

CPT/Inf (2026) 38

Response

**of the Turkish Government
to the report of the European Committee
for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman
or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)
on its visit to Türkiye**

from 4 to 13 April 2018

The Government of Türkiye has requested the publication of this response.
The CPT's report on the 2018 visit to Türkiye is set out in document
CPT/Inf (2026) 37.

Strasbourg, 12 October 2026

**RESPONSES OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO THE REPORT OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND
INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT (CPT)
ON ITS VISIT TO TURKEY FROM 4 TO 13 APRIL 2018**

Introduction

The views of the Turkish Government to the report of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) on its visit to Turkey from 4 to 13 April 2018 are set out below in the order adopted in the report.

Paragraph 29 (Regarding ensuring mentally-ill prisoners at least one hour of outdoor activities per day)

Turkish Government's responses to the immediate observations of the CPT delegation under Article 8 paragraph 5 of the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the Convention) was forwarded to the President of the CPT in a letter dated 17 August 2018.

As it is stated in the responses of the Turkish Government to the immediate observations of the CPT, Ministry of Justice had issued a circular in which psychiatric establishments visited by the delegation are duly informed of the CPT's report. Furthermore, these establishments are instructed to make necessary arrangements pursuant to the CPT's recommendations.

In this regard,

- At Elazığ Mental Health Hospital, psychiatric units of which are reserved for mentally-ill prisoners, male patients can benefit from ventilation between 08.00 and 17.00, female patients can benefit from ventilation between 13.00 and 17.00 and juvenile patients can benefit from ventilation between 08.00 and 12.00.

Ventilation area is secured with metal cage and razor wires and it is tracked with a camera system for 24 hours. Furthermore, ventilation area is under surveillance by armed soldiers in the observation tower. Internal security of the unit is provided by custody officers and external security is provided by gendarmerie.

Prisoners held in the psychosocial unit of the Elazığ E-Type Penitentiary Institution can benefit from ventilation at least one hour.

- In line with the CPT's recommendations, necessary restoration works and projects enabling the ventilation area for the prisoners held in psychiatric units of Manisa Mental Health Hospital are duly initiated.

In this context, a concept project has been prepared and an application was submitted before the İzmir 2nd Provincial Directorate of Protection Board for Cultural and Natural Assets (the Board). The project was assessed and approved at the meeting of the Board dated 15 February 2019. Upon the notification of the Board's decision to the Office of the Chief Physician of the Manisa Mental Health Hospital, project procurement phase will be initiated. Subsequent to the completion of the project procurement phase, tender and construction processes will be launched respectively.

On the other hand, Manisa Provincial Directorate of Health has requested funds from the Ministry of Health in the context of the said project. Accordingly, four waiting rooms with lavatories which have been considered necessary for care and examination of the outpatients transferred from various penitentiary institutions will be constructed.

- Directorate of Adana F-Type High Security Closed Penitentiary Institution and Chief Public Prosecutor's Office of Adana notified the Adana Provincial Directorate of Health regarding the provision of necessary ventilation facilities for mentally-ill prisoners held in Adana Mental Health Hospital. Planning phase for the ventilation facilities is still ongoing.

- Samsun Mental Health Hospital has moved to a new building as of April 2018 and psychiatric unit for prisoners was put into service on 28 August 2018. There exists a secured ventilation area within the Hospital, where all patients can benefit from one hour of ventilation per day. Construction of a detached area within the ventilation yard for mentally-ill prisoners is underway.

- In addition, mentally-ill prisoners held in Metris R-Type Closed Penitentiary Institution can benefit from ventilation for 4 hours during winter and for 6 hours during summer.

Consequently, following the CPT's visit the Government did not only initiate necessary means for mentally-ill prisoners held in Adana, Elazığ, Manisa Mental Health Hospitals, but also for those held in Samsun Mental Health Hospital and Metris R-Type Closed Penitentiary Institution to benefit from appropriate ventilation facilities.

Paragraph 35 (Regarding providing trainings for orderlies and security staff in psychiatric hospitals)

In the reporting period, orderlies and security staff working in community mental health center of Ankara University Hospital and Adana Mental Health Hospital are given appropriate training on attitudes towards patients.

Paragraph 62 (Regarding the needs of the residents of the Ankara Care Centre)

The CPT's recommendation was duly brought to the attention of the Provincial Directorate of Ankara by the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services. Accordingly, the Ministry instructed the Provincial Directorate of Ankara that due consideration be given for the

fulfillment of needs such as bed, table, chair, closet etc. of the Ankara Care Centre and the Hope Home.

Paragraph 63 (Regarding ensuring more occupational and recreational activities for residents in Adana, Ankara, Mersin Care Centres)

Regarding Adana, Ankara and Mersin Care Centres, related Provincial Directorates are duly informed and instructed by the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services to provide more occupational activities for residents with disabilities as well as to enhance social activities for all residents. The mentioned Care Centres are also instructed to carry out works in order to increase the number of the specialized staff and to promote the qualification of the existing staff, including through in-service training, if deemed necessary.

Paragraph 64 (Regarding preparation of individual care/activity plans for residents in Ankara Care Center)

Ankara Care Centre and Hope Home is informed and instructed by the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services with regard to the preparation of individual care/activity plans for residents with disabilities. Accordingly Ankara Care Centre confirmed that deficiencies will be remedied in accordance with the said instruction.

Paragraphs 67 and 71 (Regarding ensuring regular medical examinations by a general practitioner and a psychiatrist in Adana, Ankara and Mersin Care Centres)

Regarding Adana, Ankara and Mersin Care Centres, related Provincial Directorates are duly informed and instructed by the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services to correspond with the Provincial Directorates of Health in order to provide regular medical examination and treatment for residents with disabilities by a general practitioner at least once a week and by a psychiatrist (same psychiatrist is preferred) at least once a month.

Paragraph 68 (Regarding the non-existence of psychologists in Ankara and Mersin Care Centers)

Related Provincial Directorates are duly instructed by the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services on the initiation of the employment procedure in line with the relevant legislation, in the event of a need for psychologists in Ankara and Mersin Care Centers.

Paragraph 69 (Regarding vacant physiotherapist post at Ankara Care Centre)

Provincial Directorate of Ankara is duly informed and instructed by the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services for filling in the vacant physiotherapist post at the Ankara Care Centre in line with the relevant legislation.

Paragraph 75 (Regarding amending the Circular No. 2015/15)

The Committee's recommendations will be duly taken into consideration prior to any amendment process regarding the Circular No. 2015/15 on Persons with Disabilities Diagnosed to Have Psychiatric Disorders.

Paragraphs 98 and 99 (Regarding legal safeguards in the context of admissions of legally incapacitated persons to social welfare establishments by their guardian as well as providing independence and impartiality of the guardians)

The Committee's recommendations are duly conveyed to the relevant authorities for consideration.

Paragraph 100 (Regarding providing information for patients/residents in relation to their rights)

Pursuant to the Committee's recommendation and in accordance with Article 9 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Article 7 of the Turkish Disability Act No. 5378, Provincial Directorates are duly instructed by the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services to provide information services to persons with disabilities in relation to their rights.

Furthermore, Provincial Directorates are duly instructed to publish and disseminate introductory leaflets setting out institutional care services provided by psychiatric/social welfare establishments in Turkey.

Paragraph 101 (Regarding recent ministerial inspection reports of Adana, Ankara and Mersin Care Centres)

Reports of the recent ministerial inspections carried out in Adana, Ankara and Mersin Care Centres are officially requested from the authorities.

Paragraph 102 (Regarding visits carried out by the National Preventive Mechanism)

Pursuant to its National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) role, Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey (HREIT) carries out visits to regional mental health hospitals, psychiatric units within the hospitals, high-security forensic wards, public and private care centres as well as rehabilitation units of retirement homes, elderly care and rehabilitation centres where elderly people suffering from diseases such as Alzheimer and dementia are provided with care.

Accordingly, with regard to its capacity as NPM, HREIT conducted five visits in 2017. In this context, HREIT paid a visit to Trabzon Ataköy Mental Health Hospital on 17 October 2017.

Subsequent to its visit, HREIT drafted recommendations including observations and findings and accordingly forwarded them to the Trabzon Ataköy Mental Health Hospital. Furthermore, with regard to its recommendations, HREIT initiated a written follow-up process in 2018.

In 2018, HREIT conducted 28 visits, which includes six visits to mental health hospitals and social welfare institutions:

- 24 January 2018 – Ankara Demetevler Fatma Üçer Retirement Home, Elderly Care and Rehabilitation Centre
- 25 January 2018 – Ankara Dr. Abdurrahman Yurtaslan Training and Research Hospital of Oncology (Psychiatric Unit and Community Mental Health Centre)
- 5 April 2018 – Ankara 75. Yıl Retirement Home, Elderly Care and Rehabilitation Centre
- 4 May 2018 – Konya Training and Research Hospital (Psychiatry Clinic)
- 2 August 2018 – Samsun Dr. Nejat Akyol Private Care Centre
- 15 August 2018 – Kayseri Specialized Care Centre for Persons with Disabilities

Subsequent to each visit, HREIT drafted reports including its observations, findings and recommendations and forwarded them to the relevant institutions. With respect to some visits, HREIT initiated written follow-up processes in 2018. Follow-up visits and written processes will be continued in 2019.

In addition to aforementioned visits, HREIT conducted awareness-raising activities for mental health institutions on prevention of torture and ill-treatment. In this regard, HREIT organized “Training Program on Fighting against Ill-Treatment in the Context of National and International Legislation” on 7-9 November 2018. Around 130 participants including chief physicians, physicians, nurses and administrative staff of the mental health institutions were trained on the international standards, national and international legislation on prohibition of torture, as well as related case-law of the Turkish Constitutional Court and European Court of Human Rights. Furthermore, a particular session was held for health professionals regarding conditions that may entail infringement of prohibition of ill-treatment in mental health hospitals (such as physical conditions, use of electroconvulsive therapy - ECT, involuntary treatment, informed consent etc.) and international and national standards in this respect.

As of 22 May 2019, HREIT conducted 13 visits in 2019. Three of them are related with mental health hospitals and social welfare institutions:

- 8 April 2019 – Adana High-Security Forensic Psychiatry Hospital
- 19 April 2019 – Manisa Mental Health Hospital
- 16 May 2019 – Ümitköy Retirement Home, Elderly Care and Rehabilitation Centre

Report drafting processes regarding these visits are still ongoing.