## HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF THE WORKERS IN TURKEY WHO WORKED IN PRIVATE SECTOR

### 1- INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Turkey is violating many international agreements it signed which escalated in the last five years and reached its peak after 15 July 2016.

The Republic committed the most serious human rights violations especially in the last three years with the help of "trustees" and "decree-laws" (KHK). The Republic of Turkey is making the decisions which can be made as a result of long and detailed judgements with decree-laws, Presidency Notices, Decisions of Council of Ministers or with "trustees" who are assigned by some partisan judges. The decisions regarding very important subjects which can cause many violations of rights are made without serious investigations and considering any methods and international legislations.

The State of Turkey moves away from democracy and takes fast steps towards dictatorship. Within this context, the members of judiciary who can justly decide were dismissed from duty and majority of them are arrested, the free press was silenced, thousands of people who worked as public officials were dismissed arbitrarily, the authorities of police and intelligence services were boosted, two leaders of a party in the General Assembly were assembled and thousands of foundations, assemblies and press institutions were closed down and their assets were confiscated. The state of fundamental rights and freedoms deteriorated while the number of jails increased and is increasing dramatically.<sup>1</sup>

After the coup attempt in Turkey in 15 July 2016 which is condemned by everyone who believes in democracy, the government in Turkey used this attempt as an opportunity (With the President's words: "This coup attempt is a grace of Allah for us") and excuse to silence the opposition and commit unlawful acts.

The Republic of Turkey dismissed 140.000 public servants with decree laws and more than 100.000 workers by assigning trustees or closing down their workplaces by violating all the responsibilities it has which were guaranteed by the international agreements it signed. These are all done by associating the victims with the coup and terrorism, without any investigations, without considering "the presumption of innocence" and by "violating the ILO (International Labor Organization) conventions".

The people who were dismissed from their duties within this process could not express their situation and victimhood in front of any authority as they were limited by the State of Emergency and decree-laws and as they were accused of the coup attempt.

The compensations of these dismissed people were not paid, their retirement rights were ignored and they were blocked from using their health rights. They were announced as guilty by associating the names of their workplaces with terror in the Official Gazette. Within this context, those people are deprived of their rights to "work" and "live" and they are left to misery and starvation.

It is not possible to talk about a lawful state in Turkey now. This fact was indicated many times in the reports published by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human

 $<sup>{\</sup>color{red}^{1}} \underline{\text{https://www.gazeteduvar.com.tr/gundem/2017/12/10/hukumetin-2023-plani-5-yilda-228-yeni-cezaevi/.}$ 

Rights, in the reports published by the Venice Commission which is an organ of the European Parliament and in the "Turkey 2018 Human Rights Report" which was published by USA. The real situation in Turkey is much worse than what was indicated in these reports.

This example is significant for understanding the severity of the situation regarding human rights violations:

In addition to the number of personnel who got dismissed from public duty, the Ministry of National Education made a decision which cancelled the occupational licenses of the people who worked in private institutions on the basis of the decree-law no. 667. Within this scope, 22.474 people who worked in private institutions lost their license.

Again with the help of the decree-laws, 1069 private schools, 15 private universities, 301 study centers, 848 dormitories and 28 unions among which there were educational unions as well were closed. 5342 people from foundation universities among which 2465 of them were academic personnel lost their jobs. All the movable and immovable assets of the closed institutions were confiscated.

According to the collected works of Stockholm Center for Freedom, there is a chart regarding the workers of private education sector who lost their jobs during the purge which started before 15 July:

The Workplace	School	Private Teaching Institution	Dormitory and Study Center	Total Teachers	Other Personnel	TOTAL
Number of Personnel	15700	18650	20000	54350	10864	65214

Approximately 54.000 people who worked in private education institutions and had no connection with the coup, 11.000 assistant personnel were dismissed from their jobs for the reason of working in the schools which were claimed to be tied to the Gulen movement which had schools in nearly all countries, which is a reason that is not and impossible to be a crime anywhere in the world. Their legal rights are usurped and they are deprived of their most basic and fundamental human rights.

These victims cannot express themselves because there is no free press in Turkey (During these times, 34 TV channels, 6 news agencies, 66 newspapers, 19 journals, 38 radios, 30 publish houses are closed. 206 journalists are arrested<sup>2</sup>). There is no authority where those victims can stop the unlawfulness and look for their rights. The domestic remedies are already exhausted. The domestic remedies are ineffective. The domestic remedies are under pressure. 4239 Judges and Prosecutors, 165 members of Supreme Court and Supreme Court of Public Accounts, 6 members of Supreme Board of Judges and Prosecutors and 2 members of Constitutional Court were ostracized from profession. All of the ostracized Judges and Prosecutors were detained and more than 80% of them were arrested. Many of them are kept in cells with solitude. There is no "just treatment" in a country where 4500 judges and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://content.chp.org.tr/file/24857.pdf

<sup>&</sup>quot;Violations of Rights – Statement of Emergency Report" of CHP with the date 12 January 2018, p. 18.

prosecutors are dismissed from duty, 3500 of them are arrested within a week and even the Constitutional Court cannot react to the unlawful arrests.

We as a platform which consists of people who are dedicated for this purpose after we experienced these victimhood ourselves who came to Europe by escaping from Turkey "to live", "for freedom" and for "being able to defend the rights of our remaining friends in a civilized world" with "the trust in democracy" and "the faith in international law", want to be sure to bring these violations of rights to the agenda of the United Nations which is the greatest institution in the world and to be sure that Turkey would be made to give up on these human rights violations and to comply with the international legislations it already signed. Our requests are to provide the most fundamental human rights which are tried to be provided to each single human being by the United Nations.

In this report, we want to bring all the victimhood of approximately 54350 teachers and 10864 assistant personnel who were dismissed from their jobs, prevented to work elsewhere and deprived of their rights, 5342 administrative staff (2465 academic) who worked in foundation universities and other workers in private education sector who experienced same type of victimhood to the agenda.

# 1- THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, WITH THE HELP OF TRUSTEES AND DECREE-LAWS, LEFT THOUSANDS OF EDUCATORS<sup>3</sup> WHO WORKED IN FOUNDATION UNVERSITIES AND PRIVATE EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS UNEMPLOYED

Turkish State ignored all the international conventions, current Constitution and laws and dismissed 54350 teachers and 10864 assistant personnel and 5342 academic personnel from their duties who worked in private education sector.

Such a high number of people was dismissed from their duties in several different ways. One of them is by "assigning a trustee" The trustee who was assigned unlawfully by the state dismissed thousands of employees unjustly in the institution where he came with the police escort. Another way is by cancelling the work license of the institution by the Ministry of National Education arbitrarily and leaving all the employees in that institution unemployed. Another important way is to close the educational institutions with decree-laws without any court decisions and leaving all the employees unemployed. Thousands of employees who worked in the institutions that were closed were left unemployed within one night with this method.

All of these methods of dismissal violate the principles of "right to work" which is guaranteed by legislations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> In this report, the term "educator" will be used to describe teachers, assistant personnel, academic personnel such as professors, assistant professors and administrative personnel.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> In Turkey, "assigning trustees" is used very differently than how it is proceeded in legal literature. Although both seems to be assigned with the same reasons, the AKP government used these assignments politically. The purpose of assigning those is not to save the institution it was assigned but to bankrupt them. It aimed not to protect the rights of the employees but to steal them. Thus, all the trustees committed many serious purges and violations of rights in the institutions that they had been assigned. They lowered the net worth of the companies they took over, fired their employees and caused hundreds of violations of rights. Still, when the AKP government or its partisans want to threaten someone, they threaten him by assigning a trustee and ending his business. (An example to the threat: <a href="https://www.birgun.net/haber-detay/kayyum-tehdidi-kanunlara-uyulmayacagini-gosteriyor-bana-gore-hukuku-232914.html">https://www.birgun.net/haber-detay/kayyum-tehdidi-kanunlara-uyulmayacagini-gosteriyor-bana-gore-hukuku-232914.html</a>)

With this actions, the Turkish State violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the "right to work" in the ECHR and many other rights and the ILO convention which it signed and therefore responsible to fulfill. The dismissed ones are dismissed "without any investigations", "by ignoring the presumption of innocence" and "by violating the ILO conventions."

While these are happening, there were no investigations and the principle of the individual responsibility of crime and punishment was ignored. It is not possible to talk about a lawful state in Turkey anymore. This situation was expressed in some of the reports that were published but the real situation in Turkey is much worse than what was indicated in those reports.

# 2- TURKISH STATE VIOLATED THE "TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT CONVENTION NO. 158" FOR THOUSANDS OF TIMES<sup>5</sup>

Turkish State is seriously violating the "Termination of Employment Convention no. 158" of ILO which it signed and made an important part of its national legislation. Tens of thousands of educators who are within the scope of the convention no. 158 were dismissed from their duties for the claim of being a member to a religious group (Gülen movement) with reasons which are "prohibited to use" which is indicated as "shall not constitute valid reasons for termination" in art. 5 of convention no. 158.

In addition to this, the dismissals are made without any investigations, without paying any compensations and by stealing all their rights coming from their employment and even all their rights coming from being a human.

# 3- TURKISH STATE ASSIGNED TRUSTEES TO THE INSTITUTIONS IT WANTED TO CLOSE DOWN. THE TRUSTEES FIRED THE EMPLOYEES IN SHORT NOTICE AND CLOSED DOWN THE WORKPLACES.

In Turkey, after 17 December 2013 when the corruption claims were revelated, the AKP government started to lynch the Gülen Movement by using all the means of the state. Within this process, this lynch is mostly done by "trustees" who were assigned irregularly. The state passed laws which gave unlimited authority to the trustees and removed the responsibility on them and the trustees committed serious purges by these laws. They fired thousands of employees in the institutions they were assigned and paralyzed those institutions. The trustees who were assigned to foundations, associations and companies fired all the educators who worked under them.

These institutions were closed after 15 July

### 4- THE EDUCATORS CANNOT FIND AN AUTHORITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VICTIMHOOD

In Turkish Laws and International Legislations, the person who is victimized "theoretically" has the right to legal remedies. But in Turkey, it is not possible for a person whose workplace was closed by decree-laws to apply for any court for this action. There are hundreds of court decisions indicating that the decree-laws are out of the supervision of administrative

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> We can provide hundreds of names who were victimized within this context if necessary

jurisdiction. This is the reason why the State commits the violation of rights by decree-laws. The Turkish State wanted to prevent the victims of decree-laws to open a case.

The trustees are granted extraordinary authorities and their responsibilities are removed. Therefore, there is no way to open a case against the trustees for the unlawful acts they committed. The OHAL (State of Emergency) Commission which is made up later because of the international pressure does not change this fact. This situation is described in detail in the report of Amnesty International named "Purged Beyond Return? No Remedy For Turkey's Dismissed Public Sector Workers".<sup>6</sup>

According to the art. 8 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law." Which means that restricting the right to appeal to the courts by the teachers is against the Declaration.

Also, the fact that the educators who lost their jobs by the decree-laws cannot appeal to any legal authority is against the ILO Convention no. 158. In art. 8 of the same Convention titled "Procedure of Appeal Against Termination", it is stated that "A worker who considers that his employment has been unjustifiably terminated shall be entitled to appeal against that termination to an impartial body, such as a court, labour tribunal, arbitration committee or arbitrator." Within this context, the Republic of Turkey clearly violated art. 8 of the ILO Convention. Within this context, because of the fact that the article "The bodies referred to in Article 8 of this Convention shall be empowered to examine the reasons given for the termination and the other circumstances relating to the case and to render a decision on whether the termination was justified" could not be applied, the articles 9 and 10 are automatically violated as well.

Within this scope, the Republic of Turkey violate "the Right to Fair Trial" of Universal Declaration of Human Rights and ECHR.

### 5- THE COMPENSATIONS WHICH SHOULD BE PAID TO EDUCATORS ACCORDING TO LAW ARE NOT PAID

None of the people who worked in the institutions which were closed and their assets confiscated could get his compensation. The cases opened about this issue were prevented by decree-laws. With the part. 3 of the temporary art. 1 of decree-law 685, those cases were rejected and the Ministry of Treasury which was indicated as the authority to solve the issue DO NOT PAY THE DEPTS OF THE WORKERS and leave all the applications unanswered.

The educators who lost their jobs do not get any of the "severance pay", "notice pay" and others which come from Law. The compensations and payments in art. 12 of the ILO Convention no. 158 "A worker whose employment has been terminated shall be entitled, in accordance with national law and practice, to the following" were not paid to the dismissed educators within this process.

Although there was enough money in the closed companies to pay the workers, they weren't paid. According to the ILO Conventions, the worker should be paid first.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur44/9210/2018/en/

The "right to live" of the educators who were dismissed from their duties, prevented to find new jobs and unpaid is violated. The educators who could barely live with their salaries cannot maintain a humane life when they cannot get their salaries and compensations. Therefore, Turkish State commits a great crime and violates their rights to live.

### 6- THE EDUCATORS ARE EXPOSED TO HATE SPEECH BY STATE OFFICIALS

The educators who are unemployed are considered as criminals within the society because of the hate speech and being excluded. Turkish State labels the opposing groups, unions and organizations, especially the people who are members of Gülen Movement as "terrorists" and exposes them to harsh treatment just like the example given before which cannot be accepted in a lawful state. Therefore, those educators are exposed to verbal and physical attacks in the society.

The Government declared these educators as "TERRORISTS" by the official gazette without any investigations or interrogations. Therefore, the educators who are declared as criminals by ignoring the presumption of innocence are both left unemployed and exposed to social lynch with hate speeches. This situation is a clear "VIOLATION TO THE RIGHT TO LIVE".

Turkish state violates the articles 3, 5, 6, 7 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights and art. 1, 2 and 3 of the ECHR within this context.

## 7- THE RIGHT TO DEFEND WAS VIOLATED WHILE THE EDUCATORS WERE BEING DISMISSED

Thousands of educators who are dismissed by trustees are deprived of their right to defend themselves. They were dismissed from their duties without a proper investigation against them. Within this context, no educator was granted the right to defend himself. Therefore, all the dismissals are unlawful.

Within this context, the Republic of Turkey clearly violates the art. 11 of UDHR and art. 6 of ECHR. The persons who are accused and planned to be punished must be granted the right to defend themselves. "Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defense." (UDHR art. 11)

Also, not granting the right to defend themselves clearly violates the art. 7 of the ILO Convention no. 158 "The employment of a worker shall not be terminated for reasons related to the worker's conduct or performance before he is provided an opportunity to defend himself against the allegations made, unless the employer cannot reasonably be expected to provide this opportunity."

# 8- MANY LAW PRINCIPLES ARE VIOLATED WHILE THE RIGHTS OF EDUCATORS ARE STOLEN

The justifications which are used while the educators were being dismissed are not legal. The things that the educators are accused of are not among the actions which are considered as

crime internationally. It is also not possible to relate educators with the coup attempt. There is not even a single educator or private sector worker who participated in the coup attempt.

"Medical institutions", "education institutions", "universities", "unions", "companies" which operated in accordance with the laws and could not be associated with terror were closed down "ARBITRARILY".

There are critical legal problems here. Some of the main points will be pointed out in terms of international law

- The courts decide if a person is guilty or not. The guilt of a person and the existence of an organization is decided as a result of a proper judgement and with the clear court decision made after all the phases of judgement. But at the date when those expressions are included in the official gazette, there was no "FETÖ Terrorist Organization" decided by courts. Without court decisions, no one can declare anyone as a terrorist organization.
- First, a group is declared as terrorist and then the companies, institutions etc. that are claimed to be related to that group are closed. The crime and punishment are individual. This principle is ignored here, some people are considered as criminal and then, the ones who are related and connected to them are also considered as criminal and punished.
- There is no detected terror activity of the closed institutions and their employees until the date 15 July 2016. There were no investigations regarding those educators and institutions until that date. If a terror activity was detected, why there was no legal actions before, if not detected, why those institutions and people are punished and criminalized because of their actions before 15 July.
- There is also unlawfulness in terms of applying the crimes and punishment. If an action is not a crime when it was committed, it cannot be acepted as a crime later. It must be a crime when it was committed. For example, if it wasn't a crime to be a member of a union during the time when someone was a member, that person cannot be accused of a crime after that union was closed and the membership was criminalized.
- What is the amount of connection? How was it detected? How can connection itself be considered as a reason to close down an institution? Was this a crime while this connection was active? If it was a crime, what procedures were applied? All these questions are left unanswered in terms of international law.

"No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed." (UDHR art. 11)

The provisions are clear but thousands of educators in Turkey are considered as guilty by violating these provisions. Thousands of institutions were closed despite these provisions.

# 9- THE EDUCATORS NOT ONLY LOST THEIR JOBS BUT ALSO THEIR EMPLOYEE PERSONAL RIGHTS

Educators were also deprived of many other rights. Their pensions and retirement rights are stolen, their accumulated wealth for other funds were stolen and they couldn't even benefit from simplest health services which they paid for years.

Although there are many payments made for workers for health, unemployment insurance etc., they were deprived of all of these after they were dismissed. This situation is violating the art. 12 and 13 of the ILO Convention no. 158.

# 10- THEIR PASSPORTS WERE CANCELLED BY DECREE-LAWS AND THEY CANNOT GET NEW ONES

The passports of the educators were cancelled and therefore, the "right to travel" was restricted which is guaranteed by many international conventions and Turkish Constitution. These cancellations are not limited with only the educators, their families and children also couldn't get passports and the existing ones were cancelled. Although it has been almost 3 years after the coup attempt, the violations regarding the passports continue. The statements made by government members regarding "the unlawfulness about the passport issues being corrected" do not reflect the truth unfortunately.

This situation is against the Turkish Constitution as well as the provisions in art. 3 of UDHR: "Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.", "Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country."

### 11- THE RIGHT TO UNIONIZE OF THE EDUCATORS WAS VIOLATED

One of the biggest education unions, PAK EĞITIM IS was closed, thousands of educators who were members of this union were dismissed and their work licenses were cancelled. These members were victimized by violating the "right to unionize" and "right to organization" which are accepted in ECHR and universal law.

In 23 July 2016, after 7 days from the coup attempt, **18 unions** including Pak Eğitim İs and 2 confederations which the unions were tied to (AKSIYONIS and CIHANSEN) were closed and all their assets were confiscated with the decree-law no. 667. In addition to this, **1595 foundations** were closed at the same time and their assets were confiscated as well.

This situation means direct violation of the provisions which are guaranteed in the art. 20 of UDHR "Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.", art.11 of ECHR "Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests." And the art. 4 of the ILO Convention no. 87 "Workers' and employers' organisations shall not be liable to be dissolved or suspended by administrative authority." by the Turkish Government.

Turkish state violated all of the "Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention no. 87" by closing Pak Eğitim Is union. The Convention no. 87 of ILO which was created by the Managerial Board of ILO Work Group regarding the protection of freedom of association and right to organize is violated by Turkish state by closing down unions without any court decisions and dismissing the teachers from their duties because of their membership.

# 12-THE CERTIFICATES OF THE TEACHERS WHICH THEY GOT TO WORK IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS WERE CANCELLED

**22.474** teachers who worked in the closed private education institutions lost their work license. This violation is committed by the Ministry of National Education. The licenses of the teachers were cancelled to prevent them from working as a teacher elsewhere. Their "right to work in private education institutions" which they gained by taking courses and passing exams are cancelled by violating the "respect to earned rights" and "right to work". It is not possible to cancel such a right which was obtained as a result of the courses and exams which were prepared for the teachers by the state in equal conditions. It is not possible to cancel the university diploma of a teacher who has been working as a teacher for 15 years. This right to work in private institutions cannot be cancelled as well but **it is done.** The right to work which was in the UDHR and ECHR was violated. The education and certificates of the teachers were ignored and their rights were stolen.

### 13-TURKISH STATE ALSO PREVENTS THE EDUCATORS TO WORK IN A NEW JOB

Turkish State acts as a mafia, holds grudges and acts by ignoring the laws. It prevents the educators who are unemployed because of the trustees or closed institutions to find other jobs. The state makes sure that those persons are fired from their jobs again by threatening, harassing and sending inspectors to the workplaces of the employers.

This is done by the Social Security Institution. SSI added 36<sup>th</sup> reason of dismissal (dismissal because of the connection to Fetö) to the list of 35 reasons to quit from job. The "code 036" is written to the social security registries of the people who worked in the workplaces closed by decree-laws, who were dismissed directly by decree-laws or who were fired by the employers with their opinion of being connected to FETÖ/PDY. This code tags the employees and causes discrimination and MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND A NEW JOB.

If an educator is hired despite this code, the inspectors of SSI (or the hitmen of the mafia) call the workplace immediately and tell that a suspected person is hired and this situation is not wanted (by Erdogan, President himself or by the State) and the hired person should immediately be fired. Very few workplaces can resist to this situation. Many of them cannot hire those educators because of fear. Therefore, the teachers who were dismissed by decree-laws have great difficulties to find any jobs in Turkey.

# 14-TURKISH GOVERNMENT IGNORED ALL LEGAL ASSURANCES REGARDING UNION RIGHTS AND VIOLATED ILO CONVENTION NO. 87

Turkish State violated the ILO Convention no. 87 completely by closing down the unions which the educators were members of. PAK-EĞİTİM İS union was also closed by decree-laws without any judicial decisions by violating the ILO Convention no. 87.

Thousands of workers are dismissed just because they were members to the union. Thousands of workers who got dismissed only for being a member to a union currently struggle with unemployment and survival. Great atrocities were and are committed to the unionized workers.

In the art. 4 of the ILO Convention no. 87, it is indicated that "Workers' and employers' organisations shall not be liable to be dissolved or suspended by administrative authority." All the closures of unions were made with administrative decisions in Turkey.

### 15-THE RIGHT OF PROPERTY WAS VIOLATED

During the state of emergency, 48 medical institutions, 1061 private education institutions, 800 dormitories, 223 study centers, 155 foundations, 1595 associations, 15 universities, 28 unions and 2 confederations of unions were closed.

Also, 34 TV channels, 6 news agencies, 66 newspapers, 19 periodicals, 38 radios, 30 publish houses were closed.

942 companies which had net worth of **60 billion liras** were transferred to Saving Deposit Insurance Fund by decree-laws.

All the assets of the mentioned institutions WERE CONFISCATED.<sup>7</sup> Their right to property was violated.

16- ALL KINDS OF TORMENT ARE CONSIDERED AS NORMAL TO THE TEACHERS AND THEIR RELATIVES WHO WERE DISMISSED BY DECREE-LAWS, THE WORKERS IN THE CLOSED WORKPLACES AND THEIR RELATIVES. THE STATE AUTHORITIES CONTINUOUSLY PROVOKE THE STATE ORGANS AND THE SOCIETY WITH HATE SPEECHES.

The act of abuse to Merve Demirel by the police which was described in detail at the beginning is not a specific case which happened to the daughter of a teacher who was dismissed from duty. This act is just among many others that happen to the teachers in Turkey who got dismissed from their duties and their children. The hate speeches and targeting of the state authorities, partisan media and President Erdogan and the Minister of Domestic Affairs Süleyman Soylu continuously target these people and consider all the evil done to them as justified.

Because of the fact that there is no free press in the country, the educators who are unemployed after their workplaces are closed and the teachers who were dismissed by decree-laws unfortunately cannot make their voices heard. Therefore with this report, the most important rights of them which are violated are tried to be explained.

### 17-AS A RESULT

We think that we are facing one of the most comprehensive human rights violations in Turkish history. In Turkey, all the rights of the mentioned educators and private sector workers granted by UDHR, ECHR, Turkish Constitution, universal principles of law and ILO Conventions are ignored. They are dismissed from their jobs, arrested, prevented to find other jobs, not being paid their compensations, ignoring their earned retirement rights and all kinds of evil done to them are considered justified.

Thousands of educators and private sector workers whose rights are stolen, labor are stolen, who are victimized, subjected to torture and struggling to survive are trying to claim their rights. But in today's Turkey where the law is completely ignored and an

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://content.chp.org.tr/file/24857.pdf

atmosphere of fear started to reign, it seems impossible to get back their rights in today's conditions.

**Especially** the rights and victimhood of tens of thousands of workers are not expressed anywhere. Even the size of the victimhood could not be detected fully as the victimhood started before 15 July and committed gradually. These people are victimized in every aspect but they cannot even express their problems anywhere. If we add the people who worked in tens of companies, foundations and associations which were closed by decree-laws and especially decree-law no. 667 to the list, it will be seen that the number of the victims will be hundreds of thousands. The situation of the employers whose companies are closed, confiscated and assigned trustees are another issue but the victimhood of the workers who worked in there was not considered by any authorities or solved.

Within the fear caused by the state in Turkey, people cannot even claim their most fundamental rights. Still majority of the educators who live in Turkey fear for the bad treatment they will receive if they open a case. A total fear reigns in the country and the fear of the educators are not improper; it is clear what happened to the teacher Semih Özakça and academician Nuriye Gülmen and the ones who supported them who struggled to get their jobs back. They got beaten, their home was raided many times and they got arrested. This is just a small portion which is reflected in the news. The violence and unlawfulness in the country is far beyond that.

The Turkish State victimizes the people with the "FETÖ" tag and uses the anti-terrorism cover for the unlawfulness it commits. The presumption of innocence and individuality of crime and punishment are completely ignored and thousands of educators are accused by this tag and victimized heavily. No judge can decide in favor of a person like this. In case such a decision is made, the judge who made that decision is either expelled or dismissed from duty. No judge would take that risk, so it is impossible for an educator who was dismissed with that accusation to claim his rights, open a case and win that case.

Imagine the situation. You woke up at morning, your workplace was closed by a decree-law and both you and your wife became unemployed. There is no other job that you can do. You don't know how you can earn your living. You are declared as a terrorist by the Official Gazette. No one answers your phone because of fear, no one even greets you when they learn about the situation. YES, THE EDUCATORS IN TURKEY LIVED AND STILL ARE LIVING THIS DESPAIR.

Within this context, in order to reverse the injustice and compensate the losses, it is necessary to:

- 1- Return all the assets which were stolen by confiscation. To pay back all the losses with adding positive and negative interests.
- 2- Pay the rents with interest to the owners of all the assets which were confiscated
- 3- Return the people who were dismissed from their jobs by decree-laws
- 4- Pay all the salaries and compensations with interest to the people who were dismissed by trustees or by closing their workplaces for the period when they couldn't work.
- 5- Returning all the personal rights which were stolen.

- 6- Apologize by the state because of all the pain they have been through during the time they were victimized and to pay compensations to them to compensate all the harm done to them.
- 7- Restore the honor of the people and institutions, declare their innocence by the Official Gazette and making sure they are returned to their jobs,
- 8- Removing all the legislations in Turkey which does not fit to international law and signed international conventions.

We are requesting help in this issue from United Nations, States and other international institutions and organizations.