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# ELECTION OBSERVATION REPORT: 31 MARCH 2024 LOCAL ELECTIONS IN TURKEY

HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION



1986

## Table of Contents

<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>I. VIOLATIONS</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>II. RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BEFORE THE ELECTIONS</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>III. RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ON ELECTION DAY</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>IV. RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AFTER THE CLOSING OF THE POLLS</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>V. OBJECTIONS TO THE SBE</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>CONCLUSION</u>	<u>18</u>

## INTRODUCTION

The Human Rights Association (İHD) is a voluntary human rights organization, independent of the state, government and political parties, which has been observing parliamentary elections, local elections and referendums held in Turkey since its establishment in 1986, making statements and writing reports on their results, and exchanging views on these issues with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

The Election Observation Mission Report of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights on the results of its observation of the 25<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary Elections held on 7 June 2015 specifically states that the "law does, however, does not create the legal basis for the effective implementation of citizen and international observation as per paragraph 8 of the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document, previous PACE recommendations, and Section II.3.2 of the Code of Good Practice."<sup>1</sup> In order to allow independent civilian election observers to observe the elections in terms of the exercise of the right to vote and to be elected, which is regulated in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and its protocols, the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other international conventions to which Turkey is a party, we applied to the Supreme Board of Elections (SBE) on 20 March 2024 to observe the local elections to be held on 31 March 2024 with a total of 300 observers consisting of İHD members and executives assigned by the association in 22 cities.

As in every election term, İHD notified the provincial and district electoral boards of 22 cities with the lists of names of its members who would be independent election observers, and submitted its request to the provincial and district electoral boards of 22 cities to provide the necessary assistance to its independent election observers in the 31 March 2024 local elections. Yet, İHD's request was rejected, with the decision (no. 2024/784) of the Presidency of the SBE, on the grounds that the persons and organizations that could observe the election were listed in the law and İHD was not in the list.

On 31 March 2024, at the beginning of the voting process, independent election observers assigned by İHD in 22 cities presented at the voting centers to monitor the voting process with their name badges and identifying documents. Violations before the election, rights violations on election day and rights violations after the election were compiled from the information provided by İHD's independent election observers and the news reported by the press. The rights violations are hereby listed.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/2/c/162671.pdf>

# I. VIOLATIONS

## I.I. Irregular Voter Allegations

After the election date was set and the voter lists were posted, an examination of the SBE voter registers revealed that in many cities and district centers, an unrealistic number of people were registered in a single apartment and many voters were shifted to regional provinces. In Iğdır, where the AKP lost by 1,514 votes, it was revealed that 4,449 voters were registered in 7 buildings, 4,449 transported voters in their 20s who were not from Iğdır and who voted in different provinces in the 2023 General Elections were registered in three police stations in Iğdır's Pir Sultan Abdal neighborhood, two buildings of the Provincial Security Directorate in Konaklı neighborhood and the Family Health Center in Konaklı. While the number of voters not living in Şırnak leaving the center of Şırnak was 2,429, the number of voters not living in Şırnak coming in to the city center was 8,710. In central Kars, the number of voters at the address Cumhuriyet Mahallesi Şehit Yusufbey Caddesi No: 50/2 D:1, which appears as Officers Club (Orduevi) in the address query system, increased by 23,015.38% from 13 voters in the May 2023 elections to 3,005 voters, and only 10 of these 3,005 people were previously voters in central Kars. In central Ağrı, a total of 4,425 voter registrations at 4 different addresses in 2 neighborhoods are suspicious. Especially in many provinces and districts where the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) has a high voting rate, voters were shifted and hundreds of fictitious voters were registered in a single residence contrary to the ordinary course of life. The number of so-called "ghost voters" across the country is approximately 44 thousand.

CITY	DISTRICT	APPLICATIONS
AĞRI	CENTRAL AĞRI	4607
AĞRI	TAŞLIÇAY	209
BATMAN	HASANKEYF	304
BATMAN	GERCÜŞ	295
BİTLİS	CENTRAL BİTLİS	53
BİTLİS	TATVAN	708
BİNGÖL	ADAKLI	98
DİYARBAKIR	EĞİL	1213
DİYARBAKIR	HAZRO	897
DİYARBAKIR	KULP	1985
ELAZIĞ	KARAKOÇAN	579
ERZURUM	KARAÇOBAN	320
HAKKARİ	ÇUKURCA	3602
HAKKARİ	DERECİK	2107
HAKKARİ	YÜKSEKOVA - ESENDERE	2019
HAKKARİ	ŞEMDİNLİ	2260
IĞDIR	CENTRAL IĞDIR	4598
KARS	CENTRAL KARS	4030
MARDİN	DARGEÇİT	568

MARDİN	SAVUR	995
MERSİN	AKDENİZ	460
MUŞ	MALAZGİRT	569
SİİRT	ERUH	1357
SİİRT	KURTALAN	1175
SİİRT	PERVARI	35
SİİRT	CENTRAL SİİRT	6643
ŞIRNAK	BEYTÜŞŞEBAP	874
ŞIRNAK	GÜÇLÜKONAK	486
ŞIRNAK	CENTRAL ŞIRNAK	8287
ŞIRNAK	ULUDERE	1460
TUNCELİ	MAZGİRT – AKPAZAR	136

### **I.II. Raids, attacks, threats and police raids against parties' election offices/vehicles, candidates, rallies and workers**

Before and after the elections, election offices/vehicles, candidates and employees of many parties participating in the elections were attacked. Politicians were detained and arrested, election offices were attacked with stones and sticks, candidates were subjected to physical violence during rallies. Many people were detained under torture during the protests that started in Van and spread to many cities after the decision to revoke the decision on the reinstatement of the rights of Abdullah Zeydan, who was elected as the Mayor of Van Metropolitan Municipality after the elections, with an administrative order and to grant the election certificate to the ruling party candidate with the second highest number of votes. There was a police attack on the statement that lawyers wanted to make in front of Istanbul Çağlayan Courthouse and 14 lawyers were taken into custody. After the incidents, the Governorate of Van imposed a 15-day ban on protests, events and entering and leaving the city.

### **I.III. Independent election observers were not allowed to observe the elections.**

For many years, İHD has been independently observing local and general elections and referendums in line with OSCE principles. İHD's observation is independent and is not carried out with the observer card of any political party. İHD also carries out this activity together with the Association for Monitoring Equal Rights (AMER) under the "Independent Election Monitoring Platform."

On March 31, İHD headquarters and branches were kept open for independent monitoring in the election districts where İHD branches are located. Therefore, applications could be made to İHD on election day. In many places, İHD observers were prevented by law enforcement officers themselves and were told that they had received instructions that they could not observe. However, election administration is under the control of the SBE. Without the intervention of the SBE and the provincial and district election boards under the SBE, the police should not interfere with independent observers. On election day, there were open obstructions in Diyarbakır, Mersin, Ağrı Patnos, Şanlıurfa Ceylanpınar, Çanakkale, etc. In addition, MPs, municipal council members, representatives of various NGOs and journalists who came from different European countries to observe the elections were prevented from doing so.

#### **I.IV. Law enforcement in charge of ensuring election security failed.**

Candidacy disputes between mukhtar candidates before the elections resulted in deaths and many people, including police officers, were injured. On election day, a DEM Party polling station attendant was shot dead while trying to break up a fight. People were also injured during the protests and objections after the election.

#### **I.V. Irregular and duplicate voting**

In different cities across Turkey, many irregularities such as mass voting, ballot burning, taking photographs from the ballot box while voting, and double voting took place. The irregularities are listed below in the form of violations of rights before, during, and after the elections as a whole.

## II. RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BEFORE THE ELECTIONS

### II.I. IRREGULAR VOTER ALLEGATIONS

13 January 2024: In Gercüş district of Batman, 146 voters were placed at a single address on Kazım Koyuncu Boulevard in Bağlarbaşı neighborhood.<sup>2</sup>

19 January 2024: It was observed that 3,500 soldiers were moved to the central district of Kars as voters.<sup>3</sup>

19 January 2024: It was observed that 7,104 voters were moved to Ağrı center and Taşlıçay districts.<sup>4</sup>

19 January 2024: In the town of Taşköprü in Yalova's Çiftlikköy district, AKP and CHP alleged that a number of voters that could directly affect the outcome of the election were moved.<sup>5</sup>

26 January 2024: It was observed by CHP and DEM Party that nearly 3,500 voters were moved to Mersin center and districts. Upon the CHP's application, the Provincial Electoral Board accepted the objections against 60 irregular voter registrations in Akdeniz, 24 in Gülnar and 39 in Yenişehir districts. It rejected the objection against 2,669 voter registrations.<sup>6</sup>

7 March 2024: The number of voters who would vote in the local elections of 31 March 2024 decreased by 3 million people compared to the presidential and parliamentary general elections held a year ago, and there have been claims that this decrease might be due to irregularities in the voter list.<sup>7</sup>

23 March 2024: In Iğdır, approximately 200 soldiers were accommodated in the Repatriation Center, the hotel belonging to the Special Provincial Administration and the university, and the Application Hotel on the Karaağaç Campus.<sup>8</sup>

29 March 2024: In Iğdır, soldiers and police officers who were transported to vote were placed in schools and school principals called students and parents to inform them that schools were closed.<sup>9</sup>

### II.II. INTERFERENCE IN POLITICAL PARTIES' ELECTORAL ACTIVITIES

10 February 2024: One person was wounded in an armed attack during the election campaign of AKP Küçükçekmece mayoral candidate Aziz Yeniay.<sup>10</sup>

26 February 2024: The candidacy applications of Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) co-mayoral candidates Mehmet Nuri Güneş and Emine Yöndem Kartal, co-mayoral candidate for Hoşhaber, and 4 applicants for provincial council memberships were rejected by the Provincial Electoral Board of Iğdır working under the SBE

28 February 2024: DEM Party objected to the rejection of the candidacies for co-mayors and provincial council members in the center and districts of Iğdır and the Provincial Election Board of Iğdır accepted the objections and the applications of the candidates.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://haber.sol.org.tr/haber/muhalefet-secimi-simdiden-kaybediyor-iste-il-il-tasima-secmen-hilesi-389113>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gazeteduvar.com.tr/chpli-ciftci-karsta-secimden-1-gun-onceye-tatbikat-planlanmis-istiraz-ettikhaber-1662863>

<sup>4</sup> <https://artigercek.com/guncel/agrida-7-bin-104-tasima-secmen-tasinan-secmenlerin-buyuk-bolumuguvenlik-281069>

<sup>5</sup> <https://sputniknews.com.tr/20240119/ak-parti-ve-chpden-ortak-tasima-secmen-istirazi-1079807838.html>

<sup>6</sup> <https://artigercek.com/politika/mersinde-tasima-secmen-iddialari-mecliste-il-secim-kurulu-fabrikadaikamet-282420h>

<sup>7</sup> <https://artigercek.com/guncel/istanbulda-secmen-sayisi-36-bin-455-kisi-azaldi-286815h>

<sup>8</sup> <https://jiyanhaber.com/yerel-secim-icin-igdira-kayitlari-yapilan-asker-ve-polisler-kargo-ucaklarla-getirildi/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://mezopotamyaajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/237419>

<sup>10</sup> <https://gazeteoksijen.com/secim-2024/ak-parti-secim-programinda-uzun-namlulu-silahlarla-saldiri-202649>

- 5 March 2024: In İnegöl district of Bursa, there was an axe attack on the district office of DEM Party. Doors and windows of the building were broken in the attack.<sup>11</sup>
- 6 March 2024: In Akdeniz district of Mersin, the election liaison office of the DEM Party in Homurlu neighborhood was attacked.<sup>12</sup>
- 6 March 2024: In Şanlıurfa's Suruç district, 15 people, including DEM Party district co-chair and municipality council member candidates, were taken into custody.<sup>13</sup>
- 9 March 2024: In Hakkari Yüksekova, flags/banners of DEM Party were removed by an armored vehicle.<sup>14</sup>
- 10 March 2024: DEM Party district co-chair and municipality council member candidates who were taken into custody in Şanlıurfa, Suruç were arrested.<sup>15</sup>
- 11 March 2024: An armed attack was carried out against the vehicle of Yeniden Refah Party in front of the election liaison office in Arnavutköy Hadımköy, İstanbul.<sup>16</sup>
- 12 March 2024: DEM Party's Kadıköy co-mayor candidates and 14 members were taken into custody during election campaigns.<sup>17</sup>
- 14 March 2024: DEM Party election campaign vehicle was subjected to an armed attack in Kocasinan district of Kayseri.<sup>18</sup>
- 18 March 2024: In Mardin, driver Murat Tulga was wounded in the face in a stone attack on the election minibus of Mehmet Tatlıdede, AKP's candidate for mayor of Artuklu.<sup>19</sup>
- 19 March 2024: A Republican People's Party (CHP) election bus was stoned in Trabzon.<sup>20</sup>
- 22 March 2024: Hatay Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Lütfü Savaş was thrown off the stage by a person who ran up to him while he was giving a speech on the stage during his election campaign in Samandağ district.<sup>21</sup>
- 23 March 2024: DEM Party's election liaison office in Fevzi Çakmak quarter in central Elazığ was attacked and the windows of the office were broken in the attack.<sup>22</sup>
- 24 March 2024: In Maltepe, İstanbul, AKP members in charge of distributing promotional brochures were attacked by a group. A 72-year-old official was injured in the head.<sup>23</sup>
- 25 March 2024: Setting up of a DEM Party election stand in Sultançiftliği Square in İstanbul was prevented by Zafer Party members and the police on the grounds that it was not authorized by the governorate.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> <https://mezopotamyaajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/234845>

<sup>12</sup> <https://mezopotamyaajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/234999>

<sup>13</sup> <https://mezopotamyaajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/234948>

<sup>14</sup> <https://mezopotamyaajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/235098>

<sup>15</sup> <https://mezopotamyaajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/235291>

<sup>16</sup> <https://bbnhaber.com.tr/3-sayfa/yeniden-refah-partisi-secim-aracina-silahli-saldiri-138369h>

<sup>17</sup> [https://twitter.com/ohd\\_istanbul/status/1767592184050500033?s=46](https://twitter.com/ohd_istanbul/status/1767592184050500033?s=46)

<sup>18</sup> <https://mezopotamyaajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/235672>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.yirimidort.tv/gundem/ak-parti-adayinin-secim-minibusune-cirkin-saldiri-ilk-aciklama-167029>

<sup>20</sup> <https://halktv.com.tr/gundem/trabzonda-chp-otobusune-saldiri-816679h>

<sup>21</sup> <https://sputniknews.com.tr/20240322/hatayda-lutfu-savasa-saldiri--1081964465.html>

<sup>22</sup> <https://sendika.org/2024/03/elazigda-dem-partinin-secim-burosuna-saldiri-702971>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.trthaber.com/haber/turkiye/malpede-ak-partinin-secim-brosurunu-dagitan-partilileresaldiri-846392.html>

<sup>24</sup> <http://mezopotamyaajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/236954>



25 March 2024: The Metropolitan Municipality co-mayor candidates and members of the DEM Party who wanted to visit shopkeepers in Bağlar district of Diyarbakır as part of their election campaign were blocked by riot police.<sup>25</sup>

### II.III. OTHER

27 July 2023: In Pınarköy neighborhood of Bergama district, a quarrel broke out between the neighborhood headman (mukhtar) S.D. and H.C., who was reported to run for the office of mukhtar in the elections. In the incident, H.C., who was a mukhtar candidate, his brother U.C. and Saffet Can were shot and wounded, and Saffet Can died.<sup>26</sup>

29 December 2023: The SEB decided that persons dismissed from the public sector by decree -aws would not be accepted as mayoral or municipal council member candidates for the local elections.<sup>27</sup>

18 January 2024: In Kuyulu neighborhood of Mardin's rural Artuklu district, a dispute over the nomination of a candidate for the elections grew into a fight with stones and sticks.<sup>28</sup>

26 February 2024: In Çerkeş district of Çankırı, Erdal Dağıstan, who was stabbed with a knife in a quarrel between Kadir Y. (62), mukhtar of Yeşilöz village, and Erdal Dağıstan (45), a mukhtar candidate, died.<sup>29</sup>

1 March 2024: In İdil and Cizre districts of Şırnak, the governor, provincial gendarmerie commander, district governor and provincial police chief conducted election campaigns together with AKP mayoral candidates.<sup>30</sup>

4 March 2024: In Birecik district of Şanlıurfa, a father and his son, a mukhtar, faced an armed attack. The candidate lost his life and his son was wounded.<sup>31</sup>

27 March 2024: Nine people including a police officer were wounded in an armed clash between two groups in Baykan district of Siirt over mukhtar candidacy.<sup>32</sup>

28 March 2024: The director of Şırnak Cizre District Electoral Board canceled the election duty of a teacher because of the victory sign icon next to her name on WhatsApp, but the teacher was reappointed after lawyers objected.<sup>33</sup>

28 March 2024: Serik mayor and BBP mayoral candidate Enver Aputkan told Muhammet Büyükkaya that he would not vote for him during his visit to shopkeepers and the argument turned into a fight.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> <http://mezopotamyaaajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/236968>

<sup>26</sup> [https://www.ntv.com.tr/turkiye/muhtar-ve-muhtar-adayinin-kavgasina-yakinlari-da-dahil-oldu-1olu,u9izglAKQEGpcWA3UEJJ\\_A](https://www.ntv.com.tr/turkiye/muhtar-ve-muhtar-adayinin-kavgasina-yakinlari-da-dahil-oldu-1olu,u9izglAKQEGpcWA3UEJJ_A)

<sup>27</sup> <https://artigercek.com/guncel/yskden-31-mart-secimlerinde-khkli-adaylari-kabul-etmeyecek-278691h>

<sup>28</sup> <https://artigercek.com/guncel/mardinde-muhtar-adayligi-kavgasi-biri-agir-dokuz-yarali-280948h>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.ntv.com.tr/turkiye/muhtar-muhtar-adayini-oldurdu,8cqvQTT0eGETkxa6vVVg>

<sup>30</sup> <https://mezopotamyaaajansi35.com/search/content/view/234462?page=7?page=1&key=b1701d0e56857193e2d5a82410a2853>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.rudaw.net/turkish/middleeast/turkey/040320248>

<sup>32</sup> <https://artigercek.com/guncel/siirtte-muhtarlik-kavgasinda-biri-polis-dokuz-kisi-yaralandi-289235h>

<sup>33</sup> <https://artigercek.com/politika/egitim-sen-sirnakta-zafer-isareti-nedeniyle-bir-uyemizin-secim-gorevi-iptal289327h>

<sup>34</sup> [https://www.ntv.com.tr/galeri/turkiye/belediye-baskanindan-oy-vermeyecegim-diyen-70-yasindakisecmene-yumruk,6WBTuzJFWUKdf7hmp8\\_uNQ/QMM8MnBAskqch461aVgvbQ](https://www.ntv.com.tr/galeri/turkiye/belediye-baskanindan-oy-vermeyecegim-diyen-70-yasindakisecmene-yumruk,6WBTuzJFWUKdf7hmp8_uNQ/QMM8MnBAskqch461aVgvbQ)

### III. RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ON ELECTION DAY

In Dargeçit and Savur districts of Mardin, Kulp district of Diyarbakır, Yüksekova district of Hakkari, Nazımiye district of Dersim, Şırnak center, Kars and Ağrı, police officers and soldiers were brought to schools en masse in minibuses, buses and armored vehicles and voted in their uniforms and some with their weapons.

#### **BURSA/ MUSTAFAKEMALPAŞA**

Yusuf Yiğit was shot by his uncle's sons E.Y. (36) and M.Y. with a pump-action shotgun at a party organized by his uncle's sons E.Y. (36) and M.Y. on the grounds that he had supported a mukhtar candidate who was not one of his relatives in the local elections. Yusuf Yiğit lost his life and 2 people, one of whom was a 3-year-old child, were injured.

#### **ŞANLIURFA/ HALFETİ**

At 5 a.m., a group of armed men surrounded Hilalli Primary School and took the observers out of the school to vote en masse.

Halfeti Mayor and AKP candidate Şeref Albayrak and 100 people with him tried to vote together at the secondary school in the rural Talikan (Özmüş) neighborhood.<sup>35</sup>

In Halfeti district, ballot papers with AKP stamps were uncovered.<sup>36</sup>

It was claimed that unused ballot papers with AKP stamps were found.<sup>37</sup>

#### **ŞANLIURFA/CEYLANPINAR**

People who voted for AKP in exchange for money shared photos of their ballot papers in the WhatsApp group they established.<sup>38</sup>

#### **DİYARBAKIR/ SUR**

One person lost his life and 11 people were wounded in a fight that broke out between two groups in Ağaçlıdere neighborhood due to the mukhtar elections.

Journalists who went to Ağaçlı rural neighborhood to follow the fight that took place due to the mukhtar elections faced an armed attack. Anatolian Agency, Demirören News Agency and İhlas News Agency teams faced a serious threat to their lives after the attack.

In Çirnik rural neighborhood, Emin Çelik, a DEM Party polling station attendant was killed and 12 people were wounded, 2 of them seriously.<sup>39</sup>

#### **DİYARBAKIR/ ÇINAR**

In Diyarbakır's Çınar district, AKP candidate Davut Arzu allegedly made a contract with the mukhtars in return for 2 million Turkish Liras after receiving 1,200 votes in Halören, Dar, Döğrük and İltaş neighborhoods.<sup>40</sup>

#### **ŞIRNAK**

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<sup>35</sup> <https://mezopotamyajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/237600>

<sup>36</sup> [https://twitter.com/muhammed\\_vefaa/status/1774393503499379025?t=o57qsZvKUTS9vF551nGgTw&s=08](https://twitter.com/muhammed_vefaa/status/1774393503499379025?t=o57qsZvKUTS9vF551nGgTw&s=08)

<sup>37</sup> <https://twitter.com/LogHaber/status/1774404120633311394?s=20>

<sup>38</sup> <https://mezopotamyajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/237606>

<sup>39</sup> <https://mezopotamyajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/237624>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.evrensel.net/haber/514644/akpli-aday-oy-karsiliginda-2-milyon-liralik-sozlesme-yapti-iddiasi>  
<https://mezopotamyajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/237618>

DEM Party MPs and observers stated that 5,950 voters were registered at Major General Ömer Keçecigil Primary School and there was not a single civilian among them.

DEM Party's provincial organization in Şırnak was attacked by the police and many party members, including the provincial chairman, were detained.<sup>41</sup>

### **ŞIRNAK/CİZRE**

Tension rose after the AKP candidate attacked the İYİ Party ballot attendant.<sup>42</sup>

### **İZMİR/ÇİĞLİ**

At Ali Şir Nevai Secondary School, the ballot box of a 92 percent disabled voter was assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, a voter with walking difficulties was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, and an 82-year-old voter was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

The elderly and the disabled were not taken into consideration when creating the voter lists. In addition, citizens were not informed about mobile ballot boxes and the rights of the disabled before the elections.

### **İZMİR/TORBALI**

At Ibn-i Sina Health Vocational High School, AKP members tried to enter the voting stations and other observers who prevented them were threatened.

### **İZMİR/KARŞIYAKA**

In Zihni Üstüne School, a visually impaired person was prevented from voting in ballot box no. 2266 having been told that no one was allowed in with him.

### **ADİYAMAN/ ÇELİKİHAN**

In the town of Pınarbaşı, an official named M.Y. was found to have voted twice.<sup>43</sup>

### **MARDİN/ MİDYAT**

AKP's Midyat mayoral candidate Veysi Şahin assaulted the Democratic Party's ballot box attendant.<sup>44</sup>

### **MARDİN/ ÖMERLİ**

Citizens were attacked by armed police officers when they reacted against the armed police officers who attempted to vote en masse.<sup>45</sup>

### **MERSİN/MEZİTLİ**

At Faris Kokulu Primary School in Menderes Neighborhood, election brochures of AKP's mayoral candidate were scattered in the corridors and stairs of the school.

### **BAYBURT**

In Bayburt, 1 person was wounded in a fight over mukhtar elections.

### **SİİRT**

Polling stations nos. 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310 and 1311 at İbrahim Hakkı Imam Hatip High School had a high number of transported voters.

An İHD member who was an observer at Adnan Menderes Primary School, who wanted to understand and record the argument between two people, was removed from the school by deleting the footage on his phone and the observer was insulted.

<sup>41</sup> <https://twitter.com/demsirnak/status/1774506557004263669?t=8Coz4YbcQNbCLE3MDHUcVw&s=08>  
<https://twitter.com/MAturkce/status/1774512403440455877?s=20>

<sup>42</sup> <https://mezopotamyaaajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/237607>

<sup>43</sup> <https://mezopotamyaaajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/237601>

<sup>44</sup> <https://twitter.com/haberaktifcom/status/1774419390672351483?t=HFIVJzwYvUhXhs1dvO8Yw&s=08>

<sup>45</sup> <https://twitter.com/DemNews1/status/1774421104599195967?s=20>

## **HAKKARİ/YÜKSEKOVA**

In Halit Okay Primary School, a table was set up at the entrance of the room where ballot box 1101 was located and two police officers at the table did not allow İHD observers to enter the room.

In Büyükçiftlik, it was reported that the law enforcement officers on duty at the military base in Büyükçiftlik town had brought only voting papers for voting, there was no address information, and that the gendarmes searched citizens at the entrances of the schools.

## **KARS**

It was reported that soldiers and police officers who were transported to Atatürk Primary School in Cumhuriyet neighborhood voted in approximately 10 ballot boxes and that the number of transported voters was around 3,000 to 3,500.

It was determined that everyone on the voter list at Atatürk Primary School in the center of Kars resided in the same house.<sup>46</sup>

## **BATMAN**

AKP flags/banners were not removed in many parts of the city and around the schools where vote counting took place. There were no ramps at school entrances for disabled citizens to enter the schools, elevators were not working in schools. Many people were injured in a fight between mukhtar candidates in two schools in the districts and law enforcement officers intervened with tear gas bombs. There were arguments and physical altercations between HÜDAPAR and DEM Party officials in Bağlar Neighborhood. It was reported that a member of HÜDAPAR who went to a school with a gun was detained. Hundreds of soldiers entered a school in Bekirhan with military vehicles and did not let the officials in. In some schools the election result minutes were made to be signed by the ballot box chairmen in the morning. In a school in the center armored vehicles entered the school garden and DEM Party officials faced problems in entering the school.

## **İSTANBUL**

Despite the ban on propaganda in Şirinevler Square, the election caravan with the propaganda of AKP's metropolitan mayoral candidate Murat Kurum was not removed.<sup>47</sup>

## **MERSİN/ AKDENİZ**

Fatma Sarıkaya, who was filming the fight that broke out between DEM Party supporters and AKP supporters during the voting of a visually impaired citizen at Ersoy Primary School in Güneş neighborhood, was beaten and removed by the police.

## **MERSİN/TOROSLAR**

Armed security forces at Eyüp Aygar High School prevented observers from observing, threatened to detain them and were rude.

## **ELAZIĞ/MADEN**

A fight broke out between AKP and MHP supporters in Maden district of Elazığ.<sup>48</sup>

## **TOKAT**

In front of the CBS jeans factory in the Organized Industrial Zone in Tokat, 3 thousand shopping vouchers worth 1500 TL were distributed to workers with the name of AKP mayoral candidate Eyüp Eroğlu written on them.<sup>49</sup>

<sup>46</sup> <https://twitter.com/haberaktifcom/status/1774412098300227995?s=20>

<sup>47</sup> <https://twitter.com/evrenselgzt/status/1774405165891690838?t=ly6049cxOGSxwOk0WqttBw&s=08>

<sup>48</sup> [https://twitter.com/ArtiTV\\_/status/1774432959124181296?s=20](https://twitter.com/ArtiTV_/status/1774432959124181296?s=20)

<sup>49</sup> <https://twitter.com/ismailsaymaz/status/1774338163957252260?s=20>

## **KAYSERİ**

MHP Kayseri MP Baki Ersoy, who objected to the election results, swore at the judge in charge, and upon the escalation of the incidents, reinforced riot police were dispatched to the district.<sup>50</sup>

## **ŞIRNAK**

The police attacked the crowd gathered in front of DEM Party Şırnak provincial office after the vote count and detained DEM Party Şırnak provincial co-chair Abdullah Güngen and many other party members.

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<sup>50</sup> [https://twitter.com/aykiricomtr/status/1774536112184177017?t=t4z7jV\\_hwgxsYolTwEjnWw&s=08](https://twitter.com/aykiricomtr/status/1774536112184177017?t=t4z7jV_hwgxsYolTwEjnWw&s=08)

## IV. RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AFTER THE CLOSING OF POLLS

### BITLİS

DEM Party members who wanted to go to the provincial electoral board for the recount of 2,18 invalid votes in the center of Bitlis were attacked with pepper spray and water cannons, while the board building and the party building were blockaded by the police.<sup>51</sup>

### VAN

Abdullah Zeydan, who was elected as the mayor of Van Metropolitan Municipality, has had his previously granted rights restitution withdrawn on the “instruction” of the Ministry of Justice.<sup>52</sup>

During the two days of protests in Van, nearly 350 people were detained and more than 400 people were injured in various places as a result of police violence using rubber bullets and gas bombs.<sup>53</sup>

### DİYARBAKIR

During the protests in Diyarbakır, one citizen’s arm was broken as a result of the police intervention and 4 citizens were detained.<sup>54</sup>

### HAKKARİ

In Hakkari, 5 plainclothes policemen forced a young child to the ground and tortured him during a protest against the decision to revoke the decision on the restitution of Abdullah Zeydan's rights.<sup>55</sup>

In an application to İHD’s local Hakkari branch, the applicant stated that his brother was detained from a café in Hakkari although he had not participated in the protests in Hakkari, that he was subjected to torture and ill-treatment during his detention, that he was handcuffed behind his back and made to sit on his knees and threatened by the police officers saying “You will look at the Turkish flag without blinking your eyes, you will be beaten the moment you close your eyes,” that the torture he was subjected to was not recorded in the battery report by the doctor, and that as a result his brother was arrested and taken to prison.

### İSTANBUL

At the press statement of lawyers in front of Istanbul Courthouse, 14 lawyers including İHD Co-Chair Eren Keskin were detained. As a result of the attack 2 lawyers were injured.<sup>56</sup>

During the Van protests organized in many districts, especially in Esenyurt, 132 people, including journalists Ferhat Sezgin, Dilan Şimşek Sema Korkmaz, were beaten and detained. The detention period of the detainees was extended by 1 day.<sup>57</sup>

At least 35 women were detained during a march organized by Women Strong Together (Kadınlar Birlikte Güçlü) in Kadıköy against police violence against the people during the protests against the attempt to seize DEM Party’s Van Co-Mayor Abdullah Zeydan's election certificate and the protests that took place afterwards.<sup>58</sup>

### ADANA

A.T., a 17-year-old seasonal agricultural worker from Van (Çatak) district, was detained in Adana on April 2 on the allegation of participating in demonstrations in support of Van. The Prosecutor's Office referred A.T.

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.evrensel.net/haber/514808/bitliste-secim-sonuclarina-itiraz-edildi>

<sup>52</sup> <https://mezopotamyaaajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/237953?page=2>

<sup>53</sup> <https://mezopotamyaaajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/238339>

<sup>54</sup> <https://mezopotamyaaajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/238050?page=2>

<sup>55</sup> <https://twitter.com/DemNews1/status/1775265519391969481>

<sup>56</sup> [https://twitter.com/ohd\\_istanbul/status/1775489049467253027](https://twitter.com/ohd_istanbul/status/1775489049467253027)

<sup>57</sup> <https://mezopotamyaaajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/238350>

<sup>58</sup> <https://yeniyasamgazetesi5.com/kadinlar-birlikte-guclu-wan-direnisini-kadikoyde-selamladi/>

to Adana 3<sup>rd</sup> Criminal Judgeship of Peace with the demand of arrest on the allegation of “committing crimes on behalf of an illegal organization without being a member of an illegal organization.” The judgeship issued A.T. with a ban on not leaving Çatak, signing a petition 5 days a week and international travel ban.

## **TOTAL NUMBER OF DETENTIONS**

On 2 April 2024, a total of 89 people including 26 in Van, 29 in Hakkari/Yüksekova, 9 in Hakkari/Central, 4 in Siirt, 5 in Batman, 10 in Şırnak, 6 in İzmir were detained;

On 4 April 2024, a total of 340 people were detained in an operation carried out by security forces in 14 cities across Turkey, including Van, Diyarbakır, Şırnak, İzmir, Mardin, Batman, Kocaeli, Antalya, Şanlıurfa, Adana, Mersin, Ankara, Bingöl and Manisa;

Nearly 350 people were detained during two days of protests in Van;

On 3 April 2024, 132 people who took part in Van protests in many districts of Istanbul, especially Esenyurt, were detained;

On 4 April 2024, at least 35 women were detained during the Women Together Strong (KBG) march in Kadıköy against police violence against people during the Van protests.

**Approximately 1000 people were detained during the protests that continued for 4 days.**

## **ŞİİRT/PERVARI**

One person lost his life and 2 people were injured in a dispute between DEVA and AKP over “transported” voters.<sup>59</sup>

## **ANKARA/KEÇİÖREN**

DEM Party's Keçiören district office was attacked at night.<sup>60</sup>

## **HAKKARİ/ŞEMDİNLİ**

In Şemdinli, a car belonging to plainclothes police officers hit and injured a citizen and fled the scene.<sup>61</sup>

## **BİTLİS**

6 people who wanted to march to Bitlis Provincial Electoral Board for a recount of the votes were detained.

## **ŞANLIURFA/HİLVAN**

On the evening of the elections, in the street behind the Youth Center in Yeni Mahalle, where the ballot boxes were located, the nephew of the current mayor and AKP candidate Aslan Ali Bayık and municipality employees burned the ballots.<sup>62</sup>

## **ŞİİRT**

After DEM Party won the elections, 9 people who were celebrating were beaten and detained.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> <https://mezopotamyaajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/238117>

<sup>60</sup> <https://mezopotamyaajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/238172>

<sup>61</sup> <https://twitter.com/DenissAmed/status/1775585976510816503>

<sup>62</sup> <https://mezopotamyaajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/238079?page=2>

<sup>63</sup> <https://mezopotamyaajansi.net/tum-haberler/content/view/238088?page=2>

## V. OBJECTIONS TO THE SBE

A significant majority of the complaints filed by opposition parties about errors and fraud in the voter rolls were not accepted by the SBE. This mechanism is open, but not effective. The acceptance and rejection rates of the objections filed to the SBE after the elections are generally the same for all parties. While 18 of the objections to the SBE came from the AKP, 17 of them were rejected, 1 was accepted, all 24 objections made by the Republican People's Party were rejected, and all 9 objections of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) were rejected. Among the 12 objections filed by the DEM Party to the SBE, including the reasoned decision for the Van Metropolitan Municipality, 2 objections were accepted, 10 objections were rejected, 9 objections of the Yeniden Refah Party, 4 objections of the Grand Union Party (BBP), 1 objection of İYİ Party and Vatan Party were rejected.

### HATAY

CHP applied to the SBE for the annulment of the elections in Hatay and İskenderun on the grounds of complete illegality. It was claimed that 108 voters with "restriction" orders voted in the elections, that municipal and police officers served at the election boards in violation of the law, that nearly 300 voters voted even though they were abroad that day, that they were the chairpersons of the electoral boards and were assigned as civil servant members, and that 3,389 "dead voters" voted in the elections in Hatay.<sup>64</sup>

CHP's for the annulment of the elections in Hatay and İskenderun was rejected by the SBE.<sup>65</sup>

### ORDU

İYİ Party filed an application for the "rerun" of the Ordu Metropolitan Municipality Election on the grounds of complete illegality.<sup>66</sup>

İYİ Party's request for the annulment of the Ordu Metropolitan Municipality election was rejected by the SBE.<sup>67</sup>

### ARDAHAN

AKP requested the rerun of the elections in Ardahan and the SBE rejected the request.<sup>68</sup>

### İĞDIR:

AKP requested the rerun of the elections in İğdir and the SBE rejected the request.<sup>69</sup>

### BİTLİS/TATVAN

The AKP requested a recount of the votes in Tatvan, which was rejected by the SBE.<sup>70</sup>

### ISPARTA/YALVAÇ

AKP requested a recount of the votes in Yalvaç, which was rejected by the SBE.<sup>71</sup>

### AYDIN/KOÇARLI

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<sup>64</sup> <https://www.dunya.com/gundem/chpden-hatay-ve-iskenderun-secimleri-icin-yskya-itiraz-haberi-723098>

<sup>65</sup> <https://www.trthaber.com/haber/turkiye/ordu-hatay-ardahan-ve-iskenderunda-secimlerin-iptalibasvurulari-reddedildi-851436.html>

<sup>66</sup> <https://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/turkiye/iyi-partiden-yskya-ikinci-ordu-basvurusu-2196519>

<sup>67</sup> <https://www.trthaber.com/haber/turkiye/ordu-hatay-ardahan-ve-iskenderunda-secimlerin-iptalibasvurulari-reddedildi-851436.html>

<sup>68</sup> [https://www.ntv.com.tr/turkiye/yskdan-hatay-ardahan-ve-igdir-karari,7m\\_UD-HcPEuhv0mVTO8RNA](https://www.ntv.com.tr/turkiye/yskdan-hatay-ardahan-ve-igdir-karari,7m_UD-HcPEuhv0mVTO8RNA)

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.



AKP requested a recount of the votes in Koçarlı, which was rejected by the SBE.<sup>72</sup>

#### **KIRKLARERLİ/ÜSKÜP**

AKP requested a recount of the votes in Üsküp, which was rejected by the SBE.<sup>73</sup>

#### **KIRŞEHİR/MUCUR**

MHP requested a recount of the votes in Mucur, which was rejected by the SBE.<sup>74</sup>

#### **ÇORUM/BAYAT**

MHP requested a recount of the votes in Bayat, which was rejected by the SBE.<sup>75</sup>

#### **ŞANLIURFA/EYYÜBİYE**

The Yeniden Refah Party requested the annulment of the election in Eyyübiye and the request was rejected by the SBE.<sup>76</sup>

#### **İĞDIR/ARALIK**

In Aralık the Yeniden Refah Party requested a recount of the votes, a recount of invalid votes and a rerun of the elections, which was rejected by the SBE.<sup>77</sup>

#### **AĞRI/HAMUR**

The DEM Party requested a recount of the votes in Hamur, which was rejected by the SBE.<sup>78</sup>

#### **VAN**

Vatan Party applied to the SBE for the annulment of the decision to grant the mayor-elect of Van, Abdullah Zeydan, his election certificate but the request was rejected by the SBE.<sup>79</sup>

#### **BİNGÖL**

DEM Party requested a recount of the votes in Bingöl, which was rejected by the SBE.<sup>80</sup>

#### **ŞIRNAK**

DEM Party requested a recount of the votes in Şırnak, which was rejected by the SBE.<sup>81</sup>

#### **ŞANLIURFA/SİVEREK**

The Yeniden Refah Party requested the annulment of the elections in Siverek, which was rejected by the SBE.<sup>82</sup>

#### **KÜTAHYA/EMET**

AKP requested a recount of the votes in Emet, which was rejected by the SBE.<sup>83</sup>

#### **BİTLİS/ GÜROYMAK**

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<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid.

<sup>79</sup> [https://kisadalga.net/haber/detay/vatan-partisi-abdullah-zeydanin-belediye-baskanliginin-dusurulmesi-icinyskye-basvurdu\\_97215](https://kisadalga.net/haber/detay/vatan-partisi-abdullah-zeydanin-belediye-baskanliginin-dusurulmesi-icinyskye-basvurdu_97215)

<sup>80</sup> <https://www.ntv.com.tr/turkiye/yskden-6-il-ve-10-ilce-icin-yeni-karar,Cdd8Zv5RIESdbYWRClnAQw>

<sup>81</sup> Ibid.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid.

DEM Party requested a recount of the votes in Güroymak, which was rejected by the SBE.<sup>84</sup>

#### **ADANA/ SARIÇAM**

CHP requested a recount of the votes in Sarıçam, which was rejected by the SBE.<sup>85</sup>

#### **ANKARA/ KIZILCAHAMAM**

The CHP requested a recount of the votes in Kızılcahamam, which was rejected by the SBE.<sup>86</sup>

#### **GAZİANTEP/ OĞUZELİ**

The Yeniden Refah Party requested a recount of votes in Oğuzeli, which was rejected by the SBE.<sup>87</sup>

#### **BOLU/ GEREDE**

The Grand Union Party (Büyük Birlik Partisi) requested a recount of votes in Gerede, which was rejected by the SBE.<sup>88</sup>

#### **ERZURUM/ İSPİR**

The Grand Union Party (Büyük Birlik Partisi) requested a recount of votes in İspir, which was rejected by the SBE.<sup>89</sup>

#### **ADANA/ KOZAN**

The Grand Union Party (Büyük Birlik Partisi) objected to the results of the mayoral election won by MHP candidate Mustafa Atlı and requested the revocation of his mayoral license. The request was rejected by the SBE.

AKP's objections to the SBE in 2 places, CHP's in 1, MHP's in 1, and DEM Party's in 2 places were accepted.

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<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>86</sup> Ibid.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.

## CONCLUSION

### **We call on the Presidencies of the Supreme Electoral Board and Provincial District Electoral Boards:**

- Effective investigations must be launched into individuals and groups that jeopardize election security,
- Necessary investigations should be carried out and necessary measures should be taken regarding the allegations of electoral irregularities identified by İHD above,
- The security of life of members of the press who work to ensure that citizens receive accurate and up-to-date news must be ensured,
- Necessary measures should be taken against obstruction and attacks on mayoral candidates, lawyers and political party officials authorized to file objections on behalf of political parties,
- It is known that political pressure on judicial institutions has increased with the presidential government system. In addition, the structure of the SBE, which is formed by the Supreme Court of Appeals and the Council of State among its own members, needs to be revised in view of the new constitutional regime. The SBE should be restored to a pluralist structure and its decisions should be open to the review of the Constitutional Court,
- All amendments made to electoral laws in the state of emergency and post-state of emergency periods should be reversed,
- Turkey should immediately enact legislation on independent election observation,
- Legal amendments should be introduced to prevent the practice of shifting law enforcement officers to certain regions in order to change the election results.
- Legal changes should be made to ensure that the media in Turkey comply with election bans,
- Measures should be taken to prevent election manipulation by various agencies, especially state-run Anatolian News Agency and TRT that broadcast election results,
- Due to the problematic voter registers in Turkey, voters should be allowed to vote with indelible electoral stain. Special efforts should be made to update the voter registers and create a realistic register.