

Human Rights in General

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Democratization, the rule of law, and human rights have been acknowledged as the common values of all humanity in today's world. Human rights, the indispensable requirements of an honorable, equal and free life, have constituted the basis of the contemporary world structure as a system of values beyond the boundaries drawn by states, cultures and geographies. Moreover, few would deny that one of the most invaluable gains that the modern era offers is the conversion of human rights into a universal value.

The protection of human rights is not only a high priority common in all countries, but also an ideal across the whole society. The ever-developing science and technology bring new changes in social and personal life, inescapably resulting in new risks against people's rights; yet having advantages to protect and promote the rights. Furthermore, human rights have an ethical and judicial effect on the dangers of modernization and give support to protection of communal orders as well. These points have contributed to the concept of human rights, which has become the current issue in the world agenda.

Human rights are one of the most important political criteria for the accession to the EU and the effort to improve the conditions in Turkey has resulted in a rapid change. Many reforms have been made and legislative measures are strengthened in the scope of the zero-tolerance policy on torture. There have also been many improvements in the civil society dialogue. Besides making the reforms, Turkey has considered the implementation of these reforms very seriously. Therefore, many projects have been made with the aim to implement these reforms effectively. These projects included training components for law enforcement officials, trainings for 931 Human Rights Boards in provinces and sub-provinces which are mainly composed of civil society representatives. In the scope of these projects, there have been activities which are intended to increase public awareness among the society about human rights and the application procedures in case of human rights violations.

In Turkey, which has demonstrated the signs of the developed countries with its great speed and determination, has been implementing "a silent revolution" in human rights area that is a common value of humanity. In order to achieve this which aims to reflect universal values composed of common accumulation of all humanity into the lives of individuals completely, a certain "mental transformation" in addition to a "re-construction" in human rights area in the sense of legal and institutional fields is required.

Human history in national or international arena is the history of the combat for human rights and freedom. Risks and dangers of human rights caused big social movements, insurrections, and wars. Some of them are our War of Liberation, Wars of Thirty Years, Holland Independence War, English Revolution, American Revolution and Independence War, French Revolution, 1830 and 1848 Revolutions, and independence wars of colony countries. It must not be forgotten that so many human rights documents, which are the sources of similar national and international papers, are the products of these political and social movements.