

6,000 held after failed Turkey coup

20th July, 2016



Picture via twitter.com

The Turkish government is increasing its efforts to detain those it deems responsible for the weekend's failed coup attempt. It has arrested around 6,000 members of the judiciary and military, including

top judges and senior-ranking generals. It has also suspended nearly 8,000 police officers suspected of having links to the coup attempt. Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan has vowed to purge all government institutions of what he calls the "virus" that caused the uprising. The president is taking a very hard line with all those suspected of wrongdoing and has announced that Turkey would consider reinstating the death penalty. This would hurt Turkey's efforts to join the European Union.

Turkey's Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag announced that: "There are currently around 6,000 detentions. It will surpass 6,000. The legal process on these will continue." He added that: "Suspects are being charged with membership of an armed terrorist organisation and of attempting to overthrow the government of the Turkish Republic using force and violence, or of attempting to completely or partially hinder its function." At least 290 people were killed and thousands wounded in the coup attempt. President Erdogan addressed the country via mobile telephone, urging people to "take to the streets" to defeat the coup and to reclaim democracy. Forces loyal to the president soon retook control of the country.

Sources: *BBC.com / TurkishWeekly.net / reuters.com*

Writing

No country should ever use the death penalty. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

government / responsible / judiciary / military /
purge / virus / institutions / efforts /
detentions / legal process / suspects / armed /
terrorist / function / wounded / loyal

True / False

- The Turkish government has detained 6,000 members of the judiciary. T / F
- The Turkish government has suspended 8,000 police officers. T / F
- The Turkish president said he had a virus during the attempted coup. T / F
- Turkey has absolutely no intention of bringing back the death penalty. T / F
- The justice minister says there won't be more than 6,000 detainees. T / F
- Suspects are being charged with terrorism offences. T / F
- Over 290 people were killed in the coup attempt. T / F
- Turkey's president made use of a mobile device to talk to the nation. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1. increasing | a. armed forces |
| 2. deems | b. to a limited extent |
| 3. military | c. presently |
| 4. purge | d. considers |
| 5. death penalty | e. exceed |
| 6. currently | f. hamper |
| 7. surpass | g. rid |
| 8. partially | h. faithful |
| 9. hinder | i. intensifying |
| 10. loyal | j. capital punishment |

Discussion – Student A

- What news images did you see of the coup?
- What do you know about this story?
- What do you think will happen to the coup leaders?
- What do you think will happen to Turkey in the future?
- How surprised are you the coup attempt ended so quickly?
- What do you know about Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan?
- What do you think about talks of reinstating the death penalty?
- Should Turkey become a member of the European Union?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. increasing its | a. to the streets |
| 2. members of the judiciary | b. institutions |
| 3. including top judges and | c. partially |
| 4. Erdogan has vowed to purge all government | d. and military |
| 5. The president is taking a very hard | e. to the president |
| 6. membership of an armed | f. the government |
| 7. overthrow | g. line |
| 8. completely or | h. efforts |
| 9. urging people to take | i. terrorist organisation |
| 10. Forces loyal | j. senior-ranking generals |

Discussion – Student B

- How serious are the charges against those involved?
- How much organising do you think the coup took?
- What would have happened if the coup had been successful?
- How important is democracy?
- How important is the stability of Turkey, and why?
- What would have to happen for you to take to the streets?
- What three adjectives best describe this story, and why?
- What questions would you like to ask Recep Tayyip Erdogan?

Spelling

- detain those it deems berioespln
- members of the ycjidurai and military
- cstepsedu of having links
- purge all government insstuiitto
- the "virus" that caused the srnpguii
- consider nrgsttenaii the death penalty
- around 6,000 tteneodnis
- It will aspsrsu 6,000
- stsuscep are being charged
- using force and oenevlci
- rtapilaly hinder its function
- reclaim rodcmiace

Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. d	3. a	4. g	5. j
6. c	7. e	8. b	9. f	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Increased taxes

You think increased taxes is the best reason to take to the streets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least serious of these (and why): education cuts, immigration or religious intolerance.

Role B – Education cuts

You think education cuts is the best reason to take to the streets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least serious of these (and why): religious intolerance, immigration or increased taxes.

Role C – Immigration

You think immigration is the best reason to take to the streets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least serious of these (and why): education cuts, religious intolerance or increased taxes.

Role D – Religious intolerance

You think religious intolerance is the best reason to take to the streets. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least serious of these (and why): education cuts, immigration or increased taxes.

Speaking – Protest

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that would get you to take to the streets most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| • declaration of war | • increased taxes |
| • religious intolerance | • corrupt government |
| • immigration | • education cuts |
| • defend an elected leader | • nuclear power plants |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.