



Date: 20 October 2024

• **Security Studies and Rule of Law Association (SRL Swiss)**

15 rue des Savoises

1205 Genève, Switzerland

Members of the United Nations Human Rights Committee

Subject: Urgent Supplementary Submission: Reported Abduction of Turkish Asylum Seekers in Kenya and Risk of Forcible Return

Distinguished Members of the Committee,

1. The Human Rights Committee's 142nd session was held in Geneva from 14 October to 8 November 2024. In advance of the review of Türkiye, SRL Swiss submitted a shadow report to the Committee Secretariat on 16 September 2024 addressing, among other matters, enforced disappearances and abductions, torture and other ill-treatment, liberty and security of the person, judicial independence, and arbitrary arrest or detention.
2. As a supplementary matter concerning the section on enforced disappearances and abductions, we wish to draw the Committee's attention to events reported in Nairobi, Kenya, on 18 October 2024.
3. Amnesty International Kenya reported that seven Turkish asylum seekers - Mustafa Genç, his son Abdullah Genç, Hüseyin Yeşilsu, Necdet Seyitoğlu, Öztürk Uzun, Alparslan Taşçı and Saadet Taşçı - were abducted in Nairobi by unknown armed persons. By 19 October, Abdullah Genç, Necdet Seyitoğlu and Saadet Taşçı had reportedly been released, while the remaining persons were still at risk.
4. At the time of the original communication, public allegations concerning possible Turkish intelligence involvement had not been established by an independent judicial determination and should therefore be treated as allegations. Subsequent public statements by Kenyan authorities acknowledged the involvement of Kenyan law-enforcement and foreign-affairs agencies in the forcible return of four Turkish nationals to Türkiye, giving rise to serious concerns under the principle of non-refoulement.
5. SRL Swiss had previously raised concerns regarding alleged extraterritorial abductions and forcible transfers in its shadow reporting. In that context, the Association also referred to earlier public reporting concerning the 2018 transfer of six Turkish nationals from Kosovo to Türkiye. Any allegation concerning responsibility of named officials should be assessed on the basis of verified evidence and appropriate due-process safeguards.
6. The original draft of this communication referred to the Committee against Torture's 80th session as having taken place in 2026. That was a clerical error. The 80th session was held from 8 to 26 July 2024, and Türkiye's fifth periodic report was considered on 17 and 18 July 2024.

Request to the Committee

In light of the above, we respectfully request that the Committee consider the reported abductions and subsequent forcible returns when examining Türkiye's record and, where



appropriate, seek detailed information from the State party concerning any involvement of Turkish authorities, the legal basis for any transfer, access to asylum and extradition procedures, and safeguards against torture, enforced disappearance and refoulement.

SRL Swiss remains available to provide its source materials and further documentation should the Committee consider them useful.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Directors

Security Studies and Rule of Law Association

This document records and analyses allegations and source material available to SRL Swiss. Unless otherwise stated, it does not purport to determine individual criminal liability; disputed factual assertions are presented as allegations or attributed statements.

Selected Sources and Verification Materials

- OHCHR, Human Rights Committee, 142nd session (14 October - 8 November 2024).
- Amnesty International Kenya, statement of 19 October 2024 concerning the abduction of seven Turkish asylum seekers.
- Amnesty International Kenya / Police Reforms Working Group, statement of 21 October 2024 concerning the forcible return of four Turkish nationals.
- OHCHR, Committee against Torture, 80th session (8-26 July 2024), fifth periodic report of Türkiye.