

## Number of missing children over 1,400

A report recently released by the Security General Directorate has revealed that the number of missing children across the country exceeds 1,400.

In a report prepared by the Security General Directorate upon a request from the Prime Ministry Human Rights Department, it was noted that the number of missing children in the country has reached 1,446. According to the report 346 children are missing in İstanbul, which is followed by western İzmir province with 138 and Ankara with 69.

The report spurred officials at the Prime Ministry into action, calling on all governors across the country to analyze the situation and take the necessary measures to find the missing children in their respective provinces. Professor Hasan Tahsin Fendođlu of the Prime Ministry Human Rights Department said he is concerned about the growing number of missing children.

"After seeing articles about missing children that appeared in several Turkish newspapers, we asked the Security General Directorate to conduct a study on the number of missing children across Turkey. But, I didn't expect the study to reveal that almost 1,500 children are currently missing in our country," he said.

Stressing that they have rolled up their sleeves to find the missing children, Fendođlu said the necessary initiatives have been launched to this end. "We need to make the public more aware about missing children and uncover the reasons why so many children have gone missing in the last few years. We suspect that these children may have been kidnapped. Their unknown fates are a matter of human rights," he added. In the southeastern city of Şanlıurfa, 57 children are missing and 40 are missing in Diyarbakır. These two cities are followed by Hatay with 45 missing children, Bursa with 44, Mersin with 39, Eskişehir with 37, Kocaeli with 31, Osmaniye with 31, Tekirdađ with 27, Van with 26, Gaziantep with 25, Çanakkale with 23, Balıkesir with 22, Manisa and Konya with 19 each, Siirt with 18, Hakkari and Aydın with 17 each, Afyon, Adana and Kayseri with 15 each, Samsun with 14, Tokat and Niğde with 13 each, Ordu with 12, Isparta, Kars and Kastamonu with 11 each, Sivas with 10, Ağrı and Kırşehir with nine each, Kırıkkale, Kütahya, Muğla, Nevşehir, Sakarya, Iğdır, Şırnak, Bilecik and Uşak with eight each, Kahramanmaraş, Karabük and Zonguldak with seven each, Antalya, Bitlis, Bolu, Çorum, Kilis and Trabzon with six each, Denizli with five, Amasya and Edirne with four each, Yozgat with three, Bartın, Burdur, Elazığ, Gümüşhane, Karaman, Malatya and Rize with two and Erzincan, Adıyaman, Giresun and Yalova with one.

30.01.2008

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