



THE CIVIL SOCIETY IS WATCHING

June 2021

*“Monitoring report on the Presidential
Human Rights Action Plan”*

What are we watching?

The **Human Rights Action Plan**, which was issued with the signature of the Turkish President, was introduced to the public as a continuation of the will of reformation by the government, based on the Judicial Reform Strategy Document through the 11th Development Plan. With the Action Plan, it is claimed that rights and freedoms are aimed to be extended with an extensive legislative search, standards are aimed to be increased for public services to be more accessible, accountable, equal, transparent and fair. This report will be issued monthly in order to measure and debate the developments realised following the claims made with the Human Rights Action Plan.

How are we watching?

Our monthly report “The Civil Society Is Watching” will record the monthly developments regarding the 9 goals, 11 principles stated with the Human Rights Action Plan as well as the 393 activities predicted to be realised. Thus, the report aims at debating the correlation between the steps taken with the aims presented in the Action Plan, as well as how satisfactory the developments are. The report will compare monthly reports launched by non-governmental organisations with the reality of the country, as well as the allegations of the public administration. The report will include data announced by the Ministry of Justice and its related chambers, as well as the Interior Ministry whenever available. It is a fact that the measures of “transparency and accountability” that were presented as principles in the Human Rights Action Plan find no correspondence in the reality of the Turkish government ruling. Therefore it should not be forgotten that the “accuracy” of the numbers stated in reports prepared by the civil society reflect the difficulties faced by rights advocates and press workers. This is exactly why we had to frequently use the expression, “at least” before many numbers stated in this report.

Report Summary

1. GOAL - A stronger human rights protection system

Current State: Oppression against the civil society, oppositional members and rights advocates continue to increase.

2. GOAL - Judicial independence and the strengthening of fair trial

Current State: Unpredictable and arbitrary prosecutions prove that the supremacy of law has replaced the law of the supremes.

3. GOAL - Legal predictability and transparency

Current State: Journalists are being prosecuted, legal and economic pressure as well as arbitrariness is strengthened on press organisations.

4. GOAL - Protection and development of the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of organisation and freedom of faith

Current State: The use of the right to meeting and demonstration has effectively been suspended.

5. GOAL - Strengthening personal freedom and safety

Current State: Hundreds of people are being prosecuted due to insulting (!) Erdoğan, government authorities and bureaucrats.

6. GOAL - Protecting persons' material and moral integrity, as well as personal life

Current State: Systematic government violence increases against the LGBTQ+s.

7. GOAL - More effective protection of proprietary rights

Current State: It has become an ordinary government practice to appoint trustees to companies, municipalities and universities.

8. GOAL - The protection of vulnerable groups and strengthening social welfare

Current State: Turkey has officially withdrawn from the Istanbul Convention with a Presidential decree.

9. GOAL - Administrative and social awareness on human rights

Current State: Online access bans are being executed in the widest possible way with copy-and-paste decrees issued by Criminal Judicatures of Peace following applications of public executives and pro-government party members.

Four months have passed since March 2, 2021, when President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has first announced the **Human Rights Action Plan**. The [Ministry of Justice's Human Rights Chamber Directorate](#) is responsible for conducting the secretariat work regarding the progress of the plan, which is predicted to be completed within 2 years in line with the 11 principles and 9 goals. However, no activity report was yet shared by the Directorate, nor from other ministries and institutions, which were supposed to prepare four-month activity reports.

The Ministry of Justice's Human Rights Chamber Directorate announced that the Human Rights Action Plan was published on its website on April 30 and that the Human Rights Action Plan website was launched on June 1 with the URL <https://insanhaklarieylemplani.adalet.gov.tr/>. Since the start date of the website until July 1, there have been only 15 news articles published on the website, together with the content posted for the past. There is no interim report submitted or published on the "Monitoring Tracking System" integrated on the website! The following is a list of news articles and content available on the website, in chronological order of publication:

- [President Erdoğan announces the Human Rights Action Plan](#)
- [Minister Gül: "May the Action Plan Bring Goodness to our Country, Government and all Citizens"](#)
- [Here is the Human Rights Action Plan](#)
- [The Action Plan brings expert performance system](#)
- [Justice Ministry launches circular on 'Judicial Meeting Chambers'](#)
- [Effective and systematic fight against all kinds of violence](#)
- ['Justice service at home' found satisfactory](#)
- [Circular on Human Rights Action Plan execution process published on Official Gazette](#)
- [Regulation on Judicial Support and Victimhood Services published on Official Gazette](#)
- [Justice Ministry Spokesman Ertuğrul Çekin shares details on Human Rights Action Plan execution calendar](#)
- [Human Rights Action Plan execution calendar published on Justice Ministry website](#)
- [Meeting held within Human Rights Action Plan execution calendar](#)
- [Proposal regarding amendment on Law of Criminal Execution passes Parliament](#)
- [Pilot application within Human Rights Action Plan ongoing successfully](#)

- [Regulation on e-hearings published on Official Gazette](#)

As the content headlines reveal, 2 circulars and 2 regulations were issued in total so far, one of which was on the execution calendar.

We could not reach any information on how many lawyers could benefit from the application of e-hearings, which allows lawyers to attend hearings from where they are. The application started on September 15, 2020 and is supposed to be available at 738 civil courts. The pilot application that aimed a wider use of expertise in lawsuits and allowed civilians to be experts started on December 21, 2020 and is ongoing at the Enforcement Directorates in Ankara and Ankara Western Courthouse. It is indicated that expertise appointments have been made for 532 sales files so far.

With “The Law Draft on Amendments in the Execution of Criminal Penalties and Security Measures”, monitoring councils were allowed to see how convicts and prisoners could be transported through the vehicles, how they were kept at courthouses for hearings and how they received medical treatment; as well as to receive information from authorities and officials, while speaking to the convicts and prisoners as well. However, no steps were taken in order to democratise the “monitoring councils” or allow civil society participation in the councils.

The same draft allowed prisoners to communicate with their lawyers and relatives through email. With this regulation, however, it will be easier to tap and monitor meetings of organised terror crime convicts, who are in closed penitentiary institutes and whose communication with the outside world is considered dangerous. Meeting durations of convicts were [increased](#) from one hour to 1.5 hours. Hunger strikes in more than 100 prisons, which were ongoing with the claim for the solitary confinement of PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan to end, have left [200 days behind](#).

[It is understood](#) that the coordination meeting, which was held in Ankara on May 18, 2021 to debate the Human Rights Action Plan execution calendar with the participation of bureaucrats from the Ministry of Justice, Council of Judges and Prosecutors and the Turkish Justice Academy, was limited to a debate only and not aimed at a resolution.

Reactions continue against Turkey’s withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention through a Presidential decree, whereas the opening of Women Support Units in five provinces was considered as a progress (!) in the execution of the Human Rights Action Plan’s section on the fight against violence.

The announcement of new exam questions on the Human Rights Law in the examination for the Public Personnel Selection Examination Group A and the Examination for Teaching, and

the Human Rights Action Plan text being translated into French were the other steps taken by the Ministry of Justice in the last four months.

Protection and development of the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of organisation and freedom of faith

4. Goal

Right to Meeting and Demonstration effectively suspended...

The right to organise meetings and demonstrations, which is protected by Article 34 of the Turkish Constitution, has been effectively suspended by the ruling power.

With the protest bans declared by the Governors and District Governors to last between 15 and 30 days, the right to meeting and demonstration has been rendered continuously unusable, for months in certain provinces and for years in others. The protest and demonstration ban that has been declared by the Van Governorate on November 21, 2016 and been ongoing without break with 15-day extensions since, is about to break a tragic record. The COVID-19 outbreak is being made an excuse by the government and local administrations for the banning of all sorts of meetings and demonstrations. In the meantime, those searching for their rights face police violence, prosecutions and judicial fines.

The [Monitoring for Equal Rights Association](#) announced that at least 320 peaceful meetings and demonstrations were intervened in Turkey during the first five months of 2021, and that at least 2,123 people were detained. According to the data in the report, Istanbul has been the top province with the most number of interventions, with 123 violations; followed by Ankara with 56, Izmir with 20 and Diyarbakır with 18 violations. According to the data shared by the association, the right to peaceful meeting and demonstration has been restricted with 132 local administration decrees in total during the five months, 107 of which were general and 25 of which were specific ban decrees. 99 of such local administration bans were based on the pandemic. The most local administration bans were issued in Istanbul with 14 decrees, followed by Van with 12 decrees, Osmaniye and Hakkari with 10 decrees and Siirt with 9 decrees.

Hakkari Governorate extended the ongoing protest and demonstration ban in the province and Rize Governorate extended the protest and demonstration ban ongoing in Ikizdere district until June 15th. Both bans were based on the protection of public safety and order, as well as measures against the pandemic. In addition, Rize Governorate claimed that the ongoing resistance in Ikizdere district against the construction of a stone quarry was under risk of propaganda by marginal groups.

The statement organized in front of the Human Rights Association Istanbul office and the Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects office for the commemoration of those having lost their lives during the Gezi Park protest was banned by Beyoğlu District Governorate. The district governorate stated that the area the statement was organized at was not included in the allowed route for meetings and demonstrations, adding the conditions of the pandemic as the reason for the ban.

Judicial action was taken against 34 residents in İkizdere district of Rize, who protested the stone quarry to be constructed in Cevizlik village, due to “resisting to prevent duty,” “public denigration of security forces”, “acting against the measures taken against infectious diseases,” “violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations” and “violating the immunity of residence.” 41 residents were fined a total of 80 thousand 100 Turkish Liras due to violating the curfew applied within the measures against the Coronavirus pandemic.

Protests and demonstrations were banned in Muş and Ağrı for 15 days each. The ban in Ağrı will last until July 3 and in Muş until July 4.

**Strengthening personal freedom
and safety**

5. Goal

Prosecutions due to insulting (!?) Erdoğan, government authorities and bureaucrats

Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office started an investigation against Cumhuriyet Daily’s Editor-In-Chief Aykut Küçükkaya and Managing Editor Olcay Büyüктаş Akça due to “insult and slander” following the complaint of Gendarmerie General Commander Arif Çetin. After photos were revealed, in which he seemed to have had close relations with Tolga Ağar and criminal organisation members, Çetin had applied to ban access against Peker’s 2nd and 3rd videos as well, which explained the death of journalist Yelda Kaharman and the incident’s connection with Tolga Ağar. The related news article on Cumhuriyet Daily also carried the headline, “Commander with gang leader.”

Izmir Çeşme 1st Criminal Court of First Instance sentenced True Party Chairman Rıfat Serdaroğlu to 23 months and 10 days of imprisonment due to “insulting President Erdoğan and Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) leader Devlet Bahçeli.” Serdaroğlu was on trial due to an article he wrote, which was published online on October 8, 2018 with the title, “Father, son and the sacred son-in-law.”

An indictment was prepared against Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Chairman İmamođlu due to “publicly insulting the Higher Electoral Council members”. In the press statement he made on November 4, 2019 at Üsküdar Fethipaşa Coppice, İmamođlu had said, “Those who cancelled the elections on March 31 are dumb.” İmamođlu faces a sentence of imprisonment for up to 4 years and 1 month.

A protection area officer wanted to take a statement down after more than 2 thousand trucks of sea sand were taken from the Kaş Patara special protection area to be sold to greenhouses. He was later fired due to “insulting the President.” The officer claimed that as he was taking the statement down, he was prevented by a Justice and Development Party (AKP) district Chairman with the words that his commanders were informed of the situation. The officer replied to the chairman, saying, “It doesn’t matter if the regional director came, even if the President himself came here, I am still going to take down this statement.” Afterwards, the officer was kicked out of the area and was fired from his job by the District Governor due to “insulting the President.”

Presidential Communications Director Fahrettin Altun filed a criminal complaint against the expressions of Gökhan Akkaya due to “insult”. Akkaya wrote on social media, “which land are you now trying to buy for cheap, you swine.” After the Prosecutor’s suggestion for reconciliation, Altun’s lawyer demanded a written apology from the citizen as well as 15 thousand Turkish Liras of compensation.

The Leftist Party Istanbul Provincial Organisation announced that 10 Central Executive Board members, Provincial and District organisation executives were summoned to testify due to “insulting the President.” The statement made by the party's Twitter account explained, “10 of our colleagues, who were Central Executive Board members, Provincial and District organisation executives, were summoned to testify due to insulting the President following the protest we have organized as well as the posters we hung.”

An indictment was prepared against the Ankara Bar Association Chairman and executive board members due to the press statement they organised, in which they criticised Director of Religious Affairs Ali Erbaş after he used hate speech against the LGBTQs. The indictment was prepared due to “insulting a public officer because of his duty” and was sent to Ankara Western Courthouse 3rd Assize Court. In case the indictment is accepted, Ankara Bar Association Chairman Erinç Sağkan and 11 executive board members will stand trial facing imprisonment sentences for up to 2 years.

Judicial independence and the strengthening of fair trial

2. Goal

Supremacy of law, or law of supremes?

Turkey insists on not executing the European Court of Human Rights decrees. The Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers started a violation procedure for the first time against Turkey, after it didn't execute the ECtHR decrees on Osman Kavala. On the other hand, Selahattin Demirtaş's lawyer Benan Molu has made a statement and announced that the Council of Europe has allowed Turkey time until June 22 in order to "present an action plan that would include measures taken to strengthen judicial independence" regarding the lack of execution of the ECtHR decree for Demirtaş. The Constitutional Court has issued that the prosecution of People's Democratic Party (HDP) Kocaeli MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu due to a news he shared on Twitter, was a rights violation. The high court decided that Gergerlioğlu's right to election and political activity as well as his right to freedom of expression were violated. Gergerlioğlu was eventually released from prison four days later.

The Constitutional Court decrees issued in June 2021, which were compiled by lawyer Benan Molu and Asst. Prof. Serkan Köybaşı, was [published as well](#). The high court issued one violation decree each in applications on the "obligation on the right to life and the execution of effective investigation" as well as "the ban against torture and inhumane treatment as well as the obligation of effective investigation"; 2 violation decrees in applications on the "right to personal freedom and safety", 5 violation decrees on the "right to fair trial" and 3 violation decrees on the right to freedom of expression.

Victim relatives continue to search for their rights in front of courthouses since they can't find it in hearing rooms. Following the "justice watch" of the Şenyaşar Family, the family of Gülistan Doku also started a watch in front of Tunceli Courthouse. The families continuously face police violence, beaten and being threatened through detainment.

Lawyer Kemal Aytaç stood trial due to his speech during the press statement organised at Çağlayan Courthouse against the regulation for multiple Bar Associations. In the first hearing at Istanbul 60th Criminal Court of First Instance, the court decided to apply to the Ministry of Justice for a permission of the lawyer's prosecution.

Judge Ali Dursun Turan has put an annotation in the decree of conviction issued on the drug trafficking lawsuit filed at Alanya Assize Court and stated, "Even though the defendant is prosecuted due to activities related to drug trafficking, during a time that connections of some politician's relatives with drug trafficking are revealed through their dances with mafia

leaders and no investigation is opened against them, penalising defendants who commit lighter crimes do not fit the definition of justice. This is why I do not agree with the opinion of the respected majority of the court board." Republican People's Party (CHP) Mersin Parliament Member Ali Mahir Başarır announced that Turan was exiled to Siirt and was later suspended from his profession.

The application made by the Media and Legal Studies Center on the stay of execution of the ban against Theater Jiyana Nu's Kurdish play, *Beru*, was denied by Istanbul 10th Administrative Court. The court based the denial on the theater group having connections with the Mesopotamia Cultural Center and that the Media and Legal Studies Center had connections with the PKK. The court claimed that the administration's will may be extended due to the protection of "national security and public order."

Emine Şenyaşar has been performing a "justice watch" in front of Urfa Courthouse for the killing of her two children and her husband by the guards and relatives of Justice and Development Party (AKP) Parliament Member İbrahim Halil Yıldız, as well as for her arrested son. Mesopotamia Agency (MA) reporter Emrullah Acar, who wanted to report the news of Emine Şenyaşar's fight, was threatened by the police. On the 106th day of the justice watch, a police officer came in front of the Şenyaşar family residence and threatened Acar, who was waiting right outside the residence's garden.

Legal predictability and transparency

3. Goal

Prosecutions of journalists

The prosecution of journalists continues with full speed. 40 journalists were prosecuted, sentences were claimed against 8 journalists and investigations were opened against 2 journalists in June; 2 journalists were sentenced to 4 years, 8 months and 2 days of imprisonment and one journalist was arrested in June. Four journalists, including Bülent Kılıç, faced violence as they were following news information. According to the reports of the government and the Press Ad Institute (BIK), pro-government newspapers were given 141 million 932 thousand Turkish Liras of public resources from the Press Ad Institute (BIK). Nine newspapers, including Sözcü and Cumhuriyet Daily, could receive only 22 percent of official announcements. Ad bans against newspapers increased by 150 percent in 2020. 97 percent of the penalties issued against national newspapers were issued against BirGün, Cumhuriyet, Evrensel, Korkusuz and Sözcü Daily.

Bursa 10th Assize Court sentenced bursamuharif.com Managing Editor Ozan Kaplanođlu to 1 year, 10 months and 15 days of imprisonment due to “making terrorist organisation propaganda” through reporting news on a press statement organised in Bursa in 2018 against the Afrin Operation.

The 10-month imprisonment sentence issued against Bitlis Journalists’ Association Chairman and Bitlis News Daily’s Editor-In-Chief Sinan Aygöl was approved by the appeal court due to “violating the privacy of investigation” over reporting the news on an incident of child abuse in Tatvan district of Bitlis. The abuser was released, yet the reporter will be imprisoned.

The Radio and Television Supreme Council has sentenced Halk TV to an administrative fine due to the evaluation of show host Şirin Payzın on the expressions of President Erdoğan following Meral Akşener’s visit to Rize. Payzın has evaluated Erdoğan’s threats against Akşener as “violence against women.” According to the Radio and Television Supreme Council, Payzın has “exhibited the fight of two politicians as an issue of violence against women and thus violated broadcasting principles.”

The Radio and Television Supreme Council penalised KRT TV with an administrative fine as well due to the show, in which there were debates on SADAT International Defense Consultancy, which defines itself as a company that gives consultancy and military education in the area of defense and is well known with its close relations with the government.

The indictment prepared against journalist Ayşe Kara due to “illegal organisation membership” was accepted by Diyarbakır 5th Assize Court. The indictment claimed that Kara was a member of the Free Women’s Congress (KJA) and the Free Journalists Association, and that she conducted activities within the Democratic Society Congress (DTK). The indictment further considered Kara following the demonstration of the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) in Mardin in 2016 for news as a criminal element and claimed 15 years of imprisonment against Kara due to “illegal organisation membership”.

Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office’s Press Bureau prepared a new investigation against Die Welt Daily reporter Deniz Yücel. Yücel is charged with “insulting the President” due to writing the headline “coup organiser” on the photo of Erdoğan in the supplement of the magazine’s November 6, 2016 issue. The file was merged with another case opened due to “denigrating the government” through two articles published in October 2016. The first hearing was scheduled for July 1st, Istanbul 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance.

An investigation was opened against Şarköy’s Voice newspaper official Yakup Önal following the complaint of a Republican People’s Party (CHP) mayor. The newspaper had reported the

news on the damages in the budget of Tekirdağ Şarköy Municipality, based on the report of the Interior Ministry Inspector, with the headline, “They will pay 500 thousand Turkish Liras!”

Elazığ Chief Public Prosecutor’s Office started another investigation against journalist Baransel Ağca, who published the autopsy report of Yeldana Kaharman after her suspicious death. Ağca is charged with “illegally obtaining and spreading personal data” within the investigation. The journalist stated, “Those who never made an explanation on the autopsy report, which was the source of all suspicions, for the last two years, are attempting to penalise me due to expressing the suspicions in the file.”

The final decree was issued in the lawsuit filed against journalist Hakkı Bultan at Diyarbakır 12th Assize Court due to “insulting the President” through the statement he made regarding journalist Rohat Aktaş, who was killed during the curfews, as well as due to “insulting a public officer because of his duty” through his expressions on former Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu. Journalist Boltan was sentenced to 10 months of imprisonment due to insulting a public officer because of his duty as well as 1 year, 2 months and 17 days of imprisonment due to insulting the President, effective immediately.

Administrative and social awareness on human rights

9. Goal

Online access bans

According to the Freedom of Expression Association’s [EngelliWeb](#) project documents, an access ban was issued against women’s news website Jin News for the 29th time in June 2021; as Criminal Judicatures of Peace signed 16 access ban decrees against social media accounts and content. The social media content banned from access include tweets by journalist Erk Acarer and criminal organisation leader Sedat Peker, who “shook” Turkey’s agenda with his disclosures, together with the social media accounts of Peker...

Seven access ban decrees issued by different Diyarbakır Criminal Judicatures of Peace against the Mesopotamia News Agency, which was banned from access 34 times in total, were revealed to have been taken following the application of Diyarbakır Provincial Gendarmerie Command. The news article with the headline: “Governorate blames people in chaos for potatoes,” was considered to be “heavy criticism” and “against the protection of

public order.” News on the Diyarbakır Bar Association report regarding sexual abuse and torture against villagers by soldiers were also made subject to the access bans.

Selçuk Criminal Judicature of Peace issued an access ban against the news article published in Cumhuriyet Daily on the arrest of Justice and Development Party (AKP) Selçuk Youth Organisation’s former Chairman Refik Yakıt after his abuse on his five-year-old child was proven with forensic medicine reports in Izmir. The news article carried the headline, “Former AKP Youth Organisation Chairman and father arrested over abusing own child.”

A stronger human rights protection system

1. Goal

Oppression against civil society and rights advocates

According to the data compiled by the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV), 17 rights advocates were prosecuted in seven different lawsuits in 2020. 324 rights-based non-governmental organisation members were detained and 90 of them were arrested. 10 events organised on women’s rights and LGBTQ+ rights were intervened against and 164 people were detained. 18 peaceful meetings and demonstrations were intervened against on the right to environmental and urban rights, 84 people were detained. Activities continued to silence rights advocates in June as well.

28 investigations have been opened against Star Women’s Association founder Rojbin Bor in the last 16 months. 27 investigations started against her based on the press statements she participated in, social media posts she made and the interviews she gave are still ongoing. In the meantime, a social media post of Bor on the sexual assault and rape incident in Gercüş district of Batman with perpetrators including soldiers, police officers and guards, turned into a lawsuit as well. Bor faces an imprisonment sentence for up to three years due to “public incitement towards resentment and hostility” and will stand trial in the first hearing on September 14 at Van 7th Criminal Court of First Instance.

The lawsuit filed against rights advocate and lawyer Sevda Çelik Özbingöl, who was detained and arrested in Urfa in March 2020, based on the press statements she participated in as well as her meetings with clients in prisons, was concluded. Urfa 6th Assize Court sentenced Özbingöl to 11 years and six months of imprisonment in total due to “illegal

organisation membership,” “violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations” and “making illegal organisation propaganda.”

An investigation was started against Human Rights Association (IHD) Co-Chair Eren Keskin and journalists Yağmur Kaya and Ahmet Kanbal due to “targeting those taking part in the fight against terrorism” following the complaint of Gendarmerie General Command’s Deputy Commander Musa Çitil. The investigation was started due to a statement Eren Keskin made following the statement of Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu, in which he targeted People’s Democratic Party (HDP) members. Soylu’s statement was on Special Sergeant Musa Orhan raping İpek Er and causing her death in Gercüş district of Batman. Keskin was charged due to her social media post, in which she wrote, “Years before Musa Orhan, there was Musa Çitil. He was a commander in Mardin in the 1990s. He was prosecuted due to sexually harassing Ş.R. and was acquitted. Years later, he was a commander in ‘Sur’ district of Diyarbakır.” Journalist Kanbal was charged due to his social media post as well. Journalist Kaya, on the other hand, was charged due to an interview she made with Keskin.

The protection of vulnerable groups and strengthening social welfare

8. Goal

Turkey no longer party to Istanbul Convention

Turkey has withdrawn from the “Istanbul Convention” or “The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence” by July 1st. through a Presidential

decree. The first application on the stay of execution made at the Council of State with the allegation that the procedure of withdrawal was against the Constitution, has been denied with three votes against two. Putting annotations on the decree, the judges indicated, like many other lawyers, that “international conventions can only be withdrawn from with the procedure and method they were enacted in the first place.” The insufficiency of applications are being debated on the rights to life of children and women, as well as their rights to protection from violence. This one-sided decree increases worries as well. Women were on the streets for June against male violence and government policies, organising various events.

The [We Will Stop Femicides Platform](#) announced that at least 18 women were killed in June and 20 women died suspiciously.

The first hearing of the lawsuit filed against 33 women, who were detained in the protest organised by Ankara Women’s Platform on August 12, 2020 against the debates on Turkey’s

withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, was held at Ankara 28th Criminal Court of First Instance. The women face imprisonment sentences for up to three years each due to “violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations No. 2911” and their prosecution will continue on November 26.

The police attacked Ankara Women’s Platform members, who made a press statement at the Ankara Courthouse before the hearing of 33 women, who were prosecuted due to defending the Istanbul Convention. The police didn’t allow the press statement due to the “pandemic”, detaining many women with violence. The cell phone of JinNews reporter Dilan Babayiğit was seized during the intervention and Mesopotamia Agency reporter Hakan Yalçın was beaten.

Six women were beaten and detained after the end of the rally organised in Maltepe district of Istanbul with the call of Equality for Women Platform (ESIK) with the title, “We Do Not Give Up On the Istanbul Convention”. The women were released after testifying at the police station.

Protecting persons’ material and moral integrity, as well as personal life

6. Goal

Systematic government violence increases against LGBTQ+s...

Restrictions continue against the 2021 Pride March events. The march organised by LGBTQ activists in Izmir was prevented by the police. Events organised in Heybeliada were prevented through police threats against event venues despite the lack of any ban decree against events.

Şişli District Governorate in Istanbul announced a 30-day protest and demonstration ban across the district, banning the picnic organised in Maçka Park as well. The police intervened against those picnicking at the park and many were detained. Activists carrying flags, headbands and bags with rainbow patterns and colours were not allowed inside demonstration areas in many provinces.

The Istanbul Governorate banned the 19th Istanbul LGBTQ+ Pride March organised at Maltepe Rally Area on June 26. The ban was based on the same reason as in previous years: The protection of general morality and provocation... The police intervened against the march organised by the Istanbul Pride March organising committee on June 26, Saturday at 5 p.m. at Taksim Square, detaining at least 25 people. During the heavy police intervention,

AFP reporter Bülent Kılıç was detained by being stepped on his neck; many other press members were prevented from recording visuals during the demonstration.

Those detained include citizens reacting against the police intervention as well as residents of the surrounding neighborhood. The police intervened against the march organised after the press statement held by the LGBTQ+ activists gathering at Tunalı Hilmi Street in Ankara for the Pride March, detaining at least 20 people.

**More effective protection of
proprietary rights**

7. Goal

Trustees appointed to companies, municipalities, universities

During the March 31 elections, the People's Democratic Party (HDP) has won 65 municipalities in total; 3 of which were metropolitan municipalities, 5 provinces, 45 districts and 12 regional municipalities.

Around 4.5 months after the elections, trustees were appointed to Diyarbakır, Ban and Mardin Metropolitan Municipalities simultaneously on August 19, 2019 and the "2nd Trustee Process" has started - 18 co-mayors have been arrested, around one thousand people were arrested and thus, the wills of 4 million 268 thousand citizens were stolen.

Trustees were appointed to many companies within investigations started following the July 15 coup attempt. It is now a known fact that there are those in the Justice and Development Party (AKP) bureaucracy who undertook the profession of "being appointed as trustees" and that the same people are being appointed to tens of different companies and institutions, receiving salaries from each. It could also be evaluated as an "effective trustee application" that the President is now appointing new rectors to universities instead of revoking rectorate elections.

People are being displaced in urban transformation projects and property owners are being forced to sell their properties with low values, which continue to create victimhood. Istanbul [Tozkoparan](#) residents recently went on the streets to protest their victimhood, with their access to electricity, gas and water networks prevented. The residents' protests were intervened against by the police as well.

At least 100 students, who participated in the protests organised against Melih Bulu, the appointed rector at Boğaziçi University, lost their scholarship by the Credits and Dormitories Institute (KYK). In the letter sent to the students by the Youth and Sports Provincial Directorate of the Istanbul Governorate, it was indicated that their loans and scholarships were cut in accordance with a letter sent by Istanbul Security Directorate. The students were asked to start paying their student loan, starting in July 2023.

Appointed rector Melih Bulu banned the “pride” exhibition organised by Boğaziçi University Photography Club to exhibit photographs of Ateş Alpar. Afterwards, Boğaziçi University students organised a Pride March at the campus and carried photographs of Ateş Alpar, which were banned with a decree issued by Bulu’s deputy, Fazıl Önder Sönmez.