to end the armed conflict with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and address the political and social consequences of the conflict, the Turkish parliament created the National Solidarity, Sisterhood/Brotherhood and Democracy Committee, which adopted a report in February 2026. At a hearing with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians during the 153rd IPU Assembly in October 2026, a member of the Turkish delegation belonging to the governing AKP highlighted that the report had resulted in the adoption of a new legislative framework by 467 of the 600 members of parliament on 10 August 2026: the Law on Strengthening National Solidarity and Social Integration, which aims to address cases linked to the PKK and related organizations. The Turkish delegation member explained that, once the National Security Council had confirmed the dissolution and disarmament of the PKK and related structures, ongoing investigations, trials and sentences would be suspended for five or ten years depending on the seriousness of the offence, with pre-trial detention and judicial supervision measures lifted if the law's conditions were met. If no new offence were committed during the suspension period, proceedings would be terminated and sentences deemed fully served. According to the delegation member, most former HDP parliamentarians and others with cases before the Committee concerning terrorism-related convictions would be eligible to benefit, subject to a written application. The delegation member also stated that a parliamentary committee would monitor implementation of the new framework and that parliament and the Ministry of Justice were preparing an initiative to review and discontinue pending *fezleke* where no prosecution was being pursued.

During the session of the Committee held during the 153rd IPU Assembly, the complainant brought further allegations of human rights violations affecting opposition parliamentarians. It was not possible for the Committee to review those allegations during its session, and any necessary follow-up action was planned for after the session.

B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Thanks* the Turkish authorities for their continued cooperation with the Committee; *thanks* in particular the member of the Turkish delegation to the 153rd IPU Assembly for meeting with the Committee and providing relevant information on that occasion; and *welcomes* the authorities' ongoing readiness to engage in frank and constructive dialogue with the Committee;
2. *Welcomes* the adoption, with broad parliamentary support, of the new legislative framework intended to help resolve cases linked to the PKK and related activities; *expresses the hope* that, where applicable, the framework will help bring to an end to ongoing investigations, prosecutions and other restrictions affecting the current and former parliamentarians concerned in this case; and *wishes* to be kept informed of its concrete implications for them;
3. *Recalls* that legitimate political activities, participation in peaceful demonstrations and other forms of legitimate political expression should not be conflated with terrorism; and *hopes* that the implementation of the new framework will provide an opportunity to review and resolve

proceedings in which such activities may have been treated as acts related to terrorism;

4. *Welcomes* the Turkish delegation's acknowledgement of the problems arising from the large number of pending *fezleke*, as well as the announced initiative by parliament and the Ministry of Justice to review and discontinue those for which no prosecution is being pursued; *expresses the hope* that this initiative will lead to a system in which *fezleke* are not systematically used against parliamentarians, even if left pending, but rather are used only where there is a concrete basis and genuine likelihood of prosecution; and *hopes*, in particular, that pending *fezleke* concerning parliamentarians concerned in this case will be promptly reviewed;
5. *Remains concerned* by the allegations of manhandling, ill-treatment, threats and intimidation by law-enforcement officials in several of the cases under examination; *stresses* that parliamentarians must be able to exercise their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly without fear of violence or intimidation; and *trusts* that allegations of such conduct will be subject to prompt, independent and effective investigation and that appropriate remedies will be provided where violations are confirmed;
6. *Wishes* to be kept updated on the implementation of the new legislative framework, the review of pending *fezleke* and action taken in response to the allegations of violence, ill-treatment and intimidation committed against the parliamentarians concerned in this case;
7. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the relevant authorities, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
8. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

Turkey

TK/41 - Hatip Dicle
TK/67 - Mustafa Balbay
TK/68 - Mehmet Haberal
TK/69 - Gülser Yildirim (Ms.)
TK/70 - Selma Irmak (Ms.)
TK/71 - Faysal Sariyildiz
TK/72 - Ibrahim Ayhan
TK/73 - Kemal Aktas
TK/74 - Engin Alan
TK/55 - Mehmet Sinçar

Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 195th session (Geneva, 16 October 2014)

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Referring to the cases of the above-mentioned parliamentarians and to the resolution adopted at its 194th session (March 2014),

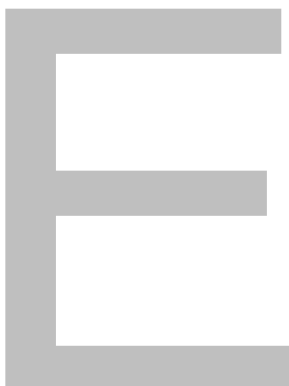
Referring to the full report on the mission conducted to Turkey by two members of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights Parliamentarians, Vice-President of the Committee, Ms. Ann Clwyd and Ms. Margaret Kiener Nellen, from 24 to 27 February 2014 (CL/195/11(b)-R.1),

Recalling that the nine parliamentarians above were all elected in June 2011 while in prison and are being prosecuted for destabilizing or overthrowing the constitutional order, including by being members of terrorist organizations, in three complex cases known as the “Sledgehammer/Balyoz case”, the “Ergenekon case” and the “KCK case”,

Considering that the nine parliamentarians have now been released pending the completion of ongoing proceedings following groundbreaking decisions of the Constitutional Court of Turkey on the excessive length of pretrial detention, the right of elected parliamentarians to sit in Parliament and the need to respect international fair-trial guarantees; Mr. Alan and Mr. Dicle were granted provisional release on 19 and 28 June 2014, respectively,

Considering that they are now able to exercise their parliamentary mandate with the exception of Mr. Dicle, who lost his parliamentary status at the time of his invalidation; Mr. Balbay’s and Mr. Haberal’s restrictions on the freedom of movement have been lifted,

Recalling that Mr. Mehmet Sinçar, a former member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, of Kurdish origin, was assassinated in September 1993 in Batman (south-eastern Turkey),



Considering that the appeal in Mr. Sinçar's case was concluded in January 2011; the decision does not make any specific reference to the murder of Mr. Sinçar, to the appeal lodged by his family or to any of the arguments raised by their lawyers; it does not indicate that the judicial process effectively probed the political and security context prevailing at the time of the murder and the possible responsibility of the chain of command of the Turkish intelligence and security officers, in particular existing information implicating five agents in planning and executing the crime,

Considering that the mission concluded and observed the following:

- With regard to freedom of expression:
 - The protection of freedom of expression in Turkey has been a long-standing issue of concern in prior cases before the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians which, since 1992, has repeatedly called on the Turkish authorities to take action to enhance respect for this fundamental right;
 - Peaceful and legal political activities of the parliamentarians concerned have been regarded as evidence of criminal and terrorist acts by the prosecution and the courts, and that despite progress made in legislative reforms; the Turkish legal framework and judicial practice continue to largely fail to distinguish between peaceful protest and dissenting opinions on the one hand, and violent activities pursuant to the same goals on the other;
 - In the case of Mr. Dicle, his statement publicly expressing a non-violent opinion supportive of the PKK fell within the scope of freedom of speech; he was therefore convicted in violation of his right to freedom of expression and that, as a consequence, his parliamentary mandate was arbitrarily invalidated,
- With regard to fair-trial guarantees:
 - In light of the information and documentation reviewed during and after the mission, the delegation has concluded that the judicial process under which the parliamentarians concerned have been, and continue to be, tried is not in compliance with international standards of due process, that justice was neither achieved nor perceived to have been achieved, and that the large scope of the proceedings and the broader context lend weight to the allegations that the judicial proceedings may have been politically motivated,

Considering that the Constitutional Court ruling of 18 June 2014 concluded that fair-trial violations occurred in the Sledgehammer case, which will pave the way for a retrial of Mr. Alan and other defendants in the case,

Considering that, in their observations on the mission report, the parliamentary authorities have stated that:

- They did not have any general objections to the findings of the delegation;
 - Further legislative reforms were completed with the amendments made by Law No. 6526 of 21 February 2014, known as the Fifth Judicial Reform Package;
 - The first hearing of the retrial of the persons accused in the Sledgehammer case, including Mr. Alan is scheduled for 3 November 2014,
1. *Thanks* the Turkish authorities for their observations and *notes with interest* that they generally share the findings of the mission;
 2. *Further thanks* the mission delegation for the work done and endorses its overall conclusions; and *trusts* that the Turkish authorities will implement its recommendations promptly;
 3. *Notes with satisfaction* that all parliamentarians have been released pending the completion of the ongoing proceedings and, with the exception of Mr. Dicle, are now able to exercise their parliamentary mandate; *also notes with interest* that the travel

restrictions on Mr. Balbay and Mr. Haberal have been lifted; *welcomes* the legislative reforms undertaken by the authorities;

4. *Deeply regrets*, however, that the parliamentarians concerned spent over half of their parliamentary term and an average of four years in detention before a solution was found; and *urges* the Turkish authorities to adopt appropriate constitutional and legislative amendments to fully implement the rulings of the Constitutional Court as regards the pretrial detention of parliamentarians;
5. *Is deeply concerned* that the peaceful and legal activities of the parliamentarians concerned were regarded as evidence of criminal and terrorist acts by the prosecution and the courts, and *calls on* the authorities to urgently strengthen freedom of expression and association, in particular concerning anti-terrorist legislation and the offence of membership of a criminal organization; *wishes* to be kept informed about legislative reform envisaged on these issues;
6. *Expects* that the judicial proceedings will provide appropriate redress for the acknowledged violations of due process and will be completed swiftly in compliance with international standards; *wishes* to be regularly apprised of their status and outcome;
7. *Urges* the Turkish authorities to pursue further investigations in the case of Mr. Sınar and fully take into account existing information implicating five agents of the Turkish intelligence Services in planning and executing the crimes; *further invites* the parliamentary authorities to consider establishing a parliamentary commission to investigate the murder, together with other human rights violations committed in the 1990s in south-eastern Turkey, including abuses by State perpetrators;
8. *Trusts* that the parliamentary authorities will liaise with the competent executive and judicial authorities to keep the Committee apprised of any future developments, so as to facilitate a dialogue conducive to a satisfactory settlement of the cases under examination;
9. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the relevant authorities, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
10. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.