**Contribution of the Republic of Türkiye to the Questionnaire of Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment or punishment**

**(dated 2 November 2022)**

**I) National Legal Framework**

**A) Constitution**

The Constitution of the Republic of Türkiye states in article 17 that everyone has the right to life and the right to protect and improve his/her corporeal and spiritual existence. The corporeal integrity of the individual, according to the article, shall not be violated except under medical necessity and in cases prescribed by law; and shall not be subjected to scientific or medical experiments without his/her consent. It also frames the absolute prohibition of torture, ill-treatment, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, by stating that “no one shall be subjected to torture or mal-treatment” and that “no one shall be subjected to penalties or treatment incompatible with human dignity.”

The Constitution, where it lays down the fundamental guarantees in the field of criminal law, in article 38, also stipulates that “no one shall be compelled to make a statement that would incriminate himself/herself or his/her legal next of kin, or to present such incriminating evidence”, and it introduces inadmissibility of evidence obtained through illegal methods.

Another crucial provision of the Constitution is the fifth paragraph of article 90 that interconnects national and international norms, and reads as: “International agreements duly put into effect have the force of law. No appeal to the Constitutional Court shall be made with regard to these agreements, on the grounds that they are unconstitutional. In the case of a conflict between international agreements, duly put into effect, concerning fundamental rights and freedoms and the laws due to differences in provisions on the same matter, the provisions of international agreements shall prevail.”

**B) Selected articles/provisions of relevant laws.**

**Turkish Penal Code** (TPC - No.5237) while setting out norms applicable to **successive offences** in **article 43**, explicitly leaves out act of torture from the scope of their application. While an increased but one single penalty imposed on those who “commit the same act, more than once, against a person, at different times in the course of carrying out a decision to commit an offence,” it shall not apply where intentional killing, intentional wounding, torture and robbery are in question.

**Article 94**, entitled “**Torture**”, of the TPC is as follows:

“(1) A public officer who performs any act towards a person that is incompatible with human dignity, and which causes that person to suffer physically or mentally, or affects the person's capacity to perceive or his ability to act of his own will or insults them shall be sentenced to a penalty of imprisonment for a term of three to twelve years. The lower limit of imprisonment shall not be less than five years, if the crime committed against women.

(2) If the offence is committed against:

a) a child, a person who is physically or mentally incapable of defending himself or a pregnant woman; or

b) a public officer or an advocate on account of the performance of his duty,

a penalty of imprisonment for a term of eight to fifteen years shall be imposed.

(3) If the act is conducted in the manner of sexual harassment, the offender shall be sentenced to a penalty of imprisonment for a term of ten to fifteen years.

(4) Any other person who participates in the commission of this offence shall be sentenced in a manner equivalent to the public officer.

(5) If the offence is committed by way of omission there shall be no reduction in the sentence.

(6) No statue of limitation shall apply to this offence.”

**Article 95**, entitled “**Aggravated Torture on Account of its Consequences**”, of the TPC is as follows:

“(1) Where the act of torture causes (of the victim);

a) a permanent impairment of the functioning of any one of the senses or an organ,

b) a permanent speech defect;

c) a distinct and permanent scar on the face,

d) a situation which endangers life, or

e) the premature birth of a child, where the victim is a pregnant woman

the penalty determined in accordance with the above article shall be increased by one half.

(2) Where the act of torture causes (of the victim):

a) an incurable illness or if it has caused the victim to enter a vegetative state,

b) the complete loss of functioning of one of the senses or organs,

c) The loss of the ability to speak or loss of fertility,

d) a permanent disfigurement of the face, or

e) the loss of an unborn child, where the victim is a pregnant woman

The penalty determined in accordance with the article above shall be doubled.

(3) Where an act of torture results in the breaking of a bone, the offender shall be sentenced to a penalty of imprisonment for a term of eight to fifteen years according to the effect of the broken bone on his ability to function in life.

(4) Where an act of torture causes the death of the victim, the penalty to be imposed shall be aggravated life imprisonment.”

**Article 96**, entitled “**Torment**”, of the TPC is as follows:

“(1) Any person who performs any act which results in the torment of another person shall be sentenced to a penalty of imprisonment for a term of two to five years. The lower limit of imprisonment shall not be less than two and half years, if the crime committed against a woman.

(2) Where the acts falling under the above paragraph are committed against:

a) a child, a person who is physically or mentally incapable of defending himself or a pregnant woman; or

b) a direct ascendant, direct descendant, adoptive parent or spouse or divorced spouse,

a penalty of imprisonment for a term of three to eight years shall be imposed.”

**Article 256**, entitled “**Excessive use of force**”, of the TPC provides that any public officer, having the authority to use force, who uses an amount of force in the course of his duty which exceeds that required by such duty, shall be subject to the provisions relating to intentional injury.

Criminal liability of perpetrators for intentional injury, on the other side, is governed by **articles 86** and **87** of the TPC, which cover a range of actions.

**The Law on Prosecution of Civil Servants and Other Public Officials** (No.4483), in its **article 2**, envisages ex-officio initiation of criminal investigations, without being subject to any (administrative) authorization, into the allegations pertaining to torture and ill-treatment. Thus, such proceedings shall directly be carried out.

**The Code of Criminal Procedure** (CPC-No.5271) sets forth modalities, ensuring both due process rights against torture and ill-treatment and effective investigation of such allegations.

**Article 92** of the CCP entrusts public prosecutors with the task of, in the course of their judicial duties, inspection of the custody centers where individuals taken into custody, interview rooms, the factual situation of individuals in custody, grounds for being taken into custody and detention periods.

**Article 147**, entitled “**The modalities of interview and interrogation**” is as follows:

 “(1) During the interview or interrogation of a suspect or an accused the following rules apply:

(a) The identity of the suspect or accused shall be established. The suspect or accused is obliged to provide correct answers to the questions related to his identity;

(b) The charges against him shall be explained;

(c) He shall be notified of his right to appoint a defense counsel, and that he may utilize his legal assistance, and that the defense counsel shall be permitted to be present during the interview or interrogation. If he is not able to retain a defense counsel and he requests a defense counsel, a defense counsel shall be appointed on his behalf by the Bar Association;

(d) The situation of the apprehended individual shall be immediately notified to the relatives of his choice, unless Article 95 provides otherwise;

(e) He shall be told that he has the legal right to not give any explanation about the charged crime;

(f) He shall be reminded that he may request the collection of exculpatory evidence and shall be given the opportunity to invalidate the existing grounds of suspicions against him and to put forward issues in his favor;

(g) The individual who is interviewed or interrogated shall be asked about information of his personal and economical status;

(h) During the recording of the interview or interrogation, technical means shall be utilized;

(i) A record of an interview or interrogation shall be produced and these minutes shall contain the following:

1. The place and date of the conducted interview or interrogation,

2. The name and function of the individuals present during the interview or interrogation, as well as the open identity of the individual who is being interviewed or interrogated,

3. Verification of whether the interactions listed above have been fulfilled during the interview or interrogation, if not, the grounds for non-compliance,

4. Verification that the contents of the minutes had been read by the individual interviewed or interrogated and his defense counsel who was present and then signed by them both.

5. If they refrain from signing, the grounds for not signing shall be noted”.

**Article 148**, entitled “**Forbidden methods of interview and interrogation**” of the CCP is as follows:

“(1) The submissions of the suspect or accused shall be stemming from his own free will. Any bodily or mental intervention that would impair the free will, such as misconduct, torture, administering medicines or drugs, exhausting, falsification, physical coercion or threatening, using certain equipment, is forbidden.

(2) Any advantage that would be against the law shall not be promised.

(3) Submissions obtained through the forbidden procedures shall not be used as evidence, even if the individual had consented.

(4) Submissions obtained by the police, without the defense counsel being present, shall not be used as a basis for the judgment, unless this submission had been verified by the suspect or the accused in front of the judge or the court.

(5) In case of a need for a subsequent interview of the suspect in relation with the same event, this interaction shall be conducted only by the public prosecutor.”

Article 160, entitled “The duty of the public prosecutor aware of a crime committed”, of the CCP is as follows:

(1) The public prosecutor as soon as comes to know of a situation, bearing the impression that a crime has been committed shall investigate the essence of the matter in order to decide whether to initiate a public suit.

(2) The public prosecutor is responsible for gathering and securing all the evidence in favor and disfavor of defendant through law enforcement under his command, and for respecting defendant’s right, in order to investigate the factual truth and to secure a fair trial.”

**The additional Article 1**, concerning special provisions that apply to law enforcement, of the CCP is as follows:

“(1) The public prosecutors conduct primarily and in person the investigations on the claims about law enforcement officers; including killing, intentional injury, torture, exceeding the authority of using force, crimes of founding a crime organization with felon intent and crimes committed pursuant to the operations of an organization. The cases filed against the law enforcement officers for these crimes are regarded as urgent. The examination of these cases’ legal remedies is conducted primarily.”

**The Law on Disciplinary Provisions Concerning Law Enforcement** (No.7068), in its **article 9**, entitled “dismissal from public office”, considers torture among the grounds that warrant dismissal from public office.

**The Law on Execution of Penalties and Security Measures** (No.5275), after reaffirming the absolute prohibition of cruel, inhuman, degrading or humiliating treatment, in the second paragraph of article 2, frames the principles to be observed in the course of execution of prison sentences, in article 6, respectively as follows:

“**Article 2**- (…)

(2) In the execution of penalties and security measures, there shall be no cruel, inhuman, degrading or humiliating treatment.”

**“Article 6 -** (1) The regime for the execution of prison sentences shall be regulated on the basis of the following principles:

a) Convicts shall be kept in penal institutions securely and within a framework of order, security and discipline by taking measures to prevent their escape.

b) It shall be ensured that convicts maintain an orderly life in penal institutions. The deprivation of liberty that is made necessary by the prison sentence shall be served under material and moral conditions that ensure respect for human dignity. Other rights of convicts which are laid down in the Constitution may be restricted in accordance with the rules envisaged in this Law, subject to the fundamental goals of execution.

c) In the execution of a prison sentence, available means shall be used to rehabilitate the convict. To ensure the inviolability of the convict’s rights granted in the laws and regulations, the principles of legality and conformity to law shall be adopted in the execution of the sentence and in the efforts of rehabilitation.

d) In the execution regime for those convicts who are identified not to be in need of rehabilitation, care shall be taken to include individualized programs suitable for their characters, and these matters shall be provided for in regulations.

e) In the execution of sentences, action shall be taken in accordance with the principles of justice. For this purpose, penal institutions shall be inspected by qualified staff on the basis of the powers granted by the laws and regulations.

f) In penal institutions, all measures must be taken to protect the convicts’ right to life and their bodily and mental integrity.

g) The convict must comply with the provisions of the laws and regulations, in accordance with the goal of execution.

h) The disciplinary penalties specified in this Law shall be implemented against the attitudes and actions specified in laws and against those who violate the order of the institution. These penalties shall be decided, within the applicable periods, by the authorities specified in this Law. Appeals and objections against such penalties shall be filed with the authorities specified in this Law.”

**The Law on Foreigners and International Protection** (No.6458), in its **article 4**, underlines the principle of non-refoulement, in relation to its subject-matter and scope, as follows:

“(1) No one who fall under the scope of this Law shall be returned to a place where he or she may be subject to torture, inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment, or where his or her life or freedom may be under threat on account of his or her race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.”

The principle of non-refoulment is also reflected in **the Law on International Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters** (No.6706), as it clearly designates the risk of individuals concerned to be subject to torture or ill-treatment, among the grounds for rejection of requests for judicial cooperation and extradition, in **articles 4** and **11**, respectively.

**The Law on the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye** (No.6701), defines, in its **articles 1** and **9**, the objective and scope of the Law, and duties of the Institution, respectively, as follows:

“**Article 1**- (1) The purpose of this law is to regulate the principles pertaining to the establishment, organization, duties and powers of the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye, which will work on the basis of human dignity, towards protection and promotion of human rights, guaranteeing individuals’ right to equal treatment, prevention of discrimination in the exercise of legally recognized rights and freedoms and which will carry out actions in line with these principles, effectively fight against torture and ill-treatment and act as National Preventive Mechanism.”

“**Article 9** – (1) The duties of the Institution are as follows:

(…)

h) Fighting against torture and ill-treatment and taking actions for this purpose.

ı) Acting as the National Preventive Mechanism within the framework of the provisions of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

i) Inquiring into, examining, taking a final decision on and monitoring the results of applications filed by persons deprived of their liberty or placed under protection falling into the scope of the National Preventive Mechanism.

j) Undertaking regular visits, with or without prior notice, to places where those deprived of their liberties or those under protection are held; delivering the reports related to such visits to relevant agencies and organizations, and disclosing such report to the public when considered necessary by the Board; examining and evaluating the reports regarding visits made to such places by boards/ committees that monitor prisons and detention houses, provincial and sub-provincial human rights boards and other relevant individuals, agencies and organizations.

k) Preparing annual reports related to the protection and promotion of human rights, fight against torture and ill-treatment and fight against discrimination which will be submitted to the President of the Republic of Türkiye and Bureau of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye.

l) Providing information to the public opinion, publishing special reports on matters falling under its mandate in addition to regular annual reports when deemed necessary.”

**The Presidential Decree on Supporting Victims of Crimes** (No.63) designates survivors of aggravated torture on account of its consequences in a special category of victim who are entitled by **article 6** to certain rights and tailored services. It also laid down the legal foundation of the establishment of a dedicated department for victim services.

Apart from those selected provisions presented above, there are also regulations concerning absolute prohibition of, and effective protection of individuals against torture and ill-treatment at the secondary level of legislation.

**II) Institutional framework for oversight**

Adopting a policy of "zero tolerance against torture", Türkiye remains commited to preventing instances of torture and ill-treatment by way of having introduced a comprehensive set of legislation and established necessary oversight mechanisms. All penitentiary institutions are subject to supervision of both national and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations carrying out scheduled or non-scheduled visits, as well as to the judicial or administrative oversight. There are quite a few ways of supervision with distinct characteristics.

Concerning **administrative supervision**, penitentiary institutions are monitored by inspectors of the Ministry of Justice, controllers and other officials of the General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses, under the Ministry. Governors and district governors have also supervisory powers over the health conditions of convicts and detainees.

In relation to **political supervision**, deputies of the Grand National Assembly can exercise certain powers by means of parliamentary inquiry, general debate, parliamentary investigation and written question. They can also conduct on-site visits to penitentiary institutions without prior notification and contact convicts and detainees.

Furthermore, Committee on Human Rights Inquiry, under the Assembly, has monitoring and supervisory functions in the field of human rights. It receives and considers individual complaints including in relation to penitentiary institutions, and may prepare reports on its findings, upon complaint or ex-officio.

Regarding **civil monitoring**, Türkiye established Penal Institutions Monitoring Boards in 2001 with a view to subjecting penitentiary institutions to civil and independent supervision. Boards in operation in 136 centers are comprised of representatives coming from non-governmental organizations. Their examinations cover a wide range of issues, including allegations of torture and ill-treatment.

It is incumbent upon the boards to observe the administration, methods, and operation of institutions, within their respective jurisdiction, on-site; to collect information; and to present findings in the form of reports to the relevant authorities, including Ministry of Justice, Committee on Human Rights Inquiry of Grand National Assembly, Office of Ombudsman, Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye, as well as Office of the Public Prosecution and the enforcement judges in the judicial district with which the respective board is affiliated.

Such reports are prepared at least once every four months and relevant authorities are notified about findings of the board concerning execution of sentences, rehabilitation programs, health and living conditions, internal security, and transfer operations of inmates. Not only do boards convey those findings to the above-mentioned authorities, but also seek solutions in collaboration with local authorities and civil society organizations.

There is an ongoing project entitled “Enhancing Effectiveness of Civil Monitoring Boards in line with European Standards” being carried out with the support of Council of Europe with an overall objective to further strengthen the institutional and operational framework and capacities of the monitoring boards.

As for **judicial supervision**, both public prosecutors and judges in charge of execution of penalties have a role to play. As per the letter of article 5 of the Law No.5275, the public prosecutor shall monitor and supervise the execution of the penalty in accordance with the judgement by competent courts. Judges of execution, as authorized by the Law on Judges on Execution (No.4675), scrutinize decisions and operations by the administration of institutions, on the other side. They handle complaints on the matters concerning execution of penalties, conduct of rehabilitation programs or living conditions at the institution.

All actions and operations of the institutions can be subject to judicial review. According to article 4 of the Law on Penal Institutions Civil Monitoring Boards (No.4681), reviewing the reports submitted by respective boards and taking a decision on issues raised therein deemed complaints in nature are also among the duties of execution judges.

Decisions rendered by execution judges could be appealed before the assize courts.

Further, in addition to other legal remedies, the remedy of **individual application to the Constitutional Court** is also available for allegations of torture and ill-treatment. Following exhaustion of ordinary remedies, individuals may apply to the Court on the grounds that one of the fundamental rights and freedoms within the scope of the European Convention on Human Rights which are guaranteed by the Constitution has been violated by public authorities. The remedy of individual application to the Constitutional Court has been regarded as an effective domestic remedy by the European Court of Human Rights.

Moreover, **Ombudsman Institution** and the **Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye** investigate, without permission from the authorities, complaints of torture and ill-treatment and monitor all places where persons are deprived of their liberty. The latter fulfils the task of national preventive mechanism under the OPCAT and very recently accredited by GANHRI with “B status”.

As also part of institutional safeguards, **Law Enforcement Supervision Commission** was established in 2016. As a supervisory board within the Ministry of Interior, it aims to enhance the efficiency and transparency of the law enforcement units by creating a common database for all prosecutions and disciplinary procedures against law enforcement officials.

Lastly, the **Department of Judicial Support and Victim Services** was established under the Turkish Ministry of Justice with a view to providing victims of crime with guidance and support services that they need in the course of judicial process. The Department was mandated to inform all victims of crime about their rights and services available to them, as well as to effectively support victims in vulnerable situations in order to foster their unhindered access to justice and reparation. It has local branches in courthouses throughout the country. As pointed out in the first part above, the relevant Presidential Decree treats victims of torture in a special category, with special services at their disposal.

**III) Implementation by national institutions**

**A) Judicial mechanisms**

The Constitutional Court, in its individual application decisions with regard to right to life, construes Article 5 of the Constitution, which sets forth the aims and the duties of the State, and Article 17, which sets forth the immunity, physical and spiritual existence of an individual; that they impose an obligation of investigation for the state. According to the Constitutional Court, “In the event of a justifiable claim regarding an individual being subjected to an unlawful treatment by a state personnel or a private person, in violation of Article 17 of the Constitution, the said article construed together with the general liability in Article 5, whose title line is “The Fundamental Aims and Duties of the State”, requires an effective official investigation.” (Salih Akkuş, App. no: 2012/1017, 18.09.2013, §.30; see also Serpil Kerimoğlu and others, App. No: 2012/752, 17.09.2013, §.50,54; Musa Erdem and others, App. no: 2013/1845, 07.11.2013, §.19,20; Mehmet Ali Emir, App. no: 2012/850, 07.11.2013, §.48.).

The onus is on the judicial authorities, namely the public prosecutor, to fulfill this obligation. By conducting prompt, thorough and impartial investigations in line with relevant provisions, some of which are presented in the first part of this information note, the public prosecutor ascertains the essence of the matter, evaluates factual and legal grounds of it and finally determines to initiate public suit.

According to established decisions of the Constitutional Court; “... the State, within the context of procedure liability, is liable to conduct an effective investigation, ensuring the determination and if necessary, the punishment of those responsible of every unnatural cases of death. The main objective of such an investigation is to assure the effective practice of the law, which protects the right to life and to ensure that the public servants or institutions to give account for the events they are involved in and for the deaths that happened under their responsibility.” (Bilal Turan and others, App. no: 2013/1942, 04.12.2013, §.47; Serpil Kerimoğlu and others, App. no: 2012/752, 17.09.2013, §.54).

In its decision dated 12 May 2014, the Court of Cassation states: “... in accordance with Article 160 of the CCP no. 5271, as soon as the public prosecutor comes to know of a situation, giving the impression of a crime, he must investigate the essence of the matter and has to gather all the evidence for revealing the truth and for a just trial, in an effective way to determine those responsible and to punish them if necessary.”. By this judgement, the Court reaffirms the importance of an effective investigation.

**B) Non-judicial mechanisms**

Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye (HREIT), along with its NPM function under OPCAT was tasked with examining allegations of discrimination, torture and ill-treatment upon application or ex-officio.

HREIT in two applications lodged by disabled individuals considered allegations and requests within the scope of the prohibition of discrimination and ill-treatment. One of the inmates had raised mobility issues and allegations concerning decent living conditions in the prison while the other who was visually impaired had complained about the refusal of his request to access audio books of an external institution. Both cases were concluded with solutions in favor of individuals concerned, as the first one was transferred to another institution with better accommodation conditions, and the second had access to external sources, thanks to the intervention by the HREIT.

Ombudsman Institution (OI) also examined issues that pertain to penitentiary institutions and/or treatment therein. In one case, immediately after receiving a number of applications concerning an incident that took place in a closed institution, OI conducted an on-site visit, interviewed all prison inmates and wardens involved in the incident, viewed CCTV records and medical reports. It also looked into the investigations carried out by judicial and administrative authorities. While concluding that there was no act amounting to ill-treatment and that effective investigation obligation was fulfilled, OI nevertheless produced some recommendations to relevant authorities. It recommended, in this regard, improving modalities for prison wardens to intervene violent incidents in a timely manner, developing legislation concerning intervention tools to be resorted commensurate with the level of seriousness of the situation, and complying with the standards set forth in Istanbul Protocol.

OI has also received and considered applications by prison inmates, claiming that CCTV surveillance in institutions infringed upon their right to privacy and raising issues related to transfer conditions. After examining each and every application in its particularity, OI made recommendations, where it deemed necessary, to administrative authorities to improve implementation and/or policy or legislative framework. Most of the applications were concluded with amicable settlement thanks to the intermediary role assumed by the Institution.

**IV) Policy framework**

National Action Plan on Human Rights, was introduced on 2 March 2021 by the President, following comprehensive consultations with people from every walk of life. As a main policy paper aiming at enhancing legislative, institutional and policy frameworks pertaining human rights issues, it also envisages a benchmark of “Safeguarding Physical and Moral Integrity and the Private Life of the Individual” and a number of related activities to better implement “zero tolerance” policy towards torture and ill-treatment, as well as to improve the efficacy of investigations.

Under the Goal of “Continuing the Diligent Application of the Policy of Zero Tolerance for Torture and Ill-treatment (6.1)”, the undermentioned activities were identified to be conducted:

1. An analysis will be carried out, in consideration of international standards, on the practice of use of force and weapons, especially in the provisions of the Law on Duties and Powers of the Police.
2. Guides will be prepared in order to ensure that the legislation on the use of force and weapons be applied in compliance with international standards.
3. Regular trainings will be offered to the law enforcement officers and neighborhood guards on the use of force and weapons and situations and behavior which might amount to ill treatment.
4. In the light of the recommendations of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and the UN Committee against Torture, the standards, including the physical capacities, of custody centers and removal centers will be maintained and regularly reviewed.
5. A database will be created concerning investigations and prosecutions into allegations of torture and ill-treatment.
6. In the context of zero tolerance for torture, the statutory limitation periods will be abolished in respect of disciplinary infringements, as it was done in respect of criminal offences.
7. The awareness of law enforcement officers will be raised with a view to ensuring that the arrest and custody practices are conducted without prejudice to the human dignity.
8. The number of units and physical facilities in hospitals specifically dedicated to judicial/forensic medical examination will be increased.
9. Studies will be conducted on the standardization of the medical reports issued at the time of admission into penitentiary institutions.
10. Efforts will continue regarding the further improvements to the standards of accommodation in penitentiary institutions.
11. The access of convicts and detainees to healthcare services will be enhanced in cooperation with the relevant institutions.
12. The “rehabilitative-type penitentiary institutions” that are designed for convicts and detainees who need special care and rehabilitation will be rendered more widespread.
13. The capacity of high security forensic psychiatric hospitals will be strengthened and their number will be increased.

Under the Goal of “Ensuring the Effective Conduct of Investigations (6.2)”, below are the activities to be conducted:

1. In order to ensure that an effective administrative investigation is carried out regarding the violations of rights originating from the acts of law enforcement officers and public officials, the practice will be reviewed in consideration of international standards.
2. The recourse and disciplinary mechanisms against the public officers who, by acting in contravention of their responsibilities, caused rights violations will be conducted effectively.
3. The public prosecutor who prepared the indictment will be informed of the outcome of the proceedings in an aim to ameliorate the accuracy rates of indictments.
4. Forensic medicine experts and doctors will be offered trainings in order to ensure compliance with the Istanbul Protocol12 and international standards in forensic/judicial medical examination and reporting procedures.
5. A relative-term practice will be put into effect in the execution of sentences through probation to strengthen fairness in criminal justice.
6. Problems arising from the judicial law- enforcement practice will be analyzed by the Scientific Commission on Criminal Law and recommendations will be developed according to analysis results.
7. The Regulation on Judicial Law Enforcement will be revised to enhance effectiveness of investigations; it will be ensured that judicial law enforcement officers will not be assigned to other units unless absolutely necessary.
8. Crime scene investigation, judicial search and physical seizure procedures will be mandatorily recorded on a camera.
9. A guide will be prepared on judicial law enforcement with a view to conducting judicial law enforcement processes effectively and ensuring a uniform practice.
10. It will be ensured that persons with faculty of law degrees will be employed in the judicial law enforcement for the purpose of effective investigation.
11. A Forensic Medicine Institute group presidency will be established in every location where there is a regional court of justice; also, the field of forensic science, in which the Forensic Medicine Institute provides services, will be expanded.
12. The Forensic Medicine Institute experts will have access to the past medical records of the persons concerned, while ensuring protection of personal data, to ensure better assessment of evidence and uncover the material fact.
13. The standards will be developed regarding the establishment of forensic medicine and forensic science institutes and new programs in universities in cooperation with the Forensic Medicine Institute.

The activities under the Action Plan are being conducted by responsible institutions according to an implementation program/calendar.