

HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT 2015 - TURKEY

SUMMARY REPORT ON CORRUPTION AND LACK OF TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT

Achievements:

Public officials generally respect the obligation to declare their financial assets and property.

Key issues:

The government used its power to indict judges and prosecutors working on alleged corruption of high-level government officials which was perceived as an intimidation of the judiciary; government failed to investigate and punish alleged abuse and corruption of public officials; corruption spreads among members of the parliament and senior public officials; while there were significant evidences against Erdogan, his family and high-ranking members of the AKP for corruption, there was no prosecution; there was abuse of public funds during the June 7 election; there was no coordination with civil society on financial disclosure matters.

Statistics:

The corruption perception index in the country in 2014 fell five points; in the 2013-14 major corruption scandal involving then prime minister Erdogan, the charges against government officials have been dropped while the four prosecutors and one judge who initiated the investigation have been indicted.

Public access to information:

The transparency is an issue in Turkey. While the law guaranties the access to information, regularly it is denied on national security grounds. There is a specific procedure with various terms to response from public authorities. There is possibility to appeal in case of denial decision. There is no information about the practical application of the procedure.

Source: U.S. Department of State

Country Reports on
Human Rights Practices
for 2015