

Schnellrecherche der SFH-Länderanalyse vom 26. August 2015 zur Türkei: Situation für Kurdinnen und Kurden, denen die Unterstützung der PKK oder die Mitgliedschaft in derselben vorgeworfen wird

Frage an die SFH-Länderanalyse:

- Sind kurdische Personen, die sich in laufenden Gerichtsverfahren befinden und/oder denen die Unterstützung der PKK oder die Mitgliedschaft in derselben vorgeworfen wird, aufgrund der jüngsten politischen Entwicklung verstärkter Repression vonseiten der türkischen Behörden ausgesetzt? Wenn ja, in welcher Form?

Die Informationen beruhen auf einer zeitlich begrenzten Recherche (Schnellrecherche) in öffentlich zugänglichen Dokumenten, die uns derzeit zur Verfügung stehen.

Kampfhandlungen wieder ausgebrochen. Seit am 20. Juli 2015 in der Stadt Suruc über 30 prokurdische Aktivistinnen und Aktivisten durch den Anschlag eines Selbstmordattentäters ums Leben gekommen waren, wurde der zweijährige Waffenstillstand zwischen der PKK und dem türkischen Staat laut *New York Times*-Bericht vom 12. August 2015 faktisch beendet. Wie einem Artikel von *BBC News* vom 26. Juli 2015 sowie einem Bericht der *Neuen Zürcher Zeitung* (NZZ) vom 19. August 2015 entnommen werden kann, folgten auf das Attentat sowohl Morde an türkischen Polizisten und Soldaten durch die PKK, als auch eine Reihe von Luftangriffen gegen PKK-Stellungen durch das türkische Militär im Südosten des Landes und im Nordirak. Die PKK liess laut desselben Artikels von *BBC News* am 25. Juli 2015 verlauten, dass es die Umstände nicht zuliesse, die Waffenruhe mit der Türkei einzuhalten. Auch der türkische Präsident Recep Tayyip Erdogan verkündete am 28. Juli 2015 an einer Pressekonferenz explizit, ein Weiterführen des Friedensprozesses sei für die Türkei unmöglich, wie *Reuters* noch am selben Tag berichtete. Die massiven Bombenangriffe auf PKK-Ziele forderten laut *Armed Conflict Database*-Analyst Jan Raudszus bis zum Erscheinen seines Berichts am 7. August 2015 etwa 300 Todesopfer. Darunter seien auch Zivilpersonen.

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Berichte von Tötungen von mutmasslichen PKK-Unterstützenden oder mutmasslichen Mitgliedern. Im Rahmen der Operationen der türkischen Sicherheitskräfte und der gewaltsamen Zusammenstösse sind laut verschiedenen Medienberichten mutmassliche PKK-Unterstützende oder mutmassliche PKK-Mitglieder getötet worden. Laut einer Meldung der *Anadolu Agency* vom 21. August 2015, welche sich auf Angaben der türkischen Sicherheitskräfte beruft, sind in den verschiedenen Operationen der türkischen Sicherheitskräfte in der Türkei zwischen dem 22. Juli und dem 21. August 2015 rund 260 mutmassliche PKK Kämpfer getötet und weitere 250 verwundet worden. Am 20. August 2015 berichtete beispielsweise die türkische Zeitung *BGNNews*, dass laut Angaben der türkischen Sicherheitskräfte im Rahmen einer Sicherheitsoperation 18 mutmassliche Unterstützende der PKK in der Nähe von Diyarbakir getötet wurden. Als weiteres Beispiel berichtete dieselbe Zeitung am 23. August 2015, dass das türkische Militär meldete, dass ein weiteres mutmassliches PKK-Mitglied bei Zusammenstössen mit Sicherheitskräften in der Provinz Bitlis ums Leben kam.



Gewaltsames Vorgehen gegen Protestierende. Nach dem Attentat in Suruc kam es gemäss *New York Times*-Artikel vom 12. August 2015 landesweit zu Protesten, bei welchen es zu Zusammenstössen kam. Die Proteste wurden gemäss eines Berichts von *Liberationnews.org* vom 30. Juli 2015 von der Polizei unter Einsatz von Tränengas, Gummigeschossen und Wasserwerfern gewaltsam unterdrückt. Viele Protestierende seien dabei festgenommen worden. Demselben Bericht zufolge galten die Proteste der Regierungspartei AKP, der vorgeworfen wurde, den Kampf gegen den IS bloss als Vorwand für eine gezielte Schwächung der PKK und im weiteren Sinne gegen die kurdische Bewegung zu verwenden.

Mehr als 800 Personen aufgrund mutmasslicher Verbindungen zur PKK verhaftet. Die *New York Times* hielt in ihrem Artikel vom 12. August fest, dass die türkischen Behörden seit dem Selbstmordanschlag in Suruc aktiver gegen kurdische Aufständische als gegen IS-Kämpfer vorgehen. Bis zum Erscheinen des Artikels seien insgesamt etwa 1'300 Personen festgenommen worden, denen man terroristische Aktivitäten vorwarf. Während lediglich 137 von ihnen wegen angeblicher Beziehungen zum IS verhaftet wurden, war laut *New York Times* bei 847 eine mutmassliche Verbindung zur PKK der Grund für die Festnahme.

Verhaftungswelle gegen Aktivistinnen und Aktivisten, Politikerinnen und Politiker, mutmassliche PKK-Mitglieder und IS-Unterstützende, Angehörige der DHKP-C. Die *NZZ* bezeichnete das jüngste Vorgehen der türkischen Behörden in ihrem Artikel vom 19. August 2015 als Verhaftungswelle, im Rahmen derer Hunderte von kurdischen Aktivistinnen und Aktivisten sowie Politikerinnen und Politiker festgenommen worden seien. Die *Deutsche Welle* berichtete so zum Beispiel am 27. Juli 2015 unter anderem von der Verhaftung von Dutzenden von Personen, welche verdächtigt wurden, Verbindungen zur PKK aufzuweisen oder Mitglieder derselben zu sein. Laut derselben Quelle berichtete *CNN Turk* von der Inhaftierung von über 800 mutmasslichen IS- oder PKK-Mitgliedern allein in der Woche vor dem 27. Juli 2015. Gemäss eines Berichts der *World Socialist Web Site* vom 12. August 2015 hatte die Zahl der Festnahmen bis zum diesem Zeitpunkt insgesamt sogar bereits 1'600 betragen. Laut derselben Quelle gehörten zu den Inhaftierten sowohl PKK-Mitglieder und IS-Unterstützende, wie auch Angehörige der militanten marxistisch-leninistischen Untergrundorganisation DHKP-C (Revolutionäre Volksbefreiungspartei-Front), Gewerkschaftsangehörige und andere linke Aktivistinnen und Aktivisten. Demselben Artikel ist weiter zu entnehmen, dass im Zuge der jüngsten Repressionsmassnahmen über 90 Internetseiten von den staatlichen Behörden gesperrt worden sind.

Massives Vorgehen gegen gewählte prokurdische Politikerinnen und Politiker. Die *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* berichtete am 30. Juli 2015, die türkische Staatsanwaltschaft habe Ermittlungen gegen den gewählten Parlamentarier und Chef der prokurdischen Partei HDP (Demokratische Partei der Völker) Selahattin Demirtas aufgenommen. Ihm wird mit Verweis auf Demonstrationen, die im Oktober 2014 stattgefunden haben, «Anstachelung zu bewaffneten Protesten» vorgeworfen. Laut eines Berichts der Zeitung *Today's Zaman* vom 31. Juli 2015 drohen ihm im Falle einer Aufhebung seiner parlamentarischen Immunität bis zu 24 Jahre Haft. Auch die Co-Vorsitzende der HDP, Figen Yüksesdag, ist laut desselben *Today's Zaman*-Berichts mit strafrechtlicher Verfolgung wegen «Terrorismus-Propaganda» («*terrorism propaganda*») konfrontiert.

Die HDP hat bei den Parlamentswahlen vom 7. Juni 2015 landesweit 13 Prozent der Stimmen erhalten, wie dem *Reuters*-Bericht vom 28. Juli 2015 zu entnehmen ist. Präsident Erdogan habe der HDP in der Vergangenheit bereits vorgeworfen, Verbindungen zur PKK zu unterhalten. Jüngst hat er zudem verlauten lassen, er sei zwar gegen Parteiverbote, wolle aber die politische Immunität aller Parlamentarier und Parlamentarierinnen aufheben lassen, die mit «terroristischen Gruppen» in Verbindung stünden. Demzufolge wären sämtliche gewählten 80 HDP-Abgeordneten potenziell strafrechtlicher Verfolgung ausgesetzt.

Verhaftungen von Gemeindepräsidenten. In der Region Diyarbakir wurden laut NZZ-Bericht vom 23. August 2015 innert kurzer Zeit fünf kurdische Gemeindepräsidenten verhaftet. Ihnen wurde der Vorwurf gemacht, sie hätten Autonomiebestrebungen unterstützt und damit die «Einheit des Staates» gefährdet.

Erfassung persönlicher Daten. Es kann nicht ausgeschlossen werden, dass ein laufendes Gerichtsverfahren die Möglichkeit einer Verhaftung substantiell erhöht. Das *UK Home Office* hielt in seinem letzten operativen Leitpapier zur Türkei im Mai 2013 fest, dass die Türkei über ein zentrales Informationssystem verfügt, in dem verschiedenste persönliche Daten gespeichert sind. Es beinhaltet zum Beispiel Informationen über ausstehende Haftbefehle, frühere Inhaftierungen oder Reiseeinschränkungen. Aus diesem Grund ist es für die Behörden möglich, eine tatsächliche oder mutmassliche, aktuelle oder frühere Mitgliedschaft bei der PKK von Zivilpersonen zu eruieren und als Grundlage für eine zielgerichtete Verfolgung zu verwenden.

Anhaltende massive Kritik am Justizsystem. Der Jahresbericht des *US Department of State* (USDOS) für das Jahr 2014 vom 25. Juni 2015 bezeichnet hinsichtlich der Menschenrechtssituation in der Türkei die Politisierung des Gesetzesvollzugs als eines der Hauptprobleme. Weiterhin würde in Gerichtsfällen sowohl der Strafverfolgung als auch Richterinnen und Richtern grosser Spielraum gewährt, der zu uneinheitlichen Urteilen führe. Besonders das breit angelegte Antiterrorgesetz sei von den türkischen Behörden im Jahr 2014 exzessiv und intransparent angewandt worden. Laut USDOS seien vor diesem Hintergrund willkürliche Verhaftungen durchgeführt, Gefangene für unbestimmte Zeit festgehalten, sowie ausgedehnte Verfahren durchgeführt worden. Als weiteres grosses Problem wird im selben Bericht die Einschränkung der Meinungsäusserungs- und Versammlungsfreiheit aufgeführt, wovon im Berichtszeitraum insbesondere die kurdische Bevölkerung betroffen gewesen sei.

New York Times, 12. August 2015:

«For now, Turkey is more actively targeting Kurdish insurgents with the P.K.K. than it is fighters with the Islamic State. In Turkey's recent roundup of 1,300 people it identified as terrorism suspects, 137 of those arrested were linked to the Islamic State and 847 were linked to the P.K.K. At the same time, Turkey bombed P.K.K. positions in southeastern Turkey and northern Iraq, claiming that the militants could attack Turkish areas from across the border. The Turkish airstrikes effectively ended a two-year cease-fire with the P.K.K. and has set off rounds of protests and clashes between Turkish security forces and Kurdish militants throughout Turkey. In the meantime, Turkish operations against the Islamic State

have been slow to develop. Mr. Erdogan's strategy, according to analysts, is also politically motivated. In June, his party lost its parliamentary majority partly because of the electoral success of a pro-Kurdish party. By bombing the P.K.K., Mr. Erdogan stands to win back votes of nationalists who oppose Kurdish autonomy.» Quelle: The New York Times, Why Turkey Is Fighting The Turks Who Are Fighting ISIS, 12. August 2015:

www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/08/12/world/middleeast/turkey-kurds-isis.html?_r=0.

BBC News, 26. Juli 2015:

«A car bomb attack on a military convoy in south-eastern Turkey has **killed two soldiers and injured four others**, Turkish officials say. The explosion late on Saturday happened in the town of Lice in Diyarbakir, the province governor's office said. The attack came **after Turkey bombed Kurdish separatist camps in northern Iraq** - the first such strikes since a peace process began in 2012. No group has claimed responsibility for the latest attack. The military said militants from the Kurdish Workers Party, or PKK, also fired at troops in the 'treacherously pre-planned' ambush. It said a large-scale operation was underway to capture the attackers. The PKK threatened to break off a two-year ceasefire following Saturday's raids. There has been a **wave of unrest after a suicide bomb in Suruc**, blamed on so-called Islamic State (IS) killed 32 people - mainly university students planning to carry out aid work in Kobane, Syria. It has included protests and confrontations with police in Ankara and Istanbul. The PKK's military wing **killed two Turkish police officers** on Wednesday, claiming they had collaborated with IS in the bombing in Suruc.

The week that changed Turkey

- Monday: Thirty-two people volunteering to rebuild Kobane are killed by IS-linked militants in Suruc
- Thursday: IS forces shoot dead a Turkish border guard
- Meanwhile, the PKK reportedly kills two Turkish police officers in retaliation for Suruc and what they see as Turkey's collaboration with IS
- Friday: Hundreds of suspected IS supporters are arrested and properties are searched; Turkish F-16 jets, based in Diyarbakir, bomb three IS targets in Syria
- Saturday: **Turkey strikes IS and PKK targets in Syria and Iraq; the PKK says the conditions are no longer in place to observe ceasefire**» Quelle: BBC News, Turkey car bomb kills two soldiers as PKK truce breaks down, 26. Juli 2015: www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-33667427.

Anadolu Agency, 21. August 2015:

«At least 771 suspected Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militants have been killed in operations carried out by Turkey's security forces between July 22 and August 20, figures compiled by Anadolu Agency reveal. The data were obtained from various security sources, including Turkish General Staff official statements plus

police and gendarmerie sources. Out of the 771 killed, 430 died in airstrikes in northern Iraq, including the Qandil Mountain. Also, more than 450 PKK members have been injured in various operations against the group. **A total of 260 militants were killed inside Turkey and more than 250 others were wounded, security forces numbers claim.** The sources added that a total of 18 militants were killed Thursday in Karacali, located in Turkey's southeastern Sirnak province along the border with Iraq. » Quelle: Anadolu Agency, Turkey: '771 PKK militants killed' since late July, 21. August 2015: www.aa.com.tr/en/s/578663--turkey-771-pkk-militants-killed-since-late-july.

BGNNews, 20. August 2015:

«Eighteen suspected supporters of the Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK) have been killed in a security operation in southeastern Turkey, security sources said on Wednesday. Most of the deaths centered on Lice, a town around 70 kilometers (45 miles) northwest of Diyarbakır city, where 14 PKK suspects were killed, according to police and Gendarmerie sources in the province who spoke on condition of anonymity. The operation began on Monday, when 700 security forces members flooded the area. Fighting was still ongoing on Wednesday night in nearby Fisova, the state-run Anadolu Agency correspondent reported. In a separate incident, four alleged PKK members were killed in Silvan, around 90 kilometers east of Diyarbakır, on Wednesday, according to the same sources..» Quelle: BGNNews, 18 suspected PKK members killed in Diyarbakır, southeast Turkey, 20. August 2015: www.national.bgnnews.com/18-suspected-pkk-members-killed-in-diyarbakir-south-east-turkey-haberi/8688.

BGNNews, 23. August 2015:

«A suspected member of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) was killed in a clash with security forces in eastern Bitlis province on Saturday, the Turkish military said in a statement on Sunday. According to the Turkish General Staff's statement, the clash took place in the province's Hizan district. Separately, a group of militants set ablaze 15 vehicles and six containers belonging to a private road construction company in eastern Erzurum province's Tekman district on Saturday, the statement added. Also, eight suspected PKK members surrendered to security sources in southeastern Şirnak province's Silopi district on Saturday. A suspected PKK member was also held along with his weapon and ammunition in Erzurum province's Köprüköy district on Saturday. Also, suspected PKK members set ablaze a tow truck in eastern Iğdır province on Saturday. Suspected militants also blocked the Bingöl-Erzurum Highway for three hours and set ablaze three cars in Bingöl province's Karlıova district on Saturday, the statement added. » Quelle: BGNNews, Suspected PKK member killed in clash with security forces in east Turkey, 23. August 2015: www.national.bgnnews.com/suspected-pkk-member-killed-in-clash-with-security-force-in-east-turkey-haberi/8791.

NZZ, 19. August 2015:

«Begonnen hatte die jüngste Eskalation nach dem Selbstmordanschlag in Suruc am 20. Juli, dem 33 prokurdische Aktivisten zum Opfer fielen. Zwei Tage danach brachten mutmassliche Mitglieder der Arbeiterpartei Kurdistans (PKK) zwei Polizisten

um. Erdogan gab den Befehl zu Luftangriffen auf die PKK. **Gleichzeitig setzte im ganzen Land eine Verhaftungswelle ein, Hunderte von kurdischen Aktivisten und Politikern landeten seitdem im Gefängnis.**» Quelle: NZZ, Zerschellte Hoffnung auf Frieden. Erdogans kurdisches Pulverfass, Artikel vom 19. August 2015: www.nzz.ch/international/naher-osten-und-nordafrika/erdogans-kurdisches-pulverfass-1.18598049.

Reuters, 28. Juli 2015:

«Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday it was impossible to continue a peace process with Kurdish militants and urged parliament to strip politicians with links to them of immunity from prosecution. Hours after he spoke, the Turkish military said its F-16 fighter jets had bombed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants in the south-eastern Turkish province of Sirnak, which borders Iraq, in response to an attack on a group of gendarmes. Turkey last week launched air strikes on PKK camps in northern Iraq following a series of attacks on its police officers and soldiers blamed on the Kurdish militant group. The PKK has said the air strikes, launched virtually in parallel with strikes against Islamic State fighters in Syria, rendered the peace process meaningless but stopped short of formally pulling out.

'It is not possible for us to continue the peace process with those who threaten our national unity and brotherhood,' Erdogan told a news conference in Ankara before departing on an official visit to China. (...) The pro-Kurdish HDP party won 13 percent of the vote in a June 7 poll, helping to deprive the AKP Erdogan founded of a majority in parliament for the first time since 2002. Many Kurds believe that by reviving conflict with the PKK, Erdogan seeks to undermine support for the HDP ahead of a possible early election. That poll - so runs the argument - could then provide him with the majority he seeks to change the constitution and increase his powers. 'He is trying to achieve the result he failed to in the June 7 election in a political coup. That's the real aim of the steps taken now,' the PKK said in an e-mailed statement. It accused Erdogan of trying to 'crush' the Kurdish political movement 'to create an authoritarian, hegemonic system', but it did not directly address his latest comments. Turkey has shut down almost all Kurdish political parties over the years. Erdogan, who has accused the HDP of links to the PKK, said he opposed party closures but urged parliament to lift the immunity of politicians with links to 'terrorist groups'.

'We have committed no unforgivable crimes. Our only crime was winning 13 percent of vote,' HDP chairman Selahattin Demirtas told party members in parliament.

'The only way for the AKP to be in government on its own is if the HDP is liquidated. Tomorrow the HDP's 80 lawmakers will submit a request for immunity to be lifted,' he said, effectively challenging parliament to fulfill Erdogan's threat.» Quelle: Reuters, Turkey's Erdogan: Peace Process With Kurdish Militants Impossible, 28. Juli 2015:

www.reuters.com/article/2015/07/28/us-mideast-crisis-turkey-kurds-idUSKCN0Q20UV20150728.

Armed Conflict Database, 7. August 2015:

«Turkey has heavily bombed PKK camps in Iraq's Qandil Mountain area, reportedly killing about 300 PKK members. The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) said that civilians have also been killed. Turkey says the attacks are a reaction to the killing of police officers by PKK members. Observers have noted that Turkey is putting more effort into its attacks against the PKK than those against ISIS targets.»

Quelle: Armed Conflict Database, The End Of The Turkey-PKK Peace Process?, 7. August 2015:

<https://acd.iiss.org/en/news/2015-e838/end-of-pkk-peace-process-122b>.

Liberationnews.org, 30. Juli 2015:

«AKP unleashes a new wave of repression against opposition forces in Turkey

Using the so-called fight against IS as a pretext, AKP also launched a wave of repression within Turkey, mainly targeting the Kurdish movement and leftist organizations. On June 24, AKP police conducted raids against 140 addresses in 26 districts in İstanbul. In one of the raids, a woman named Günay Özarlan, a member of a leftist organization, was killed by the police in Bağcılar district. According to TAYAD (Solidarity Association For Families of Prisoners), Özarlan was assassinated by the police, as 15 bullets were found in her body, with no evident sign of her resisting the police. **As of July 29, after police raids over 39 cities, over a thousand people had been detained.** Of the 172 people arrested, 140 were PKK members, 1 DHKP-C (Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front) and only 31 IS members. There were also reports of many IS members being released shortly after being detained. The number of arrests is a testimony to the fact that while AKP is fighting IS in words, in deed, it is waging a bloody war against the Kurdish movement and the revolutionary left.

Police represses protests denouncing the Suruç massacre. **Protests were held all over Turkey, in İstanbul, Ankara, Diyarbakır, İzmir and many other provinces, denouncing the Suruç massacre, pointing to AKP's role in the rise of IS and denouncing the recent military operations against Syria and Iraq, demanding peace.** Slogans of 'Murderer IS, collaborator AKP,' 'Murderer and thief AKP,' were chanted by the crowds. **The police violently repressed the protests, attacking the protesters with tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannons, detaining many.»** Quelle: Liberationnews.org, AKP of Turkey wages war against the Kurdish people, bombs Iraq and Syria, 30. Juli 2015:

www.liberationnews.org/akp-of-turkey-wages-war-against-the-kurdish-bombs-iraq-and-syria/.

World Socialist Website, 12. August 2015:

«Over the last few days, more than 1,600 people have been arrested, mostly PKK members, ISIS supporters and members of the DHKP-C, but also some trade unionists and left-wing activists. Many Islamists have since been released. The police have broken up peaceful anti-war demonstrations with the utmost violence, while the authorities blocked more than 90 news websites on August 3, including the mainstream Evrensel and Ozgur Gundem. The only news media widely available are those that toe the government line. To step outside the boundaries of what the government deems acceptable means imprisonment. The AKP is trying to close down the HDP

under the mantra of 'fighting terrorism.' **One of its co-leaders, Selahattin Demirtas, now faces a judicial investigation** over his support for last October's protests against the government's aid to Islamists fighting the Syrian Kurds in Kobane. Supporters of the opposition Gulenist movement founded by US exile Fethullah Gulen, former allies of the AKP, are also being targeted for their support of investigations into leading AKP figures for corruption.» Quelle: World Socialist Website, Turkish government steps up repression of political opponents, 12. August 2015:
www.wsws.org/en/articles/2015/08/12/turk-a12.html.

Deutsche Welle, 27. Juli 2015:

«**Turkish police have arrested dozens of suspected 'Islamic State' (IS) and Kurdish militants during early morning raids in Ankara.** Shelling on the Turkish-Syrian border has continued into the start of the new week. (...) Similar operations were also led in the southeastern city of Adiyaman, where 19 **people with alleged links to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK)** were also taken into custody. According to broadcaster 'CNN Turk,' more than 800 suspected IS and PKK members have been detained over the past week.» Quelle: Deutsche Welle, Turkey arrests dozens of suspected IS and Kurdish PKK militants, 27. Juli 2015:
www.dw.com/en/turkey-arrests-dozens-of-suspected-is-and-kurdish-pkk-militants/a-18609268.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 30. Juli 2015:

«Die türkische Staatsanwaltschaft hat einem Medienbericht zufolge **Ermittlungen gegen den Chef der Demokratischen Partei der Völker (HDP), Selahattin Demirtas, eingeleitet.** Die Anklagebehörde in Diyarbakir im mehrheitlich kurdischen Südosten der Türkei untersucht nach einem Bericht der amtlichen Nachrichtenagentur Anadolu vom Donnerstag Vorwürfe der Anstachelung zu bewaffneten Protesten im Oktober vergangenen Jahres. **Die Kurdenpartei HDP, deren Wahlerfolg bei den jüngsten Parlamentswahlen die regierende islamisch-konservative AKP die absolute Mehrheit gekostet hatte, unterhält enge Verbindungen zu der verbotenen Arbeiterpartei Kurdistans (PKK).**» Quelle: Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Ermittlungen gegen Demirtas. Vorwurf der Anstachelung zu bewaffneten Protesten, 30. Juli 2015:
www.faz.net/aktuell/politik/ausland/europa/tuerkei/tuerkei-selahattin-demirtas-wirft-erdogan-rachsucht-vor-13727285.html

Today's Zaman, 31. Juli 2015:

«Figen Yüksekdağ, co-chairperson of Turkey's pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), is facing prosecution for 'terrorism propaganda' following a prosecutor laying charges on Thursday against the HDP's other co-chair Selahattin Demirtaş. The charges allege the two HDP leaders 'provoked' people during protests in October 2014. The Hürriyet daily reported that the Şanlıurfa Chief Public Prosecutor's Office has launched a criminal investigation against Yüksekdağ for her recent remarks. 'We lean on the YPG [the Kurdish People's Protection Units], YPJ [Women's Protection Units] and PYD [the Democratic Union Party]. We don't find it wrong to say that,' the co-chair of the HDP said. The YPG, YPJ and the PYD armed groups, all affiliated with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), are designated as terrorist organizations by

the Turkish state. **If the accusation is deemed to be of enough merit to start a trial, the prosecutor will request that Yüksekdağ's parliamentary immunity be lifted.** (...) **Demirtaş, the other co-chair of the party, is currently facing up to 24 years of imprisonment for provoking people by arming them during violent protests triggered by events in the Syrian Kurdish town of Kobani late last year.** Kobani was overrun by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) at the time and Kurdish groups harshly criticized Turkey for not arming the Kurds in the area or facilitating their fight against the extremist organization. The Justice and Development Party (AK Party) government and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan have accused Demirtaş of supporting the Kobani protests, with Erdoğan many times suggesting he was responsible for the deaths of more than 30 people killed during the protests from Oct. 6-8, 2014.»
Quelle: Today's Zaman, HDP Co-Chair Faces Prosecution For 'Terrorism Propaganda', 31. Juli 2015:

www.todayszaman.com/national_hdp-co-chair-yuksekdag-faces-prosecution-for-terrorism-propaganda_395170.html.

NZZ, 28. August 2015:

«Im mehrheitlich kurdischen Südosten der Türkei sind **fünf Gemeindepräsidenten wegen angeblicher Autonomiebestrebungen in Untersuchungshaft genommen worden.** Wann die Prozesse gegen die vergangene Woche festgenommenen Lokalpolitiker beginnen, blieb unklar. Es handle sich um **die beiden Gemeindepräsidenten aus dem Bezirk Sur in der Stadt Diyarbakir, das Stadtoberhaupt des Ortes Silvan und die beiden gemeindepräsidenten der an der Grenze zum Irak gelegenen Stadt Hakkari,** berichtete die Nachrichtenagentur Anadolu am Sonntag. Ihnen werde vorgeworfen, eine regionale Autonomie unterstützt und somit die «Einheit des Staates» gefährdet zu haben.»
Quelle: NZZ, Türkei: Fünf kurdische Gemeindepräsidenten in Haft, 23. August 2015:

www.nzz.ch/international/europa/fuenf-kurdische-gemeindepraesidenten-in-haft-1.18600644.

UK Home Office, Mai 2013:

«**Turkey has a central information system, known as the Genel Bilgi Toplama Sistemi (General Information Gathering System), usually abbreviated as GBTS. The system stores various personal data. For instance, it contains information on outstanding arrest warrants, previous arrests, restrictions on travel abroad, possible draft evasion or refusal to perform military service and tax arrears.** Sentences which have been served are in principle removed from the system and entered into the nationally accessible Judicial Records (Adli Sicil).»
Quelle: UK Home Office, Operational Guidance Note: Turkey, Mai 2013:

www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1226_1368623088_turkeyogn.pdf

USDOS, 25. Juni 2015:

«The most significant human rights problems during the year were:

1. Impunity and weak administration of justice: The judiciary and law enforcement agencies were politicized, giving the appearance of impropriety and bias.

The government reassigned thousands of police and prosecutors in response to an anticorruption investigation they were conducting of a number of senior government officials and their families, and the prosecutors who initiated the investigation were suspended. **The government closed the investigation and destroyed evidence that was gathered**; many police officers involved in the investigation were accused publicly of a conspiracy to overthrow the government. **Very few police were prosecuted for excessive force that led to dozens of deaths and scores of injuries among demonstrators in 2013 and 2014.** The executive branch took greater control over the bodies responsible for judicial appointments and discipline and created a new set of courts in which single judges wield extraordinary powers and to which it assigned politically sensitive cases, which had a chilling effect on potential future investigations of politically connected persons. **Wide leeway granted to prosecutors and judges** contributed to **inconsistent court verdicts.** **Authorities applied the broad antiterror law extensively with little transparency and continued to engage in arbitrary arrests, hold detainees for lengthy and indefinite periods, and conduct extended trials.**

2. Government interference with freedom of expression and assembly: The penal code and antiterror law retain multiple articles that restrict freedom of expression, the press, and the internet. At least seven journalists remained jailed at year's end, most charged under the antiterror law or for connections to an illegal organization. Self-censorship was common because journalists feared that criticizing the government could prompt reprisals. **The government vilified and prosecuted individuals sympathetic to some religious, political, and cultural viewpoints.** New legislation gave the state expanded authorities to block internet sites without judicial oversight. **Security forces used excessive force to disperse protests, detaining hundreds of demonstrators and charging many under the antiterror law.** A new law criminalized the provision of medical services outside of licensed facilities, creating a liability for doctors treating wounded protesters. In some cases, prosecutors sought long prison sentences for individuals who used social media to send updates on protests.

3. **Inadequate protection of minority and vulnerable populations:** The government did not effectively protect vulnerable populations from societal abuse, discrimination, and violence. **Kurds continued to face human rights problems, particularly limitations on freedom of assembly.** Roma, women, children, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals were also subject to discrimination and abuse. Violence against women, including so-called honor killings, remained a significant problem, and child marriage persisted.

(...) **Kurdish civil society organizations and political parties continued to experience problems exercising the freedoms of assembly and association.** When large groups of Kurds rallied, they were usually **met with a large police presence, which often led to skirmishes.** This was particularly true during the October protests throughout the Southeast over perceived government inaction to prevent the potential fall of the predominantly Kurdish town of Kobani, Syria, to ISIL forces.» Quelle: USDOS – US Department of State, Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 – Turkey, 25. Juni 2015:

www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2014&dliid=236586.