POLICY BRIEF

Liberty and effective remedies in Türkiye

SRL Swiss | EN | 25.10.2026

Scope and principal conclusion

The September 2024 submission to the Human Rights Committee examines disappearances, torture allegations, deaths in custody and judicial independence under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It asks that official responses address specific cases and practical results. Legislative assurances must be tested against access to protection and effective remedies.

Findings from the case records

The report raises alleged domestic and cross-border abductions and asks for information on whereabouts, investigation mechanisms and remedies. Recording an individual's account upon reappearance and preserving evidence are essential to examining periods outside officially acknowledged custody.

The custody sections discuss allegations of ill-treatment and the deaths of Mustafa Kabakçıoğlu and Zeki Güven. The request is for effective investigations and detailed answers, including scrutiny of access to care and oversight, rather than a presumption that every allegation has already been judicially established.

The judicial section connects arbitrary detention and emergency-decree dismissals to independence, foreseeable legal criteria and implementation of Yalçınkaya. It challenges reliance on vague affiliation concepts and distinguishes the existence of review procedures from their effectiveness for affected individuals.

Priorities for action

1. Investigate credible abduction, torture and custody-death allegations promptly and independently. Preserve detention, medical and other relevant records; inform families and disclose reasoned findings while protecting witnesses and personal data.

2. Ensure confidential access to counsel, independent doctors, family contact and prompt judicial control. Record complaints of earlier unofficial custody and protect lawyers from pressure. Assess safeguards through actual access and investigative outcomes.

3. Implement relevant human-rights judgments and protect independent adjudication. Review criminal and professional measures with individual evidence, predictable criteria and an effective opportunity to challenge them. Address continuing discriminatory and employment consequences through effective remedies.

Evidence and limits

This is a retrospective summary of the September 2024 submission. Allegations, institutional assessments and judicial findings are not interchangeable; current custodial status and later investigations are not independently established by this document.

SRL Swiss, Submission to the Human Rights Committee, September 2024, pp. 3–14, recommendations 85–103.

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