



NEWS & VIEWS

A perspective from CHP

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Selin Sayek Böke, CHP Secretary General on Behalf Of The Women Politicians Of CHP

"We have woken up to a dark day for the country. The Istanbul Convention, which is a lifeline for women, was annulled overnight by the one-man government! This decision killed thousands of women, who had been killed at their homes -the safest place- or even right in the middle of the street despite protection and restraining orders, once again. 42 million women were stripped of their rights.

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has revealed his position yet again, siding with the oppressors when he should have supported the Istanbul Convention which upholds women's right to life.



The Istanbul Convention, to which Turkey is the first signatory, holds States responsible for preventing all types of violence against women. It is the most comprehensive convention that protects women against all types of violence including mobbing, stalking, physical violence, forced marriages, sexual and economic violence. So, we ask the AKP government: "What is it that bothers you about this convention?"

It is not the place of *my person's* government [presidential government] to fuel the fire of violence against women, which is born out of the order that disregards women. An increase in the number of cases of brutality and domestic violence against women will be on the heads of those who annulled the Istanbul Convention.

Plotters of the civilian coup of July 20 keep going with their unjust, unlawful, and unfair practices. Last night, yet another coup was staged against the GNAT, women's hard-won achievements were thrown away, distancing from universal values.

The Istanbul Convention, which was unanimously adopted by the Parliament, cannot be annulled by disregarding the will of the nation. Conventions on human rights, on fundamental rights and freedoms are adopted by the decision of the GNAT, i. e. by law. The present decision is a blatant disregard for our Constitution. Femicides are political. We are not and will not recognise the decision of Erdoğan to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention which he took by disregarding the GNAT and the law!

We, women, are not afraid, won't be oppressed, won't bow down to oppressors, won't stand back. As they try to spread terror, our organised power is growing stronger each passing day. As they try to cut down our branches, our roots are growing stronger.

We will continue our struggle together with the women's movement on every platform including primarily at the GNAT to ensure that the requirements of the convention are met. Going forward, every space we occupy including streets, neighbourhoods, squares will count as battleground as far as we are concerned.

We know that every man with a conscious will stand with women, who are their mother, spouse, sister, friend, and equal partner in life. Together, we will put a stop to this oppression. We will be the ones to bring brighter days to Turkey!"

An Open Letter to PACE Turkish Delegation Chair

Mr Ahmet Yıldız
Chairperson, Turkish Delegation, PACE
MP, Denizli

Last night, we found out that our country withdrew from Istanbul Convention by a Presidential Decision. Abolishment of this Convention, which is a crucial step towards preventing violence against women, in the middle of the night and in violation of the Constitution as well as established practices is unacceptable. Furthermore, the Constitution sets out that regulations regarding personal rights and fundamental rights cannot be issued by way of Presidential Decisions. Notwithstanding, our citizens are in any case not less worthy of the rights and measures set out by the Convention than the citizens of the other member countries of the Council of Europe.

Mr Yıldız,

You have repeatedly pointed out that Turkey's leaving the Istanbul Convention would be wrong and that Turkey would remain in the Convention during the Council of Europe meetings you took part in. We have held you in high regard for these views you adopted. We believe it would be appropriate for you to leave your current post of Delegation Chairperson given the current state of affairs. Otherwise, you will end up becoming a politician who misled both the members of the Delegation and your foreign counterparts.

As Members of Parliament, we cannot remain silent in the face of the huge setback Turkey is experiencing in human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. Decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention is not independent from this setback to democracy. It is indeed a more advanced step in the attempt to alienate Turkey from universal values. We hereby state that we will combat such attempts with all our might.

Sincerely yours,

PACE Turkish Group Members from CHP and İYİ Party