

Press Release

Two Years Past After the 6 February Earthquake Yet the Suffering Has No End

On February 6, 2023, two major earthquakes of magnitude 7.8 and 7.5, that struck southern and central Turkey and northern Syria, affected 11 provinces and caused great destruction and loss of life. At least 54,000 people in Turkey and 8,500 in Syria lost their lives in these earthquakes with the epicentre in Kahramanmaraş. The total loss of life exceeded 62,000, and millions of people remained homeless. However, some independent experts and local resources suggest that the real number may be higher.

After the devastating earthquake, people were forced to live in tents and temporary housing made of metal containers converted into housing units. In the course of the following two years, the number of people living in container cities decreased only by 7.78 percent. According to the latest figures published by the Presidency's Directorate of Communications in January 2025, more than 650,000 people are still living in container cities.

At the same time, more than 300 people were reported as missing after the earthquake. While Minister Ali Yerlikaya speaks of 75 missing persons as of November 2024, CHP Deputy for Hatay, Nermin Yildirim Kara, says that they have a list of 140 missing person, including 38 children. Meanwhile, families complain about the state's indifference and are still searching for their children.

Despite being located on one of the world's most significant fault lines, the state's negligence and indifference became glaringly evident during the earthquake, as it failed to take precautionary measures against earthquakes, especially in major cities with high population density and widespread unplanned urbanization. Furthermore, the lack of a strong, effective, and rapid search-and-rescue plan, as well as the inadequate preparation of teams and equipment, exposed the extent of this irresponsibility.

The 1999 Marmara earthquake exposed how state decisions were ignored by authorities, with institutions turning a blind eye and bribery rampant in official bodies and building inspections. This failure stems from the State's inability to establish control mechanisms. As a matter of fact, the hotel fire in Bolu on January 21, 2025 is also considered the direct result of this failure. The January 21, 2025, Bolu hotel fire is a direct consequence of this: negligence, lack of inspection, and capitalist greed – starting from the hotel owner, to the fire department that issued the fire report, the municipality that granted the fire safety certificate, the governorate and the Ministry of Tourism who all approved without control – and cost the lives of 78 people. Yet, everyone shifts blame, and no one takes responsibility. Ultimately, the crime and its reasons are obvious. It is the greed of capitalists and the rulers who serve them, believing this life will never end and its sole purpose is the accumulation of material wealth.

An Islamic leadership, seeking only Allah's pleasure and Eternal Paradise as the sole purpose of life, tirelessly ensures the safety of life, wealth, and honor of its people. No investment is too great; it constantly strives for betterment, aiming to establish Allah's just, safe, and prosperous system in all aspects of life – always in the best way it can, for its ultimate goal is the pleasure of Allah (swt). ﴿وَأَحْسِنُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ﴾ **"Whatever you do, do it in the best way. Surely Allah loves those who are doing good."** [Al-Baqarah 195]

Women's Section
in the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir

