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The Documentation Centre of Human Rights Foundation of Turkey[1][2][3][4]

Fact Sheet on Gezi Park Protests – 08 July 2013

Demonstrations that began on 28 May 2013 to protect Gezi Park and turned into protests demanding basic rights and freedoms because of the violence directed to the people by the police and spread across Turkey, excluding Bingöl and Bayburt as per Ministry of Interior's data, continue with forums on 03 July 2013, the 41st day.

As of Istanbul 1st Administrative Court's decision on cancellation of Taksim Project, on 06 July 2013, people who were gathered to get into Gezi Park were attacked with tear gas chemicals, pressurized water and plastic bullets by police forces. All night, the attacks went on at Istiklal Avenue and Taksim Square. 4 people in Talimhane, declared as craftsmen, attacked people with chopper. These people were taken under custody then released on 07 July 2013 by the Judge. By the night 59 people were taken under custody, tens of people were injured. It has been revived that police forces weren't carrying identification numbers on their helmets. To the best of our knowledge, 13 reporters were attacked and 2 reporters were taken under custody.

It has been searched out that 8 people were taken under custody on 03 July 2013 in Antakya with an allegation of "disbursing money during demonstrations". 6 of them were deported, 2 Turkish citizen were released.

According to assessment made by the Turkish Medical Association on 27 June 2013; 8041 people were injured in demonstrations across Turkey, and regretfully, 4 people lost their lives[5]. Two protestors were killed by direct police violence. The online survey conducted by TMA reveals that that 11155 person were exposed to chemical weapon/riot control agents.

During the demonstrations held in Hatay on 3 June 2013 Abdullah Cömert, aged 22, lost his life. The autopsy report revealed that Abdullah Cömert was killed by being crashed in his head with two blows. It is diagnosed that there has been a skull fracture caused by blow to the back of head and there is a semilunar shaped, four centimetres diametrical tear which ends up to parietal bone. On 5 July 2013, it was revived that the memo autopsy report reveals the possibility of death caused by gun shot.

During the demonstrations held in Ankara on 01 June 2013, Ethem Sarısülük was killed by being shot in his head directly by a police officer named Ahmet Şahbaz. Ethem Sarısuluk's cerebral death was declared on 12 June 2013. The autopsy report revealed that he was killed by being shot in his head. The police officer was released. On 03 July 2013, the objection filed by Ethem Sarısuluk's family, against the verdict of release was rejected by Ankara 8. Criminal Court of First Instance on a basis of that "family doesn't have an authorization to object".

Mehmet Ayvalıtaş, aged 21, lost his life as a result of being crashed by a car which was intentionally crashed into crowds in Ümraniye in İstanbul on 2nd June 2013.

Mehmet Sarı, police officer, fell down from bridge and lost his life while running after protestors in Adana on 5th June 2013.

Zeynep Eryaşar who attended to protests had heart attack and lost her life because of being exposed by tear gas chemicals in Avcılar in İstanbul on 15 June 2013.

Ulaş Yıldız, reporter of the magazine "Mücadele Birliđi", who was detained on basis of involving the protests in Adana on 24 June 2013, was released on 05 June 2013 with an objection filed by his lawyer.

On 04 July 2013, 16 people who are members of "Temel Haklar Derneđi" (Association of Essential Rights), were taken under custody with an allegation of participating in the protests in Bursa. 8 of them were detained with an allegation of "being a member of illegal organization DHKP/C" on 06 July 2013.

The number of people who were detained across Turkey as of 08 July 2013 has reached 3482 according to HRFT data[6]. The number of people that have been arrested is 101 as the date of 08 July 2013. The allegations against these people are "to be a ruler or member of illegal organisation", "destroying public property", "carrying gun and bullet", "invading mosque".

According to Ministry of Interior's declaration in 22th June 2013, protest occurred all around Turkey except Bayburt and Bingöl and 2, 5 million people attended to the protests. 4,900 people were taken under custody and 4,000 people were wounded. 14 political party building got damaged.

10 people who have taken part in the protests by making sounds with pots and pans from their balconies were fined with 88 TRY on basis of breaching Misdemeanour Law. 9 students were also fined with 1000 TRY on the basis of breaching same law.

[1] The Documentation Centre's data has to be accepted as a claim till it becomes definite. A Claim about violation of right is accepted as a definite data due to the Documentation Centre's depth exploration or it is eliminated from the balance sheet of violation of human rights.

[2] In order to subscribe to the email group, send a blank email to eozer@tihv.org.tr with a subject title "request of membership to daily human rights report".

[3] <https://www.facebook.com/TIHV.HRFT>

[4] Twitter: @insanhaklari

[5] "On 05 June 2013, İrfan Tuna (47), working as a cleaning staff in a private school nearby Kızılay square felt sick with a result of viscous tear gas chemical usage of police forces and died of heart attack. The forensic medicine report will diagnose the cause of death."

[6] The number of detained people we mentioned above is not same with data of Ministry of Interior since our documentation center collected the data through media organs. Moreover, it is not possible to have same number since we are not able to have name-surname comparison. Since the data of Ministry of Interior does not include number of people who were taken under custody without any formal registration, though there are lots of witnesses claiming that many people were held without formal registration. Thus, we think that the real number of detained people is over 5000.