



Erdogan Iscan

Candidate for re-election to the UN Committee against Torture

Biographical data form of candidates to the Committee against Torture

Name and first name:

ISCAN, Erdogan Serif

Date and place of birth:

14.04.1954, Istanbul

Working languages:

English (excellent), German (medium), French (modest), Turkish (mother tongue).

Current position/function:

- Member / Rapporteur of the UNCAT (UN Committee against Torture) (2020-2023);
- Retired ambassador, over 40 years of career in diplomacy (1978-2019);
- Lecturer at Istanbul Kültür University on international organisations, human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, counter-terrorism and the rule of law, conflict analysis and resolutions;
- Contributor to several think tanks on the topics mentioned above.

Main professional activities:

- Member / Rapporteur of the UNCAT (2020-2023);
- Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the CoE (Council of Europe) (2014-2018);
- Deputy Undersecretary for political affairs, MFA (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) (2013-2014);
- Director General for multilateral political affairs, MFA (2011-2013);
- Ambassador to South Korea (concurrently accredited to North Korea) (2009-2011);
- Ambassador to Ukraine (2005-2009);
- Director for the Council of Europe and Human Rights, MFA (2001-2005);

- Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Office at Geneva (1999-2001);
- Consul General at London (1996-1999);
- Earlier posts include Vienna (arms control negotiations), Bonn, Frankfurt and Doha.

Educational background:

- Graduate of the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, studied political science and international law (1978);
- Diplomacy Academy, MFA (1979).

Other main activities in the field of human rights relevant to the mandate of the Committee against Torture:

- Rapporteur for new complaints and interim measures of the UNCAT (2022-2023);
- Agent before the European Court of Human Rights (2014-2018);
- Chair of Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention (CoE Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence) (2015-2018);
- Chair of Group of Rapporteurs on democracy education and culture (GR-C) of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers (2017-2018);
- Member of Governing Board of the European Wergeland Centre (EWC), based in Oslo, promoting education for democratic citizenship and human rights (2017-2018);
- Interlocutor to the CPT (European Committee for the Prevention of Torture) (2014-2018);
- National liaison officer for the CPT (2001-2005);
- National coordinator for the European Court of Human Rights (2001-2005).

List of most recent publications in this field:

- Articles on human rights, democracy and diplomacy, <https://t24.com.tr/yazarlar/erdogan-iscan>
- “The Afghanistan Dilemma: The Taliban versus Urgent Need to Respond to the Humanitarian Crisis”, Global Relations Forum, 20.09.2022, <grf-viewpoint-the-afghanistan-dilemma.pdf> (gif.org.tr)
- “The Crime of Genocide and International Law”, Global Relations Forum, 23.04.2021, <the-crime-of-genocide-and-international-law-a-perspective-on-the-1915-events-2.pdf> (gif.org.tr)
- “Respect for Social Justice and Human Rights as the Foundation for a Stable International Order”, Global Relations Forum, 10.06.2020, <Respect for Social Justice and Human Rights as the Foundation for a Stable International Order - Erdoğan İscan.pdf> (gif.org.tr)