

## TURKEY PRISON SYSTEM



In Turkey like many other countries prisoners in are separated into remanded prisoners (in pre-trial detention) and convicted prisoners (whose sentences are being executed). The basic three types of prisons are closed, semi-open or open prisons. A difference is made between ordinary closed prisons and [high security prisons](#).

Many prisons have separate blocks (wings) for women and some also for children (juveniles), but there are also prisons for women or children alone. The remaining prisoners were divided between different neighborhood facilities that accommodate both men and women. Prison sentences are usually shorter for women than for men. The Ministry of Justice is responsible for establishing prison policy, but has no authority to interfere in the daily work of the prisons and probation service centrally or regionally.



Turkey's leader did not focus on prison reform until the creation of the Turkish Republic in 1923 under Kemal Ataturk. By 1935 Turkey housed almost 35.000 inmates in 362 prisons.

Most characteristic of the system at this time was the popularity of small prisons, with average facility having less than 50 mates and with only 6 having more than 500 prisoners at one time. By the 1930s only 3 of the prisons were considered modern, but the majority were initially conceived for other purposes such as barracks, schools and warehouses. Istanbul's modern institution was built to hold prisoners waiting for trial and includes separate cells for women either waiting for trial or already sentenced, as well as a special block for juvenile offenders. Little progress had been made toward classification of prisoner in Turkey at that time with some Turkish prisons holding 200 inmates in one large room regardless of offense. The majority of sentences toward mid century were rather short with few serving life sentence.

Compared to most prisons in the Western world in the 1930s, Turkish prisoners enjoyed a wide range of freedom. Without organized programs or constructive regimes, prisoners spent a good part of the day mşgling with each other, smoking, talking, eating or playing games of chance

Most recently new so called penitentiary labor establishment have been opened, but these are distinctive only for the availability of labor equipment. Prison labor is mandatory at all institutions. Inmate can send half their prison earnings to family members, with the rest paying for rations or held for release. Turkish prisons have been routinely cited for overcrowding but the reduction of prison sentences for less serious crimes and the commutation of long sentences in recent years have relieved this problem somewhat. Between 1984 and 1991 the prison population decreased from 46,000 to 10,656. Under a special laws category political prisoners.

On the homepage of the General Directorate for Penal and Arrest Centers figures on prisoners can be found on the number of prisoners for each year. The Human Right Foundation of Turkey has included such figures in their annual reports.

Year	Convicted			On remand			Total
	Ordinary	"Terror"	Sum	Ordinary	"Terror"	Sum	
2003	28,554	4,161	32,715	29,605	1,976	31,581	<b>64,296</b>
2004	23,840	2,170	26,010	30,302	1,618	31,920	<b>57,930</b>
2005	22,765	2,093	24,858	29,475	1,537	31,012	<b>55,870</b>
2006	24,220	2,116	26,336	42,222	1,719	44,141	<b>70,477</b>
2007	34,852	2,418	37,608	47,091	2,102	53,229	<b>90,837</b>

2008	42,234	2,540	45,207	50,470	2,899	58,028	<b>103,235</b>
------	--------	-------	--------	--------	-------	--------	----------------

Meanwhile the statistics also include the category "crimes to increase profit" meaning [organized crime](#), punishable according to Article 220 of the Turkish Penal Code). Since 2010 the cases that could not be attributed to a specific group were also included.

Years	Convicted					On remand					
	2009	53067	2967	547		56581	52512	3361	3886		59759
2010	80440	3682	993	1451	86566	29676	2535	1566	471	34238	<b>120814</b>
2011	86542	4179	907	989	92617	29901	4266	1372	448	35987	<b>128604</b>

The following figures were presented for 31 March 2012

Group	On remand	Under review	Convicted	Total
Ordinary	29,890	17,597	72,022	119.509
Terror	4,643	481	3,846	8,970
Organized crime	1,283	389	522	2,194
Unspecified	457	42	1,197	1,696
<b>Total</b>	<b>36.273</b>	<b>18,509</b>	<b>77,587</b>	<b>132.369</b>

## TYPE OF PRISONS AND IT'S FEATURES

### A Type Prison

Number	Capacity (single)	Capacity (complete)
21	24-30	792

Prisons built in district between the 1950s and 1970s. There are 4 wards (*koğuş*), bathroom, kitchen, library and a conference hall.

### B Type Prison

Number	Capacity (single)	Capacity (complete)
16	64	1,068

7 wards and 2 disciplinary cells; each ward has its own exercise yard

### C Type Prison

Number	Capacity (single)	Capacity (complete)
7	164-300	1,696

8 wards and 4 disciplinary cells.

### D Type Prison

Number	Capacity (single)	Capacity (complete)
2	750	1,732

11 blocks, one block for administration; 230 rooms (cells). Block E is for communal use (laundry, library etc.) The lower floors of block H and L consist of disciplinary cells. The first and second floor of block G have 10 rooms each for observation on arrival. This block also has two infirmaries with 10 beds each. These prisons are built on the system of individual cells and cells for three people.

### E Type Prison

<b>Number</b>	<b>Capacity (single)</b>	<b>Capacity (complete)</b>
45	600-1,000	29,753

Built on two floors based on the ward system and later changed to rooms for 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 persons. Each room has its own exercise yard. The lower floors are for eating; the upper floors are the dormitories.

### **H Type Prison**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Capacity (single)</b>	<b>Capacity (complete)</b>
5	500	3,255

Built on two floors on the room (cell) system. There are 200 individual cells and 100 cells for 3 persons.

### **K1 and K2 Type Prisons**

They are found in districts with 4 wards and 2 disciplinary cells. Each ward has its own exercise yard.

Like type K1 with 6 wards and 2 disciplinary cells.

### **F Type Prison**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Capacity (single)</b>	<b>Capacity (complete)</b>
13	368	4,966



### **L Type Prison**

Closed prisons, built in big cities in place of old prisons. There are units for 7 people measuring 208.93 m<sup>2</sup> (2,248.9 sq ft) in total, cells have 12.45 m<sup>2</sup> (134.0 sq ft), exercise yards have 165.19 m<sup>2</sup>(1,778.1 sq ft) and common living space is 56.59 m<sup>2</sup> (609.1 sq ft). Cells are closed at night; during the day 7 prisoners are together. There are 61 units for 7 people, 4 rooms for 3 people and 40 individual cell.

### **M Type Prison**

These prisons that were built on two floors in the ward system, cells for 4, 6, 8, 10 people were made. Each room has its own exercise yard. The prisons have 6 disciplinary cells.

### **T TYPE Prison**

They were built in big cities in place of old prisons. There are 72 rooms for 8 prisoners, 8 rooms for 3 prisoners and 16 individual cells of 16 sqm. The (living and sleeping) room for 3 people measures 27 m<sup>2</sup>(290 sq ft). The sleeping space for 8 people (upper floor) is 28 m<sup>2</sup> (300 sq ft) and the living space (lower floor) 32.5 m<sup>2</sup> (350 sq ft). For the exercise 8 people have a yard of 35 m<sup>2</sup> (380 sq ft) and 3 people of 30 m<sup>2</sup> (320 sq ft). The sports hall measures 494 m<sup>2</sup> (5,320 sq ft) and outside 251 m<sup>2</sup> (2,700 sq ft). There is space for 450 people during open visits and 36 people for closed visits. Room for 32 lawyers meeting their clients exists.

### **F(o) Type Prison (open prison for women)**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Capacity (single)</b>	<b>Capacity (complete)</b>
	1	350	350

### **F(c) Type Prison**

**Paşakapısı :** closed prison for women; Paşakapısı and Bakırköy are in Istanbul  
**Bakırköy:** construction started in 2008; 38 units for 12 people each; 2 units for 3 people and 44 individual cells.

**Sincan:** District close to Ankara, 24 units for 12 people each, 12 units for 3 people each, 28 individual cells.

### **K(c) Type Prison (closed prison for children)**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Capacity (complete)</b>
3	366

### **K(e) Type Prison**

Education centre for children; juveniles aged 12 to 18 are held here. In case an education was continuing at the age of 18 permission can be given to stay longer (up to the age of 21).

### **UŞAK CLOSED AND SEMI-OPEN PRISON PENAL INSTITUTION**

Uşak E Type Closed Prison Institution was built in 1989. Currently, 1 director of institution, 4 assistant directors, 1 Administrative Officer, 2 Teachers, 1 Psychologist, 2 Social Care Specialists, 1 Accounting Officer, 231 Wardens, 4 Health Officers, 8 Clerks, 4 Technicians and 10 Auxiliary staff, totally 269 staff serves in our institution. Moreover, 1 Doctor and 1 Dentist visits on a regular basis and when needed.

There are 380 convict prisoners and 221 detainees in Closed Penal Institution, 91 prisoners are available in Semi-Open Institution. The total number in the institution is 692.

### **TRAINING UNITY**

According to 42<sup>nd</sup> clause the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey 'No one shall be deprived of the right to education and training. The scope of the right to education is regulated and defined by law.'

There is no doubt that this constitutional right is valid for prisoners and detainees.



## **DETERMINATION OF LEVELS OF EDUCATION OF CONVICTS**

Prisoners and detainees who just came to prison fill a form for us to determine their level of education, profession and skills. They are directed to the appropriate education and rehabilitation programs according to their test result

### **I. STAGE READING AND WRITING COURSE**

Illiterate prisoners / detainees are given a course.

### **II. STAGE READING AND WRITING COURSE: (Primary School Completion)**

This course is opened for prisoners/detainees who obtained the certificate in literacy.

### **OPEN SECONDARY EDUCATION PRACTICES**

34 prisoners take open education courses for secondary school in our institution

## **OPEN EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL'S PRACTICES**

58 prisoners study in open education for high school in our institution. There are 8 Open University students in our institution and also 15 detainee prisoners are preparing for the entrance exam of university education.

Education service is provided for those detainees that are enrolled in a university course for them to take the Civil Servant Selection Examination.

## **EDUCATION OF RELIGION AND MORAL KNOWLEDGE**

This is an optional program, depending on the demand from the prisoners and detainees. Religion and Moral courses carried out by the Provincial Office of Mufti appointed by the Minister of Religion.

## **OCCUPATION AND TRAINING COURSES**



We open Vocational Courses in collaboration with Public Education Center.

- English,
- Computer
- Leather Garments,
- Natural Gas and Sanitary Plumbing,
- Wood Painting,
- Jewelry Design
- Musical instruments,
- Barbering / Hairdressing,
- Central Heating Operation,
- Natural Gas Operation,
- Culinary Arts,
- Beekeeping,
- Overlock,
- Die-Whitewash
- Religious Culture and Moral Knowledge,



These courses are given periodically in our institution. Handmade crafts produced in our institution are put on display through various exhibitions and fairs, they are also available for sale.

### **LIBRARY WORKINGS**

There are 6493 printed books and magazines registered as inventory stock in the institution. Approximately 400-500 books are borrowed from the library every month.

### **SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HELD**

#### **Quiz Contest:**

Every month a quiz contest on General Knowledge, Sports, Literature and History is made in our institution.

#### **Movies:**

Every week prisoners/detainees have opportunity to watch new movies released.

#### **Conference:**

There are conferences held in cooperation with Usak University, Directorate of National Education, Center of Psychological Guidance and Research, Provincial Directorate of Health and other public institutions.

#### **Debate:**

Debates are held once a month in our institution. Debate topics are selected from choices that prisoners would be interested in to discuss.

#### **Theater:**

Once every three months, there are theatrical plays performed by prisoners/detainees.

**Concert:**

Once every three months there are concerts made by local singers.

**Commemorations-ceremonies:**

There are a variety of programs, activities and ceremonies prepared for important days of commemoration.

**Chess:**

Every cell is given a chessboard. Chess tournaments are organized periodically.

**Sports practices:**

There are Indoor Gym and Football Field in our institution. Football and volleyball tournaments between wards are organized periodically.

**Table Tennis:**

Table tennis tournaments are organized.

**Badminton:**

Badminton is newly developing in our country and it is introduced and taught to prisoners/detainees.

## **RECOGNITION AND PRIVATE MEETINGS**

A pre-interview is done with prisoners/detainees and some information about their physical, mental, emotional, social characteristics, health status ((chronic diseases, alcohol and / or substance abuse, self-harming behavior, suicidal history) educational level are taken with their interests and abilities.

With the information recorded work areas which directed in the institution for them can be stated. In case of a person's self harm and /or suicidal thoughts, measures are taken and support is provided for supervision.



Individual interviews are carried out with the prisoners who requesting the interview due to various problems or followed for mental condition individual interviews, their problems are shared. The issues as relaxation, proper ways to express themselves better, be able to realize and produce alternative ways of solving the problems, noticing the dynamics which they want to use for coping with the substance abuse, ways of staying away from substances after released, re-examining their relationships, families and environments etc. are discussed. Cooperation with the institutional/noninstitutional services is made in order to solve the problems when needed.

Prisoners/detainees are rewarded for their development and efforts observed by the Administration and Monitoring Board of the Institution.

The aim of the Psychosocial Service Unit is helping the prisoners/detainees to rehabilitate and educate them in order to socialize normally and reduce the disadvantages they would face when seeking job.

### **The Activities by Psychosocial Help Unit**

\*Recognition and Private Meetings (Observation, Evaluation, Support and Help Activities)



- \*Teamwork
- \* Family-oriented works
- \* Seminars and Presentations, Social and Cultural Activities
- \* Works for training the staff