

STEP-BY-STEP TO THE PURGE

The fake coup attempt on July 15th was not an overnight event. Nor is "the purge" that has been taking place since then.



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CAUGHT RED-HANDED IN CORRUPTION

Stepping stones that paved the way to this attempt were laid a few years ago when Erdoğan's government was shook by serious graft probes. The size of corruption was measured by billions of dollars, and violation of UN sanctions against Iran was also a part of the investigations. Implicating Erdoğan, his son, and members of his cabinet who conspired with an Iranian businessman, Reza Zarrab, the probes were the starting point for what has become "the purge" in Turkey today.



THE JUDICIARY AND THE POLICE DISMISSED

To avoid prosecution, Erdoğan wreaked havoc in the entire bureaucracy, but especially in the judiciary and police force. Initially, he dismissed the police chiefs and prosecutors who were involved in his corruption cases. Then, he replaced them with his loyalists.



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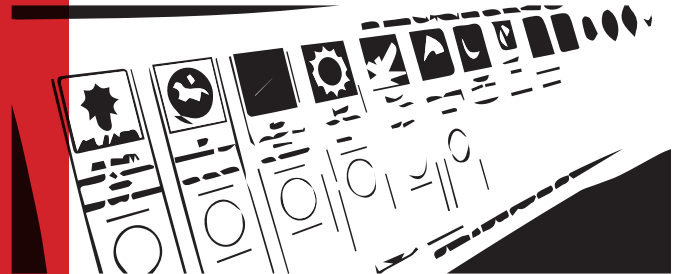
MEDIA CRACKDOWN

Erdoğan has built a monopoly in the media over the years. After the graft probes, he started harassing critical media and threatened their owners not to cover these investigations. He took over few remaining independent media outlets by illegally assigning trustees and then finally shutting them completely after the coup attempt. Erdoğan has also unplugged social media many times.

ELECTION FRAUD

Since 2002, Erdoğan's AKP party has filled the vacuum of former center-right parties, which used to have the highest voting bloc in Turkey. However, none of the elections in the last few years have gone without any doubts in mind about how fair the elections were. There have been serious allegations of fraud and international observers reported that many indications showed elections were not fair.

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CONFISCATION OF PROPERTY

Even before the coup, Erdoğan silenced opposition by confiscating their press, shutting down their businesses, and starting investigations against their organizations. Before the coup, these illegal confiscations were taking place at least under some legally-formulated packages. However, after the coup, the government conducts a brutal and voluntary form of law and does not even bother themselves to invent an outward legal formula for the crackdown.



JULY 15 COUP

Erdoğan was never fully satisfied with the "revenge" war he was conducting since the graft probes. He wanted every individual affiliated with the Hizmet Movement preferably to be locked up, or suffer in one way or another. A false military coup attempt would serve best for such a purpose. Erdoğan declared state of emergency, which still continues after one year and which gives him an illegitimate immunity from the unlawful witch-hunt and all the unfair detentions, arrests, and tortures against tens of thousands of Hizmet sympathizers or participants.

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