



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice

Turkey

Turkey – TUR38396 – Birth and marriage records – Treatment of Kurds in Istanbul and rest of Turkey – HADEP/DTP/BDP – State protection of Kurds – Kurdish accent

28 April 2011

1. Please advise whether official records of birth and marriage in Turkey are unreliable.

No sources were found concerning the reliability of official birth and marriage records in Turkey, however, sources did note that record keeping in some areas of Turkey is sporadic due to incomplete coverage. For example, a 1998 UNICEF report noted that only 56% of births in eastern Turkey (parts of which are heavily Kurdish) were registered compared to 84% in western Turkey.¹

Registration of births is a legal requirement in Turkey, under the provisions of the Turkish Civil Registration Law of 1935.² The Civil Registration system is operated by the Population Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.³

A number of documents are used in Turkey for the purposes of registering major life events. These include the *Nufus Kayit Ornegi* (census registration), *Nufus Cuzdan Sureti*, and the *Evlenme Cuzdani*.⁴ The *Nufus Kayit Ornegi* is a certification form with columns recording the name, parents, date and place of birth, and religion of the holder. The *Nufus Cuzdan Sureti* is copy of the census file that lists the birth details for an individual.⁵ The *Evlenme Cuzdani* (marriage booklet) is issued by the Marriage Director of the Marriage Office of the Municipality, usually on or near the day of the marriage.⁶

2. What is the current treatment of Kurdish people in Istanbul? In the rest of Turkey? Do they have state protection?

Turkey's relationship with its Kurdish minority is affected by its desire to join the European Union and the ongoing war with the Kurdish armed group the PKK (*Partiya Karkerên*

¹ UNICEF 1998, *Civil Rights Commentary*, p.10, Undated, <http://www.unicef.org/pon98/06-13.pdf> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 1.

² Akgun S., Rao C., Yardim N., Bora Bosara B., Aydin O., Mollahaliloglu S., Lopez A. 2007, 'Estimating mortality and causes of death in Turkey: methods, results and policy implications', *European Journal of Public Health*, 12 February, <http://eurpub.oxfordjournals.org/content/17/6/593.long> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 2.

³ Akgun S., Rao C., Yardim N., Bora Bosara B., Aydin O., Mollahaliloglu S., Lopez A. 2007, 'Estimating mortality and causes of death in Turkey: methods, results and policy implications', *European Journal of Public Health*, 12 February, <http://eurpub.oxfordjournals.org/content/17/6/593.long> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 2.

⁴ Social Security Online 1995, GN 00307.897 Turkish Civil Records, 28 August, <https://secure.ssa.gov/poms.nsf/lnx/0200307897> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 3.

⁵ Social Security Online 1995, GN 00307.897 Turkish Civil Records, 28 August, <https://secure.ssa.gov/poms.nsf/lnx/0200307897> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 3.

⁶ Social Security Online 1995, GN 00307.897 Turkish Civil Records, 28 August, <https://secure.ssa.gov/poms.nsf/lnx/0200307897> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 3.

Kurdistan or Kurdish Workers' Party).⁷ The desire for Turkey to enter the European Union has prompted some relaxation on restrictions on Kurdish people, primarily in the use of the Kurdish language.⁸ No sources were located indicating that, in general, Kurds are subject to routine violence at the hands of ordinary Turks or Turkish authorities. Kurds are, however, more likely to face arbitrary detention and face restrictions on the use of the Kurdish language or expression of opinion on security matters.⁹

Current treatment of Kurds in Istanbul

As a minority group, Kurds living in Istanbul are the subject of petty discrimination in their day-to-day activities. Sources indicate that the treatment of Kurdish people in Istanbul varies depending on the level of assimilation undertaken by individuals. Kurds who speak Turkish without an accent are unlikely to be identified as Kurds and therefore are not harassed or targeted. Where Kurds are identified as being Kurdish based on their names or use of Kurdish language, they face discrimination in areas including finding accommodation and enrolling children in schools.¹⁰

State protection available to Kurds in Istanbul

Security in Istanbul is provided by the TNP (Turkish National Police).¹¹ No sources were found specifically dealing with the amount of state protection given to Kurds living in Istanbul. Turkish law provides that all citizens are entitled to the protection of the police in response to criminal acts such as assault.¹² No sources were located indicating that Kurds were routinely denied these rights although a 2010 poll noted a general mistrust held by many Kurds in relation to Turkish police.¹³ *The US Department of State Report on Human Rights in Turkey* for 2010 also noted that after clashes between the authorities and Kurdish protestors, it was routine for the police to detain Kurds without charge, particularly those with links to the Kurdish political parties.¹⁴

Current treatment of Kurds in Turkey generally

⁷ 'EU Membership Offers Hope for Turkey's Kurds' 2004, Deutsche Welle, 15 December, <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,1429047,00.html> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 4.

⁸ Romano D. 2009, 'Turkey Addresses PKK Challenge with Kurdish Language Reforms', *Terrorism Focus Volume: 6 Issue: 1*, 15 January, Jamestown Foundation, http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=34352 - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 5.

⁹ US Department of State 2011, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2010 – Turkey*, 8 April, Section 2 (b), - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 6.

¹⁰ Secor A. undated, 'There Is an Istanbul That Belongs to Me': *Citizenship, Space, and Identity in the City*, http://www.uky.edu/~tmute2/geography_methods/geography_methods_pdfs/secor.pdf - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 7.

¹¹ Jenkins G. 2008, 'Capabilities and Restraints in Turkey's Counter-Terrorism Policy', *Terrorism Monitor Volume: 6 Issue: 8*, 17 April, Jamestown Foundation http://www.jamestown.org/programs/gta/single/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=4863&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=167&no_cache=1 - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 8.

¹² European Commission against Racism and Intolerance 2011, *ECRI Report on Turkey*, 8 February, Paragraph 11, <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/country-by-country/turkey/TUR-CBC-IV-2011-005-ENG.pdf> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 9.

¹³ van Wilgenburg V. 2010, 'Kurds do not trust Turkish security institutions: Pew Survey', *Kurdnet website*, 24 September, <http://www.ekurd.net/mismas/articles/misc2010/9/turkey2956.htm> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 10.

¹⁴ US Department of State 2011, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2010 – Turkey*, 8 April, Section 2 (b), - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 6.

Kurds in Turkey are subjected to some forms of discrimination by the Turkish authorities; primarily this discrimination is in the form of laws aimed at curbing expressions of Kurdish autonomy such as the use of the Kurdish language or any activity deemed to advocate Kurdish political independence. US DOS reported that in 2010 individuals could not criticise the state or government publicly without risk of criminal suits or investigation, and the government continued to restrict the free speech of persons sympathetic to pro-Kurdish nationalist or cultural viewpoints. Draconian sentences of up to 300 years gaol were imposed on writers for publishing articles deemed by the courts to be disseminating the propaganda of a terrorist organization and violating anti-terror laws.¹⁵

No sources were located showing the use of violence by Turkish people or the state against Kurdish people was undertaken at an organised, regular, or widespread level. It is noted that in the Kurdish majority areas of south-east Turkey, the state has largely left the provision of security to the Village Guards. Outbreaks of violence have taken place following isolated incidents such as PKK bombings and the burning of a Turkish flag during Kurdish festival celebrations in 2005.¹⁶

The US Department of State Report on Human Rights in Turkey for 2010 noted that although the general treatment of Kurds had improved, the Turkish state continued to discriminate against Kurds.¹⁷ Individuals who criticised government policy or expressed opinions sympathetic to Kurdish nationalist or cultural independence faced arrest and imprisonment. Individuals involved in Kurdish political groups were particularly vulnerable to harassment in 2010 with the US Department of State reporting that over 1,000 members of the BDP were detained by the police during the year.¹⁸

State protection for Kurds outside of Istanbul

For the most part, the Turkish state has withdrawn from the law enforcement environment in the primarily Kurdish south-east of Turkey. In these areas, security is provided by a civil defence force known as the Village Guards. These forces consist of local, mainly Kurdish, men armed by the Turkish authorities and formed into a militia to supplement regular Turkish forces fighting the PKK.¹⁹ *The US Department of State Report on Human Rights Practices* for 2010 noted that these forces were 'less professional and disciplined than other security forces' and have been accused of corruption, rape, and assault. In May 2009, six persons employed as Village Guards killed 44 people at a wedding ceremony; in April 2010 they received life sentences.²⁰

¹⁵ US Department of State 2011, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2010 – Turkey*, 8 April, Section 2 (b), - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 6.

¹⁶ Jenkins G. 2008, 'Kurdish demonstrators clash with Turkish security forces during Newroz', *Eurasia Daily Monitor Volume: 5 Issue: 56*, 25 March, Jamestown Foundation website, http://www.jamestown.org/programs/edm/single/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=33491&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=166&no_cache=1 - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 11.

¹⁷ US Department of State 2011, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2010 – Turkey*, 8 April, Section 2 (b), - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 6.

¹⁸ US Department of State 2011, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2010 – Turkey*, 8 April, Section 2 (b), - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 6.

¹⁹ Kardas S. 2009, 'Turkey Debates the Village Guard System', *Eurasia Daily Monitor Volume: 6 Issue: 90*, 11 May, Jamestown Foundation website, http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=34976 - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 12.

²⁰ Kardas S. 2009, 'Turkey Debates the Village Guard System', *Eurasia Daily Monitor Volume: 6 Issue: 90*, 11 May, Jamestown Foundation website, http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=34976 - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 12.

Evren Balta²¹ in his December 2004 address to the Humanitarian and Security Affairs Conference noted that the Village Guards are largely comprised of Kurds employed by the state to maintain order in Kurdish majority areas.²² Balta also commented that the fractured nature of Kurdish community relationships meant that the Village Guards were responsible for committing acts of violence as part of local conflicts and rivalries. A 2006 BBC article stated that the majority of those employed as Village Guards were loyal to the Turkish state despite being Kurds.²³

3. Please provide information (including policies) about the HADEP and the DTP. How are members treated by the Turkish government?

Background

The HADEP and DTP are Kurdish political parties that form part of a direct line of parties operating in Turkey. The initial party, the HEP (People's Labour Party) was formed following the expulsion of Kurdish MPs from the SHP (Social Democrat People's Party) in 1990. Since this founding, the party has changed its name as the Turkish Constitutional Court banned various incarnations of the party. The successor parties are the same party with the same leadership operating with a different name. The current name for this group is the BDP (Peace and Democracy Party).

Timeline of the main Kurdish political parties in Turkey

Party Name	Founded	Disbanded
HEP ²⁴ (People's Labour Party)	July 1990	August 1993 ²⁵
DEP (Democratic Party)	August 1993	May 1994 ²⁶
HADEP (People's Democratic Party)	May 1994	March 1999
DEHAP (Democratic People's Party)	March 1999	December 2004
DTP (Democratic Society Party)	December 2004	December 2010
BDP (Peace and Democracy Party)	11 December 2010	Current

HADEP

HADEP (*Halkin Demokrasi Partisi*) or People's Democratic Party were a pro-Kurdish was established in June 1994 as a result of the dissolution of the DEP (*Demokrasi Partisi*).²⁷ The

²¹ Evren Balta is a professor of political science at Yildiz Technical University in Istanbul

²² Balta E. 2004, *Causes and consequences of the village guard system in Turkey*, 2 December, <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/dept/rbins/IUCSHA/fellows/Balta-paper.pdf> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 13.

²³ Beattie M. 2006, 'Local guards divide Turkish Kurds', *BBC News*, 4 August <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/5246068.stm> - Accessed 28 April 2011 - Attachment 14

²⁴ In Turkish: Halkin Demokrasi Partisi

²⁵ White P. 2000, *Primitive rebels or revolutionary modernizers?: the Kurdish national movement in Turkey*, Zed Books, London, p. 224, http://books.google.com.au/books?id=a80KQ4jdOeUC&pg=PA170&lpg=PA170&dq=DEP+turkey+Demokrasi+Partisi&source=bl&ots=s2703OYXij&sig=_xl0hgkqvUB75X7JTMv9TYIbzZU&hl=en&ei=w8-sTd-SCMnYrQf_t6iHCg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=6&ved=0CCoQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q=DEP%20turkey%20Demokrasi%20Partisi&f=false - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 15.

²⁶ White P. 2000, *Primitive rebels or revolutionary modernizers?: the Kurdish national movement in Turkey*, Zed Books, London, p. 170, http://books.google.com.au/books?id=a80KQ4jdOeUC&pg=PA170&lpg=PA170&dq=DEP+turkey+Demokrasi+Partisi&source=bl&ots=s2703OYXij&sig=_xl0hgkqvUB75X7JTMv9TYIbzZU&hl=en&ei=w8-sTd-SCMnYrQf_t6iHCg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=6&ved=0CCoQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q=DEP%20turkey%20Demokrasi%20Partisi&f=false - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 15.

HADEP contested federal parliamentary elections, normally polling over half the vote in the predominantly Kurdish regions in south-east Turkey but failing to achieve the 10% threshold needed at a national level in order to obtain parliamentary representation.²⁸ Nicole Watts²⁹ writing in 1999 described HADEP as holding a 'moderate' philosophy, however, an increase in violence and tension following the arrest of PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan, placed severe pressure on this moderation.³⁰

On 14 March 1999, the Turkish Constitutional Court permanently banned the HADEP for its alleged links to the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party).³¹ In expectation of this outcome, a new party, the DEHAP (*Demokratik Halk Partisi*; English: Democratic People's Party), had been established immediately as a successor party to the HADEP in order to contest the 2002 elections.³² The DEHAP was in turn succeeded by the DTP (*Demokratik Toplum Partisi* English: Democratic Society Party) in 2004.³³

DTP

In the 2007 elections, DTP members were able to circumvent the national threshold requirement by having members stand and win seats as independents. As a result, 22 DTP members were elected to parliament and re-joined the DTP soon afterwards. This represented the first time since 1991 that a pro-Kurdish party had held seats in the Turkish national assembly.

On 11 December 2009, the DTP was declared by the Turkish Constitutional Court to be an illegal party.³⁴ The justification for this action was an alleged link between the DTP and the illegal PKK. The DTP was then succeeded by the BDP (Peace and Democracy Party).³⁵ The Kurdish internet site ekurd.net commented that the BDP held the same policies as the DTP.

BDP

²⁷ Eytan H. 2009, *The Ceaseless Conflict in Anatolia : The Kurds of Turkey and the Ethnic Turkish State*, November, p. 79,

http://telaviv.academia.edu/HayEytanCohenYanarocak/Papers/320678/The_Ceaseless_Conflict_in_Anatolia_The_Kurds_of_Turkey_and_the_Ethnic_Turkish_State - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 16.

²⁸ Eytan H. 2009, *The Ceaseless Conflict in Anatolia : The Kurds of Turkey and the Ethnic Turkish State*, November, p. 79,

http://telaviv.academia.edu/HayEytanCohenYanarocak/Papers/320678/The_Ceaseless_Conflict_in_Anatolia_The_Kurds_of_Turkey_and_the_Ethnic_Turkish_State - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 16.

²⁹ Nicole F. Watts is associate professor of political science at San Francisco State University

³⁰ Watts N. 1999, 'Pro-Kurdish Parties in Turkish Politics, 1990-94', *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 31, No. 4, November, pp. 631-656 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/176465.pdf?acceptTC=true> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 17.

³¹ Patton M. 2003, 'Voices from Turkey's Southeast', *Middle East Report*, No. 227 (Summer, 2003), pp. 42-45 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/1559325.pdf> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 18.

³² Patton M. 2003, 'Voices from Turkey's Southeast', *Middle East Report*, No. 227 (Summer, 2003), pp. 42-45 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/1559325.pdf> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 18.

³³ Patton M. 2003, 'Voices from Turkey's Southeast', *Middle East Report*, No. 227 (Summer, 2003), pp. 42-45 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/1559325.pdf> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 18; Eytan H. 2009, *The Ceaseless Conflict in Anatolia : The Kurds of Turkey and the Ethnic Turkish State*, November, p. 79, http://telaviv.academia.edu/HayEytanCohenYanarocak/Papers/320678/The_Ceaseless_Conflict_in_Anatolia_The_Kurds_of_Turkey_and_the_Ethnic_Turkish_State - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 16.

³⁴ Shore J. 2010, 'Turkish Constitutional Court Bans Kurdish Political Party, Turkey's Largest Minority Group Loses Its Political Voice', *The Human Rights Brief*, 2 February, <http://hrbrief.org/2010/02/turkish-constitutional-court-bans-kurdish-political-party/> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 19.

³⁵ Human Rights Watch 2011, *World Report 2011 – Turkey*, 24 January, <http://www.hrw.org/en/world-report-2011/turkey> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 20.

The BDP is the current manifestation of the HADEP/DTP. In April 2011, the Turkish courts banned 11 BDP members from standing in the upcoming national elections as independents. This decision is designed to prevent the BDP from circumventing the requirement for political parties to pass a threshold of 10% of the national vote in order to gain parliamentary representation as the then DTP had done in 2007.³⁶ The decision to ban the candidates led to widespread rioting and the Turkish courts, as of 20 April 2011, were reconsidering the bans.

Policies

The primary goal of the BDP³⁷ (and its direct predecessors) is ‘democratic autonomy’ for Turkish Kurds.³⁸ According to its website the BDP is a ‘left leaning mass party that perceives libertarian, egalitarian, peaceful, pluralist and multi-cultural society as richness.’³⁹ In a speech in February 2011, the Co-Chairman of the BDP, Selahattin Demirtaş, stated that his party wanted to represent other disaffected groups including feminists and ethnic minorities.⁴⁰ The BDP and its predecessors have been accused by the Turkish government as being under the direction of the PKK. The BDP have denied this accusation.

Treatment of party members by authorities

Members of the party⁴¹ are regularly harassed by Turkish authorities and are subject to arbitrary arrest and imprisonment. Targets for this harassment ranged from officials and members of parliament to active members of the party.

US Department of State, Human Rights Watch and Minority Rights Group reports give examples of the arrest and imprisonment of party activists between 2006 to 2009 for various reasons including using Kurdish words, making reference to imprisoned PKK leader Öcalan with the honorific ‘mister’, and protesting the isolation (in prison) of Öcalan.⁴² *The US Department of State Report on Human Rights Practices for 2010* stated that ‘hundreds’ of officials and ‘activist members’ were prosecuted during 2010 for alleged links to the Union of Kurdistan Communities (KCK/TM) and the PKK.

Human Rights Watch in December 2009 condemned the manner in which the Turkish authorities have prosecuted party activists noting that prosecutions on the basis of speech

³⁶ Jones D. 2011, ‘Turkey Reconsiders Ban of 12 Kurdish-Backed Candidates’, *Voice of America*, 20 April, <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/europe/Turkey-Reconsiders-Ban-of-12-Kurdish-Backed-Candidates--120311104.html> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 21.

³⁷ According the BDP leader Gültan Kışanak, the BDP shares the same policies and culture of the DTP. The BDP is seen as the direct successor of the DTP to the point of being the same party with a different name.

³⁸ ‘Turkey’s pro-Kurdish BDP continues policies of banned DTP-party’ 2010, *Kurd Net*, 2 February <http://www.ekurd.net/mismas/articles/misc2010/2/turkeykurdistan2505.htm> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 22.

³⁹ Peace and Democracy Party Undated, ‘About the BDP, BDP website, <http://brussels.bdp.org.tr/about-us/about-us.html> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 23.

⁴⁰ ‘Turkey’s BDP looks to build democratic bloc for June polls’ 2011, *Daily News and Economic Review*, 16 February, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=pro-kurdish-party-looks-alliances-to-contest-elections-2011-02-16> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 24.

⁴¹ References to party or the party relate to the pro-Kurdish political grouping currently called the BDP.

⁴² RRT Research and Information Service 2009, *Research Response TUR35309*, 14 September

were ‘wholly without foundation’ as they did not promote violence as alleged in the charges.⁴³

4. Are there reports of assaults/rapes by government officers/police against Kurdish women?

A November 2005 Human Rights House, a network of 70 NGOs based in Europe and Africa⁴⁴, reported claims that there is a widespread use of rape as a weapon by Turkish authorities against Kurdish women.⁴⁵ The report comments that ‘[m]any Kurdish women have been the victim of rape by the military/paramilitary village guards, Turkish police and security forces.’⁴⁶ The report further notes that the taboo concerning sexual assault, particularly outside of marriage, means that many incidents of rape and sexual assault are unreported.⁴⁷

Between mid-1997 and November 2000, 132 women sought the help of the *Legal Aid Project for Women Raped or Sexually Abused in Custody* in Istanbul; of these women, 97 were Kurds. In 97 of the 132 total cases, the alleged perpetrators were police officers but the project also noted the involvement of gendarmes, soldiers, Village Guards, and in one case, prison guards.⁴⁸ Victims of these assaults reported the threat or actual use of rape was employed as an interrogation technique.

Despite reluctance by many victims to report incidents of sexual abuse, sources cite many examples. In many cases victims were stripped naked and photographed; officials then threatened to disseminate these pictures to relatives of the victims if they refused to confess and/or provide information.⁴⁹ Victims were often blindfolded for lengthy periods, forced to lie in water, and denied access to clothing or blankets as part of their detention. There were numerous reports citing cases where women had been raped using various weapons.

Amnesty International noted that between 1995 and 1999 less than 2% of complaints against police and security officials resulted in a conviction.⁵⁰ According to a 2001 Washington Post report, victims of rape and sexual assault who complained about their treatment were in some cases charged with insulting Turkish security forces and placed on trial.⁵¹ The maximum offence for this charge was six years in prison.

The US Department of State Report on Human Rights Practices for 2007 noted that the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and domestic human rights

⁴³ Human Rights Watch 2009, *Questions and Answers about the Case Against the Democratic Society Party*, 9 December, <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/12/09/questions-and-answers-about-case-against-democratic-society-party> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 25.

⁴⁴ See http://humanrightshouse.org/About_HRHN/index.html

⁴⁵ Human Rights House Network 2005, *Kurdish politicians urge EU to keep pressure on Turkey*, 23 November, <http://humanrightshouse.org/Articles/506.html> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 26.

⁴⁶ Human Rights House Network 2005, *Kurdish politicians urge EU to keep pressure on Turkey*, 23 November, <http://humanrightshouse.org/Articles/506.html> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 26.

⁴⁷ Human Rights House Network 2005, *Kurdish politicians urge EU to keep pressure on Turkey*, 23 November, <http://humanrightshouse.org/Articles/506.html> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 26.

⁴⁸ Amnesty International 2001, *Turkey: Trial of anti-rape activists should be stopped*, 21 March, http://www.amnesty.org.uk/news_details.asp?NewsID=14030 - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 27.

⁴⁹ Human Rights Foundation of Turkey 2001, *Annual Report: Torture 2001*, Undated, http://www.tuerkeiforum.net/enw/index.php/2001_Torture - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 28.

⁵⁰ Amnesty International 2001, *Turkey: Trial of anti-rape activists should be stopped*, 21 March, http://www.amnesty.org.uk/news_details.asp?NewsID=14030 - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 27.

⁵¹ Human Rights Foundation of Turkey 2001, *Annual Report: Torture 2001*, Undated, http://www.tuerkeiforum.net/enw/index.php/2001_Torture - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 28.

observers had reported a change in conditions dating from 2005 when detention periods were reduced to 24 with a possible extension to 48 hours. Following this change, many of the more severe forms of torture including rape were apparently eliminated although sexually degrading tactics such as forcing prisoners to strip took their place. The report noted a desire by officials to avoid the use of tactics that left detectable evidence.⁵² Nonetheless, the *Human Rights Association Diyarbakir* reported that in 2010, there were 8 instances of harassment by security forces against women and 1 recorded rape.⁵³

5. Information about relocation? Is a Kurdish accent recognisable throughout Turkey?

The term Kurdish refers to a number of different dialects of which Kermanji is the primary language for Turkish Kurds. Some sources talk of a Kurdish accent while others classified this accent as an eastern accent distinct from an urban Istanbul accent.⁵⁴ Sources were not clear whether Kurds raised in Istanbul spoke in an accent different from ethnic Turks raised in Istanbul or whether the Kurdish/eastern accent was restricted to Kurds or to those from the east in general. One Kurdish speaker told a researcher that the longer she had lived in Istanbul, the less noticeable her Kurdish accent had become.⁵⁵ Multiple sources indicated that the Kurdish accent was less noticeable in women than men.⁵⁶

Sources indicate that the Kurdish/eastern accent is recognisable to other Turkish people⁵⁷ to the extent that many Kurds attempt to conceal their accent to avoid being recognised as Kurds. Kurds living in Istanbul commented to researchers that to effectively assimilate, they needed to not only speak Turkish but also speak with a 'good' accent. A Kurdish man living in Istanbul explained:

“The Kurds ... try to speak Turkish without an accent. The Kurdish accent sets you apart socially and culturally and makes it difficult to secure a job and live among Turks. Many Turks who look for work in Ankara, Istanbul or Izmir conceal the fact that they are Kurdish.”⁵⁸

⁵² US Department of State 2008, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2007 – Turkey*, 11 March, Attachment 29.

⁵³ ‘72 women killed in the past year in South East Turkey’ 2011, *Roj Women website*, 12 March, <http://rojwomen.com/2011/03/12/72-women-killed-in-the-past-year-in-the-south-east/> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 30.

⁵⁴ Celik A. 2005, ‘I miss my village!: Forced Kurdish migrants in Istanbul and their representation in associations’, *New Perspectives on Turkey*, no. 32 (2005): 137-163, <https://research.sabanciuniv.edu/529/1/npt.pdf> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 31;

‘Ahmet Insel - Local Nazis’ 2005, *Radikal2 newspaper*, September 11, <http://www.birikimdergisi.com/birikim/article.aspx?mid=509&article=Ahmet%20DDinsel%20-%20Local%20Nazis> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 32.

⁵⁵ Secor A. undated, ‘*There Is an Istanbul That Belongs to Me*’: *Citizenship, Space, and Identity in the City*, http://www.uky.edu/~tmute2/geography_methods/geography_methods_pdfs/secor.pdf - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 7.

⁵⁶ Secor A. undated, ‘*There Is an Istanbul That Belongs to Me*’: *Citizenship, Space, and Identity in the City*, http://www.uky.edu/~tmute2/geography_methods/geography_methods_pdfs/secor.pdf - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 7;

‘700 News Jobs at New Call Centers in Eastern Turkey’ 2011, *Business Turkey Today*, 11 March, <http://www.business-turkeytoday.com/700-news-jobs-at-new-call-centers-in-eastern-turkey/> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 33.

⁵⁷ ‘700 News Jobs at New Call Centers in Eastern Turkey’ 2011, *Business Turkey Today*, 11 March, <http://www.business-turkeytoday.com/700-news-jobs-at-new-call-centers-in-eastern-turkey/> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 33.

⁵⁸ Lotfi M. 2007, ‘Kurd: The Forbidden Word in Turkey’, *Asharq Alawsat*, 16 December, <http://www.aawsat.com/english/news.asp?section=3&id=11177> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 34.

In Turkey two major Kurdish dialects are spoken: Kermanji, which is used by the majority of Kurds in Turkey, as well as by some of the Kurds in Iran and Iraq; and Zaza, spoken mainly in a triangular region in south-eastern Turkey between Diyarbakir, Ezurum, and Sivas, as well as in parts of Iran.⁵⁹

⁵⁹ Global Security undated, 'Kurdistan – Turkey' <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/kurdistan-turkey.htm> - Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 35.

Attachments

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