

TÜRKİYE

- **TUR-COLL-02:** 66 parliamentarians
- **TUR-COLL-04:** 43 parliamentarians
- **TUR-55:** Mehmet Sincar



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

Türkiye

Decision adopted by consensus by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)¹



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

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| TUR-69 - Gülser Yıldırım (Ms.) | TUR-107 - Ferhat Encü |
| TUR-70 - Selma Irmak (Ms.) | TUR-108 - Hişyar Özsoy |
| TUR-71 - Faysal Sariyildiz | TUR-109 - Idris Baluken |
| TUR-73 - Kemal Aktas | TUR-110 - Imam Taşçier |
| TUR-75 - Bedia Özgökçe Ertan (Ms.) | TUR-112 - Lezgin Botan |
| TUR-76 - Besime Konca (Ms.) | TUR-113 - Mehmet Ali Aslan |
| TUR-77 - Burcu Çelik Özkan (Ms.) | TUR-114 - Mehmet Emin Adiyaman |
| TUR-78 - Çağlar Demirel (Ms.) | TUR-115 - Nadir Yıldırım |
| TUR-79 - Dilek Öcalan (Ms.) | TUR-116 - Nihat Akdoğan |
| TUR-80 - Dilan Dirayet Taşdemir (Ms.) | TUR-118 - Osman Baydemir |
| TUR-81 - Feleknas Uca (Ms.) | TUR-119 - Selahattin Demirtaş |
| TUR-82 - Figen Yüksekdağ (Ms.) | TUR-120 - Sirri Süreyya Önder |
| TUR-83 - Filiz Kerestecioğlu (Ms.) | TUR-121 - Ziya Pir |
| TUR-84 - Hüda Kaya (Ms.) | TUR-122 - Mithat Sancar |
| TUR-85 - Leyla Birlik (Ms.) | TUR-123 - Mahmut Toğrul |
| TUR-86 - Leyla Zana (Ms.) | TUR-124 - Aycan Irmez (Ms.) |
| TUR-87 - Meral Daniş Beştaş (Ms.) | TUR-125 - Ayşe Acar Başaran (Ms.) |
| TUR-88 - Mizgin Irgat (Ms.) | TUR-126 - Garo Paylan |
| TUR-89 - Nursel Aydoğan (Ms.) | TUR-128 - Aysel Tuğluk (Ms.) |
| TUR-90 - Pervin Buldan (Ms.) | TUR-129 - Sebahat Tuncel (Ms.) |
| TUR-91- Saadet Becerikli (Ms.) | TUR-130 - Leyla Güven (Ms.) |
| TUR-92 - Sibel Yiğitalp (Ms.) | TUR-131 - Ayşe Sürücü (Ms.) |
| TUR-93 - Tuğba Hezer Öztürk (Ms.) | TUR-132 - Musa Farisogullari |

¹ Certain members of the delegation of Türkiye expressed reservations regarding the decision. It is important to stress that not all members of the delegation expressed reservations.

TUR-94 - Abdullah Zeydan
TUR-95 - Adem Geveri
TUR-96 - Ahmet Yildirim
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-133 - Emine Ayna (Ms.)
TUR-134 - Nazmi Gür
TUR-135 - Ayla Akat Ata (Ms.)
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 detention
- ✓ Ill-treatment
- ✓ Abusive revocation or suspension of the parliamentary mandate

A. Summary of the case

Over 600 criminal and terrorism charges have been brought against the members of parliament of the People's Democratic Party (HDP) since 20 May 2016, when the Constitution was amended to authorize the wholesale lifting of parliamentary immunity. They are being tried on terrorism-related charges and charges of defamation of the President, Government or State of Türkiye. Some of them also face older charges in relation to the Kurdistan Communities Union's (*Koma Civakên Kurdistan – KCK*) first-instance trial that has been ongoing since 2011, while others face more recent charges. In these cases, their parliamentary immunity was allegedly not lifted.

Since 4 November 2016, scores of parliamentarians have been detained, and others have gone into exile. Since 2018, over 30 parliamentarians have been sentenced to prison terms. At least 15 HDP members of parliament have lost their parliamentary mandates in recent years, largely as a result of their criminal convictions. Seven 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, Ms. Semra Güzel, Mr. Nazmi Gür, Ms. Emine Ayna and Mr. Can Atalay.

Some of the aforesaid individuals had been arrested in September 2020, although the accusations against them relate to events in the distant past that unfolded soon after the siege of Kobane in Syria in 2014. It is in this context that 108 HDP members were charged with various offences, including attempts to "destroy the unity and integrity of the State," in connection with protests that erupted over the perceived inaction of the Turkish Government during the Islamic State's siege of the Syrian town of Kobane. On 16 May 2024, the Ankara 22nd High Criminal Court delivered its verdict, sentencing several prominent HDP politicians to lengthy prison terms. Mr. Demirtaş received a 42-year sentence, while Ms. Yüksekdağ and Mr. Gür were sentenced respectively to three years and three months, and 22 years and six months. In the same Kobane trial, Ms. Emine Ayna was sentenced to 10 years in prison, whereas Ms. Gültan Kışanak and Ms. Sebahat Tuncel were sentenced to 12 years each but were released pending appeal, while Ms. Ayla Akat Ata was sentenced to six years and six months and was also released. Several defendants were acquitted, including Mr. Sırrı Süreyya Önder, Ms. Aysel Tuğluk, Mr. Altan Tan, Mr. Ayhan Bilgen, Ms. Beyza Üstün and Ms. Gülser Yıldırım. Other

Case TUR-COLL-02

Türkiye: Parliament affiliated to the IPU

Victims: 66 opposition members of parliament (32 men and 34 women)

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

Submission of complaint: June 2016

Recent IPU decision: April 2025

IPU mission: June 2019

Recent Committee hearings: Hearings with the Turkish delegation and the complainant at the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025)

Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: Letter from the President of the Turkish IPU Group (October 2025)
- Communication from the complainant: October 2025
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the President of the Turkish IPU Group (September 2025)
- Communication to the complainant: October 2025

acquittals or dismissals have since followed in related proceedings, such as Ms. Hüda Kaya in June 2025. Ms. Leyla Güven continues to serve a 22-year sentence (with additional shorter terms imposed in 2024–25), and Ms. Semra Güzel remains in detention, facing cumulative sentences of up to seven and a half years in ongoing proceedings. In parallel, Mr. Can Atalay (TUR-143), elected to parliament in 2023, remains in prison despite an August 2024 Constitutional Court ruling declaring the revocation of his mandate null and void. 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 members of parliament are groundless and violate their rights to freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom of assembly and association. The complainant claims that the evidence adduced to support the charges against the members of parliament relates to public statements, rallies and other peaceful political activities carried out in furtherance of their parliamentary duties and political party programme. Such activities include mediating between the Kurdistan Workers' Party (*Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê* – PKK) and the Turkish Government as part of the peace process between 2013 and 2015, publicly advocating political autonomy and criticizing the policies of President Erdoğan in relation to the current conflict in south-eastern Türkiye and at the border with Syria (including denouncing the alleged crimes committed by the Turkish security forces in that context). The complainant alleges that such statements, rallies and activities do not constitute any offence, and that they fall under the clear scope and protection of the fundamental rights of members of parliament.

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.

On 22 December 2020, the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights delivered its judgment in the case of *Demirtaş v. Türkiye* (No. 2) (Application No. 14305/17) and held that there had been violations of his rights to freedom of expression, to freedom and security, to a speedy decision on the lawfulness of detention and to free elections. The Court also found that Mr. Demirtaş' detention, especially during two crucial campaigns relating to the referendum of 16 April 2017 and the presidential elections of 24 June 2018, had pursued the ulterior motive of stifling pluralism and limiting freedom of political debate, which was at the very core of the concept of a democratic society. The Court held that the respondent state was to take all necessary measures to secure his immediate release. Since then, European parliamentary and executive institutions have called on the Turkish authorities to implement the judgment without delay. The Turkish authorities have stated that the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights could not be implemented, given that Mr. Demirtaş' ongoing detention was related to new evidence that was substantially different from that examined by the Court.

Similarly, on 8 November 2022, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Türkiye had violated several articles of the European Convention regarding the pretrial detention of 13 HDP parliamentarians elected to parliament in November 2015, namely Ms. Figen Yüksekdağ, Mr. İdris Baluken, Ms. Besime Konca, Mr. Abdullah Zeydan, Mr. Nihat Akdoğan, Ms. Selma Irmak, Mr. Ferhat Encu, Ms. Gülser Yıldırım, Mr. Nursel Aydoğan, Ms. Çağlar Demirel, Mr. Ayhan Bilgen, Ms. Burcu Çelik Özkan, and Ms. Leyla Birlik.

On 1 February 2022, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that the lifting of the parliamentary immunity of 40 HDP lawmakers, who had brought their case to the European Court following the constitutional amendment in May 2016, had violated their right to freedom of expression. In so doing, the Court responded to their assertion that the lifting of their immunity came in response to their political opinions and drew for its conclusions on this point on its rulings in the cases of *Demirtaş v. Türkiye* and *Demir v. Türkiye*.

On 19 October 2021, in the landmark decision *Vedat Şorli v. Turkey*, the European Court of Human Rights found that Article 299 of the Turkish Criminal Code, which criminalizes insulting the President, was incompatible with the right to freedom of expression, and urged the government to align legislation with Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

On 8 July 2025, the European Court of Human Rights delivered its judgment in *Selahattin Demirtaş v. Türkiye (No. 4)*, finding that Mr. Demirtaş's renewed detention since 2019 violated Articles 5 §§ 1, 3 and 4, and Article 18 in conjunction with Article 5 § 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 his release, by filing new but substantially identical charges with the aim of prolonging his detention. It ordered Türkiye to secure Mr. Demirtaş's immediate release, to pay him 55,745 euros in compensation, and to take general measures to prevent similar politically motivated detentions in the future.

The Turkish authorities have provided extensive information on the legal status of the criminal proceedings against the HDP parliamentarians, without, however, providing information on the precise facts to support the charges or convictions. The Turkish authorities have repeatedly justified the legality of the measures taken against the HDP parliamentarians and invoked the independence of the judiciary, the need to respond to security and terrorism threats and legislation adopted under the state of emergency. The authorities have provided detailed information on parliament's May 2016 "provisional constitutional amendment" on parliamentary immunity, which has been used to prosecute parliamentarians from all parties. They have asserted that there is no "HDP witch hunt" in Türkiye; that women parliamentarians are not being specifically targeted; that there is no Kurdish issue in Türkiye and no current conflict in south-eastern Türkiye; that Türkiye is facing a terrorism issue on many levels involving the PKK and its "extensions"; that the HDP has never publicly denounced the violent activities of the PKK; that HDP members, including members of parliament, have made many statements in support of the PKK and their "extensions"; that HDP members have attended funerals of PKK suicide bombers and called for people to take to the streets, which has resulted in violent incidents with civilian casualties; that this does not fall within the acceptable limits of freedom of expression; that the Constitutional Court has reached such conclusions in several cases and, in other cases, domestic remedies have not yet been exhausted; that the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law in Türkiye must be respected; and that the average implementation rate of European Court of Human Rights judgments for Türkiye's sat at 90%, well above the average for all Council of Europe Member States.

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 is drawing heavily on the trial against several HDP politicians in the 2014 Kobane case referred to earlier. In the face of dissolution, the HDP leadership refrained from formally dissolving the party; its members decided to run 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.

On 27 February 2025, Mr. Abdullah Öcalan, the imprisoned leader and founder of the PKK, reportedly called on the organization to lay down its arms and disband. In response, the PKK announced a unilateral ceasefire on 1 March 2025. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan welcomed the development as an "historic opportunity" to dismantle the "barriers of terror" and advance national unity and reconciliation. At the hearing with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians at the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025), the Turkish delegation stated that parliament had established the National Solidarity, Brotherhood and Democracy Committee to accompany this process. This Committee was fully inclusive and had been very active, having held 15 meetings thus far and hearing 120 stakeholders. It was due to prepare and propose a comprehensive peace settlement framework to the plenary of parliament.

B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Thanks* the Turkish delegation for the information provided at the hearing with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians during the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025) and for their openness to dialogue; *appreciates* the assurances made by the delegation that from now on there would be a more regular flow of information to enable the Committee to have the precise facts that underpin the prosecution of the Turkish individuals whose cases are before it; and *points out* in this regard that, despite extensive information provided in the past on the legal situation of the individuals concerned in this case, no official details have been made available on the factual grounds to justify the legal proceedings against them;

2. *Is deeply concerned* that seven former parliamentarians continue to languish in prison, including four convicted in connection with the so-called Kobane trial, in which a large number of HDP leaders and elected officials were handed heavy prison sentences in May 2024; *strongly believes* that these convictions, including those of Mr. Selahattin Demirtaş and Ms. Figen Yüksekdağ, appear to have been based largely, if not exclusively, on political speech and association and contradict the rulings and legal standards set forth by the European Court of Human Rights; and *is deeply concerned*, in this regard, that in its *Demirtaş v. Türkiye (No. 4)* judgment of 8 July 2025 the European Court found that the subsequent adjustment of the charges filed against Mr. Demirtaş after the Grand Chamber had ordered his release in 2020 had *served the sole purpose of circumventing that judgment and prolonging his detention* and that the Court had called on the Turkish authorities to ensure his release “without delay”;
3. *Urges* the Turkish authorities to implement speedily the most recent European Court of Human Rights’ ruling in good faith, to review the other cases of imprisoned former parliamentarians, also in light of earlier rulings by the European Court, and to ensure their immediate release where appropriate; *calls on*, in particular, the relevant committees of the *Grand National Assembly* of Türkiye to exercise their oversight function to help ensure that the European Court of Human Rights’ rulings are implemented in a full and timely manner; and *wishes* to receive official information on these points;
4. *Decides* to close the case of Mr. Sirri Süreyya Önder, who has passed away, pursuant to paragraph 25(a), section IX, of Annex I to the revised Rules and Practices of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians;
5. *Notes* that the case for the dissolution of the People’s Democratic Party (HDP) has not yet been concluded and that, in anticipation of an unfavourable ruling, the HDP shifted over to the Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party); *remains concerned* that if the Constitutional Court decides to dissolve the HDP it could also impose a ban on certain individuals from being founders, members, executives or auditors of another political party for five years; *recalls* in this regard its long-held conviction that the rationale behind the dissolution proceedings conflated, without substantiated legal reasoning, the HDP and the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK); *reaffirms* that the HDP is a legally constituted political party that does not advocate violence and that dissolution or banning of political parties should only be considered as a measure of last resort in line with European Court of Human Rights’ jurisprudence; *calls on* the Constitutional Court to render its judgment in strict accordance with these standards; *notes* that the Turkish Delegation to the IPU stated on a previous occasion that, as a result of implemented reforms, the closure of political parties had been made more difficult and was considered an exceptional measure; and *wishes* to be kept informed of the final decision of the Constitutional Court;
6. *Is pleased* that progress appears to have been made towards the resumption of a meaningful peace process between the Turkish Government and representatives of the Kurdish movement, including the PKK, and that the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye is actively involved in this process;
7. *Appreciates* the written invitation extended by the Head of the Turkish Delegation, which was repeated by the Turkish delegation to the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians during the hearing held at the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025), to come to Türkiye to discuss the concerns and issues that have arisen in the cases in more detail, including by facilitating access to the case files, to continue its exchange of views directly with the relevant parliamentary, judicial and executive authorities, and to learn more about the next steps towards the resumption of the peace process; and *requests* the Secretary General to make the necessary arrangements with the Turkish Delegation to the IPU to facilitate the speedy organization of this mission, well before the 152nd IPU Assembly is held in Istanbul, which should also include meetings with several of the former parliamentarians concerned in this case, including Mr. Demirtaş and Ms. Yüksekdağ, and other relevant stakeholders;
8. *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;
9. *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 by consensus by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)¹



Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM) on 15 October in Ankara.
Credit: DEM Party press office.

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|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| TUR-144 - Ayten Kordu (Ms.) | TUR-168 - Pero Dundar (Ms.) |
| TUR-145 - Beritan Güneş Altın (Ms.) | TUR-169 - Sabahat Erdoğan Sarıtaş (Ms.) |
| TUR-146 - Burcugül Çubuk (Ms.) | TUR-170 - Sait Dede |
| TUR-147 - Ceylan Akça Cupolo (Ms.) | TUR-171 - Serhat Eren |
| TUR-148 - Dilan Kunt Ayan (Ms.) | TUR-172 - Serpil Kemalbay (Ms.) |
| TUR-149 - Fatma Kurtulan (Ms.) | TUR-173 - Sezai Temelli |
| TUR-150 - Gülcan Kaçmaz Sayyigit (Ms.) | TUR-174 - Sümeyye Boz (Ms.) |
| TUR-151 - Gülderen Varlı (Ms.) | TUR-175 - Tülay Hatimoğulları Oruç (Ms.) |
| TUR-152 - Gülistan Kılıç Koçyiğit (Ms.) | TUR-176 - Yılmaz Hun |
| TUR-153 - Hakkı Saruhan Oluç | TUR-177 - Zeynep Oduncu (Ms.) |
| TUR-154 - Hasan Özgüneş | TUR-178 - Zülküf Uçar |
| TUR-155 - Hüseyin Kaçmaz | TUR-179 - Çiğdem Kılıçgün Uçar (Ms.) |
| TUR-156 - Hüseyin Olan | TUR-180 - Ömer Öcalan |
| TUR-157 - Kamuran Tanhan | TUR-181 - Öznur Bartın (Ms.) |
| TUR-158 - Kemal Peköz | TUR-182 - Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu |
| TUR-159 - Keskin Bayındır | TUR-184 - Çiçek Otlı (Ms.) |
| TUR-160 - Keziban Konukcu Kök (Ms.) | TUR-185 - George Aslan |
| TUR-161 - Mehmet Rüştü Tiryaki | TUR-186 - Heval Bozdağ |
| TUR-162 - Mehmet Zeki Irmez | TUR-187 - Sinan Çiftyürek |
| TUR-163 - Murat Çepni | |
| TUR-164 - Nejla Demir (Ms.) | |
| TUR-165 - Nevroz Uysal Aslan (Ms.) | |
| TUR-166 - Nuran İmir (Ms.) | |
| TUR-167 - Oya Ersoy (Ms.) | |

¹ Certain members of the delegation of Türkiye expressed reservations regarding the decision. It is important to stress that not all members of the delegation expressed reservations.

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 43 incumbent and former opposition parliamentarians from the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party), 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 violations occurred in multiple locations across Türkiye, particularly in provinces with significant Kurdish populations, including Diyarbakır, Van, Hakkari, Şırnak, Siirt, Mardin and İstanbul, as well as in Ankara, where legal proceedings are centralized at the investigative bureau of parliamentary crimes. Several incidents took place during demonstrations, party-organized events, parliamentary debates and peaceful marches such as the "Great Freedom March" (February 2024) and protests against electoral interventions in Van and Bitlis (April 2024). Many incidents also date back to earlier events, including the 2014 Kobane protests and Newroz celebrations between 2019 and 2023.

The complainant points out that most of the parliamentarians are under investigation for charges such as "terrorist propaganda", "membership of a terrorist organization", "incitement", or "participating in unlawful assemblies". The alleged offences often involve peaceful activities such as giving speeches, attending funerals, joining public marches, making social media posts, or expressing solidarity with hunger strikes. Several former and current members have also been subjected to travel bans, police raids and confiscation of passports, preventing them from carrying out their parliamentary duties or participating in international forums. At least four members – Ms. Fatma Kurtulan, Ms. Ayşe Acar Başaran, Ms. Besime Konca and Ms. Pero Dundar – have sought asylum abroad, citing fear of persecution and threats to their safety.

Several members of parliament, including female members, reported physical assaults, intimidation, and surveillance by law enforcement, particularly during protests in Hakkari, Van, Silopi, İzmir, Şanlıurfa and Diyarbakır. Complaints against 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.

Most of the legal proceedings are handled by public prosecutor's offices in Ankara, reflecting the centralization of judicial control over political cases. Parliamentary immunity has often been disregarded or lifted in summary proceedings, and vague anti-terror and disinformation laws are systematically applied to criminalize political speech and dissent. Although none of the 39 parliamentarians has been convicted at final instance, the constant pressure of overlapping prosecutions, threats, bans and violence severely impairs their ability to perform their mandate. In addition, former members of parliament fail to pursue political careers after their term, often due to ongoing criminal proceedings based on their actions as members of parliament.

The complainant argues that these developments are part of a broader deterioration of the democratic space in Türkiye and the use of the judiciary and state institutions against legitimate opposition voices. At the hearing with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians held during the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025), the Turkish delegation – further to a letter from the Head of the Delegation

Case TUR-COLL-04

Türkiye: Parliament affiliated to the IPU

Victims: 43 opposition members of parliament (20 men and 23 women)

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

Submission of complaint: March 2025

Recent IPU decision: April 2025

IPU mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearings: Hearings with the Turkish delegation and the complainant at the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025)

Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: October 2025
- Communication from the complainant: October 2025
- Communication to the authorities: September 2025
- Communication to the complainant: October 2025

dated 19 October 2025 – requested that the Committee discontinue its examination of the following cases, affirming that the individuals concerned were no longer facing any legal proceedings: Ms. Ayten Kordu, Ms. Beritan Günes Altin, Mr. Kamuran Tanhan, Ms. Dilan Kunt Ayan, Ms. Gülcan Kagmaz Sayyigit, Ms. Keziban Konukçu Kök, Ms. Nejla Demir, Ms. Sabahat Erdogan Saritas, Ms. Sümeyye Boz Çaki and Mr. Yılmaz Hun. The complainant states that all these individuals continue to face legal actions and has provided specific information in this regard.

B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Notes* that the original complaint concerning 39 parliamentarians was declared admissible by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians under its Procedure for the examination and treatment of complaints during its 177th session (April 2025); *also notes* that the new complaint concerning four additional members of parliament is admissible, considering that it: (i) was submitted in due form by a qualified complainant under section I.1(a), (b) and (c) 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); (ii) concerns incumbent members of parliament at the time of the initial allegations; and (iii) concerns allegations of ill-treatment, threats, acts of intimidation and of lack of due process in proceedings against parliamentarians, and violations of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, assembly and association, which are allegations that fall within the Committee's mandate.
2. *Thanks* the Turkish delegation for the information provided at the hearing with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians during the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025) and for their openness to dialogue; *appreciates* the assurances made by the delegation that there will be a regular flow of information to enable the Committee to understand the official views on the situation of each of the individuals concerned; *notes* in this regard the discrepancy between the views of the Turkish parliamentary authorities and the complainant regarding the legal situation of 10 of the parliamentarians; *requests* the Secretary General, with a view to seeking clarity on this point, to make available to the Turkish authorities the relevant information the Committee has on file, as provided by the complainant, on the reported legal action taken against each of these individuals;
3. *Is deeply concerned*, nevertheless, by the apparent similarity between the patterns observed in this case and those that have come to characterize another long-standing collective case in Türkiye, in which opposition parliamentarians appear to have been targeted in reprisal for the legitimate exercise of their rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association; *recalls in this regard* its long-standing view that the Turkish authorities have too readily conflated the HDP and its successor, the DEM Party, with terrorism and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), without providing substantiated legal or factual reasoning; *calls on* the Turkish authorities to provide information on the factual and legal justification for the proceedings brought against opposition parliamentarians in this new collective case and details of action taken to investigate the instances of alleged use of excessive force and intimidation by state agents against parliamentarians;
4. *Appreciates* the written invitation extended by the Head of the Delegation of Turkey, which was renewed by the Turkish delegation to the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians during the hearing at the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025), to visit Türkiye to discuss the concerns and issues in the cases at hand in more detail, including by facilitating access to the case files, and to continue its exchange of views directly with the relevant parliamentary, judicial and executive authorities and other relevant stakeholders; and *requests* the Secretary General to make the necessary arrangements with the Turkish Delegation to the IPU to facilitate the speedy organization of this mission, well before the 152nd IPU Assembly is held in Istanbul;
5. *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;
6. *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),

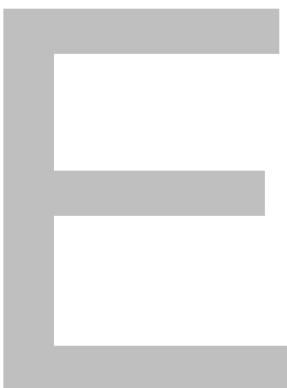
Referring to the full report on the mission conducted to Turkey by two members of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights Parliamentarians, Vice-President of the Committee, Ms. Ann Clwyd and Ms. Margaret Kiener Nellen, from 24 to 27 February 2014 (CL/195/11(b)-R.1),

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. Sinçar 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.