POLICY BRIEF

Preventing torture and investigating disappearances in Türkiye

SRL Swiss | EN | 25.10.2026

Scope and principal conclusion

The June 2024 submission to the Committee against Torture compares Türkiye's official explanations with reported detention practices and individual cases. Its central concern is the gap between formal safeguards and practical protection. Independent investigation, effective access to counsel and medical documentation are presented as connected requirements for prevention and accountability.

Findings from the case records

The submission challenges whether the domestic definition and application of torture adequately address intimidation, coercion and psychological suffering. It distinguishes the existence of criminal prohibitions from evidence that allegations are recorded, investigated and prosecuted effectively.

Reported obstacles include delayed legal assistance, examinations in the presence of law-enforcement officers, inaccessible medical records and unofficial detention locations. These conditions can obstruct both prevention and subsequent proof of abuse; a general assurance of lawful procedure does not answer a specific complaint.

The report discusses alleged abductions and disappearances, including the cases of Ayten Öztürk, Orhan İnandı and Yusuf Bilge Tunç. It asks for case-specific investigative information rather than relying on general denials or announcements of transfers from abroad.

Priorities for action

1. Authorities should promptly and independently investigate credible allegations, preserve custody and medical records and explain investigative outcomes to victims and families. The Committee should request concrete information about the cases identified in the submission.

2. Guarantee prompt confidential legal assistance, independent medical examination and safe complaint mechanisms. Protect lawyers, complainants and families from pressure and ensure that documentation is available for effective judicial scrutiny.

3. Address legislative and practical barriers to accountability, including rules invoked to shield conduct during emergency measures. Review the operation of safeguards using actual investigations and outcomes; implement relevant human-rights judgments through individual and preventive measures.

Evidence and limits

This summary concerns the June 2024 submission and its cited material. Reported allegations are not converted into new judicial findings, and subsequent investigations or current whereabouts are not independently updated here.

SRL Swiss, Submission to the Committee against Torture, Report 1, June 2024, pp. 5–16.

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