

## **Turkish Measures in Countering Terrorism (2022-2024)**

### **General Information**

PKK/PYD/YPG, DAESH, FETO, DHKP/C and other revolutionary leftist terrorist organizations have been the particular focus of Turkish counter-terrorism efforts during the reporting period.

### **Updates in the Legal System**

#### *Punishment of Terrorists Committing Attacks on Behalf of a Terrorist Organisation without Being a Member Thereof*

Türkiye punishes acts of terrorism through its Counter-Terrorism Code and Criminal Code. In 2023, the Turkish Constitutional Court rendered a decision, cancelling the norm which allowed the punishment as members of terrorist organisations of unaffiliated individuals who commit crimes on behalf of a terrorist organisation. The decision is based on Article 13 of the Counter-Terrorism Code (Law No. 6492) and Article 277 of the Criminal Code (Law No. 5275). The decision is a landmark ruling as it clarifies the legal status of unaffiliated individuals who commit crimes on behalf of a terrorist organisation.

responsibilities, as well as the organization and personnel of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority.

To regulate the notification, determination, and monitoring of the inventory of nuclear materials used for peaceful purposes within the borders of Republic of Türkiye, as well as equipment and materials specially designed or prepared for the nuclear fuel cycle, and to prevent unauthorized use of these materials, or their conversion into nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, the procedures and principles within the framework of the national nuclear material accounting and control system established by the Authority are stipulated in the “Regulation on Nuclear Safeguards.” published in the Official Gazette on November 19, 2022, No. 32018.ilities, and radioactive materials.

### **Conviction Numbers**

<b>Crime/Law (Counter Terrorism Law or Turkish Criminal Code)</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024 (As of May)</b>
Counter-Terrorism Law.	1,391	1,079	445
Disrupting the unity of the State and the integrity of the country	210	216	80
Violating the Constitution	211	251	191
Assassination attempt and physical attack to the President of the Republic	3	2	0
Crime against the government	8	0	1
Membership to a terrorist organisation	12,758	8,646	2,450
Providing weapons to terrorist organisations	40	37	5

### **Countering Terrorist Financing**

Under the Law on the Prevention of Terrorist Financing, since October 2021 and as of April 2024, Türkiye has frozen the assets of 972 terrorists and entities. 181 of these actions were against DAESH and Al-Qaeda.

Under Resolution 1373 (2001), Türkiye has requested 46 Member States to freeze the assets of 179 individuals. So far, assets of 17 individuals have been frozen in 4 Member States.

In addition, Türkiye works with international partners to jointly freeze the assets of individuals. For example, an action to jointly freeze the assets of three individuals with the USA is ongoing.

Furthermore, Türkiye is attempting to list, jointly with the USA, 12 real and legal persons under the UN DAESH and Al Qaeda Sanctions List.

Any updates in the aforementioned list are quickly applied to the national list.

Information notes prepared on the use of virtual (crypto) assets by terrorist organisations and the studies prepared for their use were sent to the relevant units at various times. In-service trainings on countering the financing of terrorism are provided to the personnel of the Counter-Terrorism Department of Turkish National Police. Counter-Terrorism Department, in order to increase cooperation in the field of Financing of Terrorism, held the “Workshop on Countering the Financing of Terrorism” in 2022 and 2023 with stakeholders including MASAK Presidency (FIU in Türkiye), The Ministry of Justice, and Central Bank of the Republic in Türkiye.

Türkiye also delivered a presentation on the financing of DAESH presence in and around Afghanistan during the meeting of Global Coalition Against DAESH Counter DAESH Finance Group.

On terrorist financing, 122 individuals were arrested in 124 operations in 2023 and 39 individuals were arrested in 35 operations in 2024 as of May.

### **Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalisation**

Public Awareness and Prevention Activities (PPA) carried out by the Turkish National Police Counter Terrorism Department are aimed at preventing terrorist organisations from recruiting new members, ensuring the surrender of terrorists, raising public awareness of the terrorist activities, creating an opposing discourse against terrorist propaganda and preventing violent extremism. For this purpose, the activities in the

and 395,721 people were reached with 5,438 events in the first quarter of 2024.

Face-to-face and online conferences were held within the scope of the

In 2024, 2 civilians were killed, while 4 civilians and 6 security force members were wounded.

### **Border Crossing**

Under Resolution 2178 (2014) of the UN Security Council, Member States must ensure that their borders are secure and that FTF travel is prevented. Türkiye physically controls its borders to efficiently halt terrorists' movement across borders as well as narcotics and smuggling which are major sources of terrorist financing.

When compared to 2022, number of terrorists captured by the Turkish Armed Forces during attempts to cross the border decreased by 27% in 2023.

In comparison with 2022, a decrease of 53% on smuggling cases proves the impact of the Physical Border Security System.

Since 2011, Türkiye has been preventing the travel of foreign terrorist fighters to the conflict zones, either through deportation of fighters found in Türkiye or through issuing entry bans to suspected fighters. Between

## **PKK/PYD/YPG Terrorist Organization**

PKK's ultimate goal is to establish a so-called "democratic autonomy" in the four-state area (Türkiye, Iran, Iraq, Syria). PKK considers Europe as a fifth part of this geographical structuring.

*PKK* in Türkiye

*PYD/YPG/"SDG"* in Syria

*PJAK* in Iran

*Tevgera Azadi* in Iraq

*KCDK-E* in Europe

During reporting period, PKK terrorist organization maintained its armed activities in Syria and Iraq. whereas Europe has been the centre of propaganda and financing activities.

According to the Turkish Armed Forces, PKK/PYD/YPG continues to undermine the stability in Syria by attacking from Tel Rifat and Munbic on

PKK/PYD/YPG in Syria and Iraq are largely mobilised by PKK/PYD/YPG's European network.

Like DAESH and Al Qaida, the PKK terrorist organization is also desperate to abuse technological advancements. "Global Report on the Acquisition, Weaponization, and Deployment of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) by Non-State Armed Groups for Terrorism-related Purposes Report" refers to "reverse engineering of UAVs" of terror groups in Türkiye. PKK uses unmanned aircrafts and paramotors against Türkiye. (Perpetrators of September 2022/Mersin and October Ankara/2023 Aphh(of. )-123 uses

were neutralised during the terrorist attack on