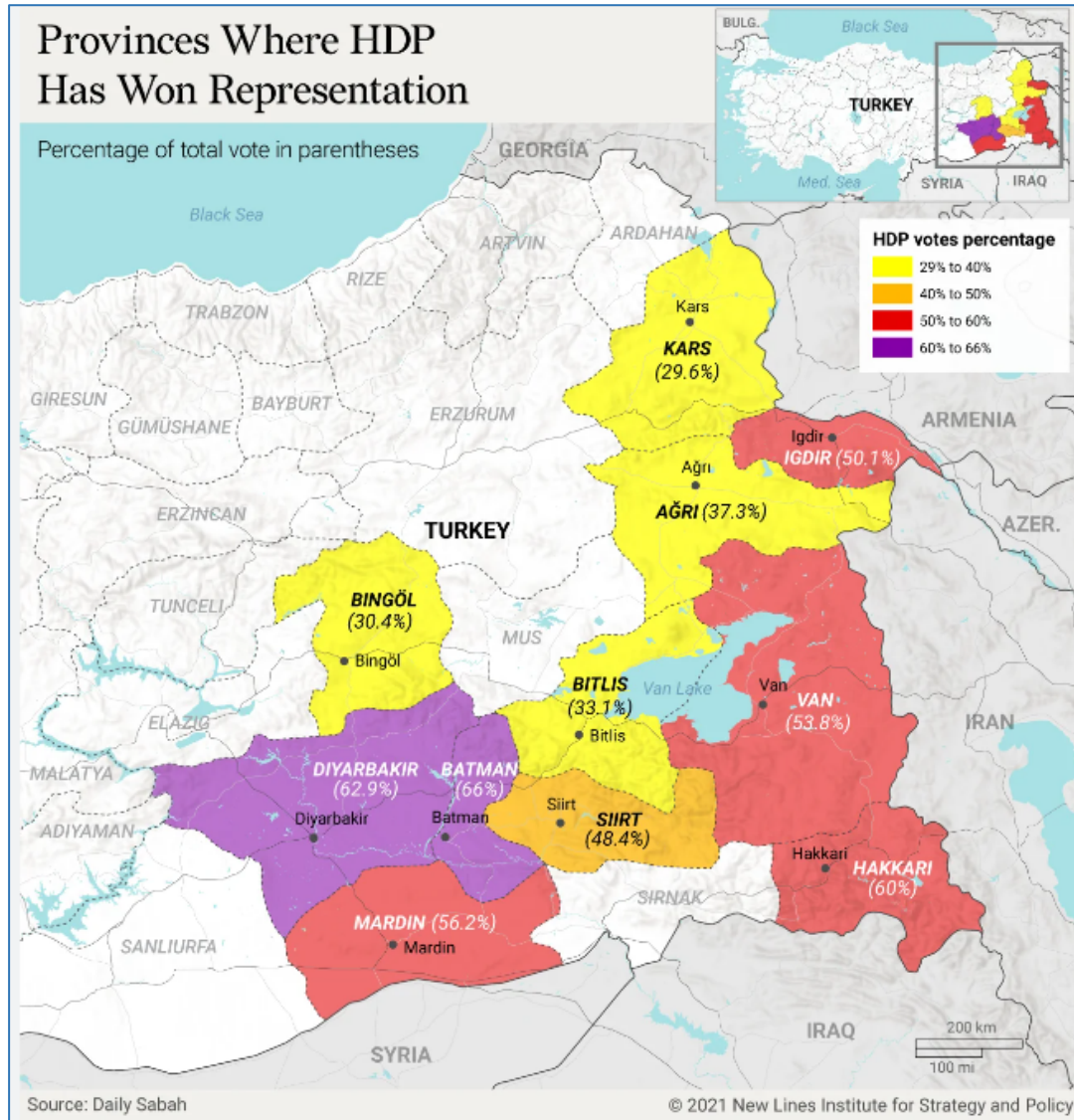


ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE AKP GOVERNMENT'S ELECTORAL FRAUDS: ILLEGAL VOTERS REGISTRATION FOR UPCOMING LOCAL ELECTION IN TURKEY



Almost two months before the Local Elections in Turkey, the AKP government is engaging in illegal activities to gain victory in several provinces. According to the Election Commission of the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party), various illegal activities have been detected in Kurdish provinces, districts, and towns. The commission found that many voters from different cities and from abroad have been registered in Kurdish cities with false information in order to influence the election results. Illegal voter registration is a serious crime that undermines the democratic process and fair elections. It has been reported that these illegal registration activities have been carried out in cities where the HDP won or came second in the last local elections, held in 2019. Examples of illegal voter registration in Kurdish cities are summarized below.

Iğdır City Center

In the local election of 2019, the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) won in Iğdır with 50.1% (22,227 votes), while the joint candidate from the ultra-nationalist MHP and the AKP came in second with 46.68% (20,713 votes). Despite the co-mayors being elected by the will of the people, the Interior Ministry removed the HDP co-mayors and appointed a trustee just a year after the 2019 local election.

- According to our election commission's report, 1,450 voters have been registered at a single address named "Pir Sultan Abdal Neighborhood, 831th Street, No:5". Only 5 of these voters voted in Iğdır City Center at the previous election. It was detected that the rest of the registered voters had been transferred from outside the city. The mentioned address did not exist at the time of the previous election, according to the Address Verification System

- 743 men have been registered to an address named "Konaklı Neighborhood, Kazım Karabekir Street, No:220. This address did not exist at the time of the previous election, and is recorded as the city police headquarters, according to the Address Verification System. According to national law, a workplace cannot be listed as a voter address.

- While 1,603 voters who were not originally from Iğdır have left the city, 4,840 voters not originally from Iğdır have come to the city in the last six months. According to data collected by the commission, 932 of those new voters have been transferred from Aralık District, where the AKP won the last local election with 56.39%.

- 1,186 overseas voters were registered to addresses in Iğdır City Center at the last general election.

These numbers have huge potential to significantly impact the result of the upcoming local election Iğdır City Center.

Siirt City Center

The election commission has identified at least 6,189 suspicious voter registrations in Siirt City Center during the last six months. In the 2019 local election, the HDP won in Siirt with 48.36% (33,227 votes), while the AKP came second with 46.01% (31,611 votes). The elected co-mayors from the HDP in Siirt were removed from their positions and a trustee was appointed to the municipality just a year after the election.

- At the last general election, 10 voters were registered to an address named "Yeni Neighborhood, Cengiz Topel Street, No:40". In the last six months, 2,099 additional voters were registered to the same address.

- Similarly, at the last election, 7 voters were recorded at an address named "Doğan Neighborhood, Kavak Street, No:75". In the last six months, 1,989 additional voters were registered to the same address. According to the Address Verification System, the address belongs to the Special Forces Directorate of Siirt Police Headquarters.

- An address named "Barış Neighborhood, Hükümet Avenue, no:117/12" did not exist at the last general election. However, during the last six months, 2,555 men who had not voted in Siirt before have been registered to this address.

- 1,533 voters who were overseas voters at the last general election have been registered to addresses in Siirt City Center.

Kurtalan District of Siirt

In the local election of 2019, the HDP had a victory with 50,08% (8,096 votes) while the AKP became the second party with 45,75% (7,396 votes). A year after the election, the HDP co-mayors were removed from their positions and a trustee was appointed by Interior Ministry Decision.

- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Kültür Neighborhood, Jandarma Street, no:32/A” is recorded as a guesthouse. 13 voters were recorded here at the time of the general election in May 2023, 1,003 further voters have been registered to this address during the last six months. 994 of these new voters are neither originally from the district nor have they voted in the district in the last general election.
- While 316 voters not originally from Kurtalan have left the district, 1,312 voters not originally from Kurtalan have registered to several addresses in the district.

Şırnak City Center

During the local elections in 2019, the AKP government used thousands of soldiers and police to cast votes in order to secure a victory in Şırnak City Center. Consequently, the AKP won the mayorship, with illegal voter registration, by 61.72% (19,718 votes) while the HDP came second with 35.04% (11,194 votes).

- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Yeşil Yurt Neighborhood, Şehit Tümgeneral Aydoğan Street” is recorded as a Military District. 752 voters were recorded here for the general election of May 2023. The number has increased to 5,956 in the last six months. 4,386 of these voters are not originally from Şırnak. According to the Election Commission of the DEM Party, 1,039 new voters have been transferred here from another district of Şırnak such as Silopi (452 voters) and Cizre (434 voters).
- While only 15 voters were previously recorded at an address named “Yeni Neighborhood, Gümüştepe Street, no:91”, the number has risen to 1355 in the last six months. None of these voters are originally from Şırnak, and just 41 of them had voted in Şırnak at the previous election.
- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Bahçelievler Neighborhood, Vilayet Avenue, no:3” is recorded as a police house. In the May 2023 elections, there were 14 registered voters here. This number has increased to 506. Out of these 506 voters, only 10 were previously registered voters in Şırnak City Center. 286 of them were transferred from another polling district of Şırnak, such as Cizre and Silopi districts.
- While the number of voters not originally from Şırnak who have left the city is 2,429, newly registered not originally from Şırnak number 8,710.
- In the last general elections, 840 overseas voters were registered to several addresses in Şırnak City Center.

Uludere District Of Şırnak

- Only 4 voters were previously registered at an address named “Kılaban Neighborhood, Kale Street, no:13”, however, in the last six months, the number of registered voters has increased to 1,406. All are men and 1,377 of them are not originally from Şırnak or Uludere.
- At an address named “Kılaban Neighborhood, Kale Street, no: 13/102, which did not exist in the last general election in May 2023, 917 voters (all men) have been registered. While the previous addresses of 394 of these individuals cannot be identified, the rest are from addresses in Uludere villages, such as Gülyazı, Andaş, Ballı, Bağlıca, and Yemişli. The people of these villages are mostly village guards (paramilitary forces).
- While 132 registered voters not originally from Şırnak left the Uludere district after general election, 451 new voters not originally from Şırnak have been registered to several addresses in the district.
- 3,055 people who were overseas voters in the last general election have been registered to Uludere District.

Çukurca District of Hakkari

- The number of registered voters in Yeni Çeşme Neighborhood is 5,057, of which only 15.84% (804 voters) are originally from Hakkari.
- The number of registered voters in the Emirşaban Neighborhood in Çukurca is 2,699, of which 45,87% are originally from Hakkari.
- 1,594 people who were overseas voters in the general election of 2023 have been registered to Çukurca in the last six months.

Şemdinli District of Hakkari

- 5,963 voters have been registered to Moda Neighborhood since the general election of May 2023. Only 2,862 of these registered are originally from Hakkari.
- While 495 voters were previously registered to an address named “Moda Neighborhood, Askeri Alan Küme Evleri” Military Personnel District) in the May 2023 general elections, the number of registered voters has risen to 2,207. Only 6 of these voters voted in Şemdinli at the previous election.
- 892 people who were overseas voters in the general election have been transferred to Şemdinli District.

Esendere Town in Yüksekova District of Hakkari

- The number of registered voters in Esendere town is 5,514, of whom 48,80% are originally from Hakkari.
- 1,517 soldiers are registered as voters in the Küme Evleri Neighborhood.
- Several addresses in Küme Evleri Neighborhood - No:11 (84 registered voters), No:12 (122 registered voters), No:13 (202 registered voters), No:14 (33 registered voters) - did not exist during the general election of May 2023. All these newly registered voters are soldiers and are not originally from Hakkari.

Kars City Center

In the local election of 2019, the HDP won the mayorship in Kars with 29.58% (12,192 votes), while the ultra-nationalist MHP were the second party with 25.57% (10,954 votes). In October 2020, the HDP co-mayors were removed from their seats and a trustee was appointed by Interior Ministry Decision.

- According to the Address Verification System, while there were 13 registered voters at an address named “Cumhuriyet Neighborhood, Şehit Yusuf Street, no: 50/2, D:1” in the general election of May 2023, the number has risen to 3,005 during the last six months. Only 10 of these voted in Kars city center at the previous election.
- An address named “Cumhuriyet Neighborhood, Gazi Ahmet Muhtar Paşa Street, No: 101/A” did not exist in the general election of May 2023. According to the Address Verification System, the address is a police guesthouse and 498 men have been registered as voters at the address. Only 5 of these voted in Kart at the previous election. It has been detected that 185 of these registered voters have been transferred from Trabzon (A city in the Black Sea Region)
- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Fevzi Çakmak Neighborhood, Provincial Gendarmerie Command Küme Evleri No:1/15” is a Military Guesthouse. While only one voter was registered here at the previous general election, the number has risen to 503 during the last six months.
- While 1,534 registered voters not originally from Kars left the city center in the last six months, 3,264 new voters not originally from Kars have been registered.
- 920 people who were overseas voters in the last general election have been transferred to Kars City Center.

HASANKEYF DISTRICT OF BATMAN

- An address named “Raman Neighborhood, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan Street, No:73” is recorded as a military command building. While there were no registered voters here during the general election of May 2023, 154 individuals have been registered as voters in the last six months. Among these, only two voted in Hasankeyf District at the previous general election.
- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Eyyubi Neighborhood, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan Avenue, No:33” is recorded as District Police Headquarters. While there were no registered voters here at the general election, 150 voters have been registered in the last six months. None of these newly registered voters voted in Hasankeyf District at the general election.
- While 110 registered voters not originally not from Batman left the district during the last six months, 355 new registered voters not originally not from Batman have come to the district. Among these new voters, 149 of them have been registered at “Recep Tayyip Erdoğan Avenue No: 33”, and 119 individuals were registered at “Recep Tayyip Erdoğan Avenue No: 73”.

GERCÜŞ DISTRICT OF BATMAN

In the local election of 2019, the AKP won the district mayorship with 49.01% (1,611 votes), and the HDP was the second party with 47.70% (1,568 votes).

- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Bağlarbaşı Neighborhood, Kazım Koyuncu Avenue, No: 2/15” is recorded as a military zone. Despite there being no registered voters here at the previous general election, 149 new voters have been registered to this address, and only one of these voted in the district at the previous election.
- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Bağlarbaşı Neighborhood, Kazım Koyuncu Avenue, No: 2/3” is recorded as a public building that belongs to the police. While there was no registered voter in this address at the last general election, 147 voters have been registered here in the last six months. None of these voted in Gercüş at the last election.

Dargeçit District of Mardin

In the local election of 2019, the AKP won the municipality with 50.59% (6,630 votes), while the HDP came second with 45.52% (5,966 votes).

- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Bahçebaşı Neighborhood, Şehit Halil İbrahim Aksoy Street, no:31” is a police headquarters. There are 341 registered voters at this address, and only 11 of them voted in Dargeçit at the previous election. 245 of these voters have been transferred from Artuklu District.
- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Safa Neighborhood, Şehit Üsteğmen Emrah Şahin Street, No:14D” is a Military Building. There are 227 registered

voters at this address, while there were only 19 registered voters at the time of the previous election. 153 of these registered voters were transferred from Nusaybin District.

- While 248 voters not originally from Dargeçit left the district in the last six months, 699 new voters not originally from Dargeçit were registered. 194 of these were registered to the above police headquarters.

Savur District of Mardin

In the local election of 2019, the HDP won the municipality with 48.02% (5,765 votes), while AKP was second with 41.65% (5,001 votes). Just 8 months after the election, in November 2019, The HDP co-mayors were removed from their position and a trustee was appointed by Interior Ministry Decision.

- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Kaplan Neighborhood, Mardin Street, no:12” belongs to the Turkish Armed Forces. While only two voters were registered at this address at the previous election, the number has risen to 655, of whom only one individual voted in Savur in the last general election. 320 of these voters were transferred from Artuklu, 138 of them from Kızıltepe districts.
- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Safa Neighborhood, 125/1 Street, no:5/1” is recorded as the district police headquarters. While there were no registered voters at the address at the previous election, the number of registered voters there now is 254, of whom only one voted in Savur at the previous election. 158 of these have been transferred from Artuklu District.
- While 155 registered voters not originally not from Savur left the district in the last six months, 1,030 voters not originally from Savur have been registered to several addresses in the last six months. 894 of these newly registered voters were recorded at two addresses named “Kaplan Neighborhood, Mardin Street, no:12 and no:5/1”

Kulp District of Diyarbakır

In the local election of 2019, the HDP won the municipality in Kulp District with 49.97% (8,866 votes), while the AKP came second with 40.07% (7,109 votes). Six months after the local election, the HDP co-mayors of Kulp Municipality were removed from their positions and a trustee was appointed by Interior Ministry Decision.

- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Turgut Özal Neighborhood, Turgut Özal Avenue, no:104” is a Military Guesthouse. I was not mentioned at the previous election. As of October 2023, 1,062 registered voters are recorded at this address, only 13 of whom voted in Kulp at the previous election. The total number of registered voters not originally from Kulp is 2,100, and 1,049 of them have been registered at this address. 572 voters are soldiers who were transferred from Lice District in Diyarbakır.
- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Uzunova Neighborhood, Sivrice Street, no:55” is a Police Lodge. While 21 voters were registered to the address at the general election of 2023, the number has risen to 375, of whom only 12 voted in

Kulp district at the last general election. 363 of these registered voters who were not originally from Kulp were registered to this address.

- According to the Address Verification System, “Zeyrek Neighborhood, Zeyrek Street, no:5” is a public building. While the number of voters registered here was 38 at the last general election, the number has risen to 385, of whom only 5 voted in Kulp at the last election.
- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Hamzalı Neighborhood, Hamzalı BM street, no:55” is a public building. While only 5 voters were previously registered at the address, the number has risen to 163, of whom only 3 voted in Kulp at the last election.
- While 267 voters not originally from Kulp left the district in the last six months, 2,100 voters not originally from the city nor the district have been registered. 1,952 of these newly registered voters are recorded at address mentioned above.

Hazro District of Diyarbakır

In the local election of 2019, HDP won the municipality in Hazro District with 52,61% (3856 votes), while AKP came second with 45,46% (3332 votes). Just 8 months after the local election, HDP’s co-mayors of Hazro Municipality were removed from their seats and a trustee was appointed by Interior Ministry Decision in November 2019.

- Addresses named “ Hürriyet Neighborhood, Şehitlik Street no: 93A-B-C-D-E-F-G-H-I are recorded as Military buildings, according to the Address Verification System. Among these addresses, 93D-E-F-G-H-I (6 different addresses) did not exist at the previous election. While 27 voters were registered to existing addresses at the previous election, the number has risen to 813 and only 11 voters are from Hazro District.
- While 116 voters originally not from Hazro left the district in the last six months, 864 new voters originally not from Hazro have come to the district. 802 of them were recorded at the mentioned addresses above.

Eğil District of Diyarbakır

In the local election of 2019, the HDP won the municipality in Eğil District with 51.37% (5,757 votes), and the AKP came second with 43.85% (4,914 votes). A year after the local election, the HDP co-mayors were removed from their positions and a trustee was appointed by the Interior Ministry's arbitrary decision.

- According to the Address Verification System, addresses named “Yenişehir Neighborhood, Şehit Ahmet Ece Street No: 25A, 25B,25C, 25D, 25E, 25F, 25G, 25I” are recorded as military buildings. While 21 voters were registered to these addresses at the last election, the number has risen to 1,216, of whom 68 of them voted in Eğil at the last general election in May 2023.
- While 32 voters not originally not from Eğil left the district in the last six months, 1,140 new voters not originally from Eğil have been recorded. 1,093 of these newly registered voters are recorded at the addresses mentioned above.

Ağrı City Center

- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Leylek Pınar Neighborhood, General Vehbi Engin Street, no:2/31 is a public building that belongs to the Turkish Armed Forces. While there were no registered voters here at the last general election, 1,923 voters have been registered to this address in the last six months. None of those newly registered voters voted in Ağrı at the last election.
- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Fırat Neighborhood, Yaşar Kemal Street, no:121/3” belongs to a public guesthouse. While it was not mentioned at the last election in 2023, 1,221 voters have been recorded to this address, none of whom is originally from Ağrı.
- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Fırat Neighborhood, Atalay Street, No:25” is a public building that belongs to the police department. While only one individual was recorded at this address at the last general election, the number has risen to 994, only 7 of whom voted at the previous election in Ağrı.
- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Fırat Neighborhood, Çevre Yolu Street, no:141 is a Police House. While 5 voters were registered here at the last election, the number has risen to 287, only 4 of whom voted at the last election in Ağrı.
- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Fırat Neighborhood, Yaşar Kemal Street, no:105/A” is a guesthouse that belongs to Public Special Administration. While only four voters were registered at this address at the last general election, the number has risen to 182, of whom only 5 individuals voted at the last election in Ağrı.
- Since the general election of 2023, 7,104 voters have come to Ağrı city center in the last six months. 1,318 of them were transferred from another polling district of Ağrı, and 5,786 of them were transferred from different cities.
- 455 people who were overseas voters in the last general election have been transferred to several addresses in Ağrı City Center.

Taşlıçay District of Ağrı

In the local election of 2019, the AKP won the municipality with 38.25% (1,243 votes), while the HDP came second with 34.12% (1,109 votes).

- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Hürriyet Neighborhood, Fevzi Çakmak Street, no:48/1” is a guesthouse that belongs to Taşlıçay District Governorship. While the number of registered voters was 9 at the last general election, the number has risen to 209, of whom only 6 voted in Taşlıçay at the previous election. 168 have been transferred from Doğubeyazıt District and were registered collectively.

Karakoçan District of Elazığ

- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Kırkpınar Neighborhood, Hastane Street, no:16/1” did not exist before and is now a public building that belongs to security forces. 330 voters have been registered here in the last six months. None of them are originally from the district, and 220 were transferred from Elazığ City Center.
- According to the Address Verification System, there were no registered voters at the previous election in an address named “Kırkpınar Neighborhood, Hastane Street, no:16/2” that belongs to security forces, but 80 voters were registered there in the last six months. None of those registered voters are from the district, and 53 of them were brought from Elazığ City Center.
- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Yeni Neighborhood, Lise Street, no:26/2” belongs to the Special Forces Department. While there were previously no voters registered there, 91 voters were registered in the last six months. None of those newly registered voters are originally from Karakoçan District, and 51 of them were transferred from Elazığ City Center.
- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Kırkpınar Neighborhood, no:16/D” belongs to the security forces. While there were no registered voters there in the previous election, there are now 17. None of these are originally from Karakoçan District, and 9 of them were transferred from Elazığ city center.
- 123 people who were overseas voters at the last general election were registered to several addresses in Karakoçan District.

Malazgirt District of Muş

In the local election of 2019, the AKP won the municipality by a narrow margin against the HDP. While AKP won the election with 39.75% (3,641 votes), while the HDP came second with 39.72% (3,538 votes).

- An address named “Mengüçgazi Neighborhood, Ağrı Street, no:4/4” did not exist at the last general election. Now, 149 men are registered as voters at this address. All of these new registered voters have been transferred from different polling districts of Muş.
- 129 men not from Muş have been registered as voters at an address named “Mengüçgazi Neighborhood, Ağrı Street, no:4/1”. 73 of these were transferred from Bulanık District.
- 122 men not from Muş have been registered as voters at an address named “Selçuklu Neighborhood, 835th Street, no: 2/4”. 44 of these were transferred from Bulanık District and 25 of them were transferred from different villages in Muş.
- 104 men not from Malazgirt were registered to an address named “Selçuklu Neighborhood, 835th street, no:2/5. Among these, 57 were transferred from Muş city centre and its villages, and 15 from Varto district.

Karaçoban District of Erzurum

In the local election of 2019, the HDP won the municipality in Karaçoban District with 54.61% (5,417 votes), and the AKP came second with 41.88% (4,154 votes). The HDP co-mayors of Karaçoban Municipality were removed from their positions and a trustee was appointed in March 2021.

- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Hacılar Neighborhood, Gündüz Street, no:14” is a public building that belongs to the Turkish Armed Forces. While only three individuals were registered as voters here at the last general election, the number has risen to 257. Among these, only three individuals voted in the Karaçoban District at the last general election. Those 257 individuals are all men and were transferred from different districts of Erzurum, such as Yakutiye (61), Palandöken (39) and Hınıs (39)
- According to the Address Verification System, an address named “Hacılar Neighborhood, Hastane Street, no:23” is a District Police Headquarter. While there were not any registered voters here at the previous election, 63 have been registered in the last six months. Among these, only one individual voted in the district at the previous election, and 28 were transferred from the Palandöken District of Erzurum.

Conclusion

As will be understood from the data above, the AKP-MHP alliance is openly involved in election fraud in Kurdish-populated provinces. Although the DEM Party’s Law Commission and its lawyers applied to 31 different Election Commission Boards with respect to 52,959 illegal voter registrations, only 222 of these petitions were accepted.

The main “reasons” for rejection can be listed as follows;

- 1) Those registered voters are security forces and they have been tasked to secure local elections in the polling region.
- 2) Those registered voters are security forces and they have been sent to the region for military practices or to be involved in operations.

It is quite clear that all the means of the state have been mobilized to ensure that the above-mentioned electoral districts remain in the hands of the Ruling Party, and preparations are being carried out in this context.

Election fraud carried out in the Kurdish regions means direct interference with the will of a population of over 4 million.

Instead of the DEM Party's democratic and transparent local government model, the AKP-MHP government are trying to impose a rotten municipality model in which appointed bureaucrats have usurped control and large-scale corruption is hidden by the government.

The AKP-MHP Government is planning to rule Turkey illegitimately for a much longer time through the Kurdish Regions, where election fraud and trustee practices are increasingly being implemented. Election violations in the Kurdish regions need to be monitored much more closely by international organizations.