

Ms. Fay Pazartzis
Chair of the Human Rights Committee
Palais Wilson - Geneva

Geneva, 8 December 2021

Open letter to the Human Rights Committee Members

LOIPR of Turkey: urgent call to ensure Turkey' engagement with the Human Rights Committee

Dear Ms. **Fay Pazartzis**, Chair of the Human Rights Committee,
Dear **Members of the Human Rights Committee**,

1. ASSEDEL, IAHRAG, InstituDE, Journalists and Writers Foundation, Lawyers for Lawyers, Middle East Concern, Peace & Justice, Stockholm Center for Freedom, Turkey Tribunal, Volunteer Jurists Association have the honour to write in order to thank the Human Rights Committee for its recent list of issues prior to submission of the second periodic report on Turkey (CCPR/C/TUR/QPR/2, [here](#)). Our organizations would like to commend the comprehensive nature of the document and express their faith and trust in the treaty bodies' system to ensure better engagement of States in respecting their human rights obligations.

2. It has been 9 years now since the last dialogue between the Committee and Turkey (17-18 October 2012). As the second report of Turkey was due on 31 October 2016, our organizations deeply welcomed Turkey's acceptance of the simplified reporting procedure.

3. As a matter of fact, and notably since the coup attempt on 15 July 2016, our organizations have documented hundreds of human rights violations in Turkey: discrimination on multiple grounds, mass detentions and arrests of people under the pretext of preserving the national security, enforced disappearances, torture, violations of the right to a fair trial, of the right to privacy, of the right to freedom of religion or belief, of the right to freedom of expression, of freedom of association and of peaceful assembly, of the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs, and of the silencing and harassment of human rights defenders. The Committee's LOIPR perfectly encapsulated this global situation.

4. Turkey now has one year to respond to the questions raised by the Committee. Our organizations do not wish to pre-empt the Turkish promptness to react. However, in recent years Turkey has shown a general trend of not being fully compliant with its obligations to human rights institutions, starting with the Human Rights Committee itself and its individual decisions (interim measures and views).

5. In view of the forthcoming presidential elections in Turkey due in 2023 and of the continuing deterioration in human rights and the rule of law, our organizations respectfully but urgently call upon the members of the Human Rights Committee to keep Turkey as a priority on their agenda and to consider relevant actions should Turkey delay its answer to the LOIPR beyond one year.

6. Our organizations deeply appreciate the Human Rights Committee's concerns for the situation in Turkey and look forward to further cooperation with the Committee and the Secretariat.

Yours sincerely

*ASSEDEL, IAHRAG, InstituDE, Journalists and Writers Foundation, Lawyers for Lawyers,
Middle East Concern, Peace & Justice, Stockholm Center for Freedom, Turkey Tribunal, Volunteer
Jurists Association*