

Turkey: 15 JULY COUP ATTEMPT AND FETULLAH GÜLEN

Q1. May you briefly explain how the coup attempt took place in Turkey?

On the evening of July 15th, a clandestine faction led by Fetullah Gülen Terrorist Organization (FETO) within the Turkish Armed Forces attempted to stage a coup. This was more than a treacherous plot: It was a terrorist campaign to overthrow the democratically elected government, the President and the constitutional order of Turkey.

Regretfully, many friends in Europe fail to grasp and portray the true situation in Turkey and the sincere feelings of the people of Turkey.

On the evening of July 15, Turkish people lived through an ordeal that was unprecedented in Turkish history: The Bosphorus Bridge was closed by tanks and unarmed protesters were shot and killed at the very same spot. Tanks rolled on the streets, running over people. Attack helicopters fired at civilians protesting the coup attempt. Fighter jets bombed the Parliament, the Presidential Palace and the police headquarters. An elite squad was sent to assassinate the elected president. The terrorist plotters also raided major media outlets be they private or state, either to force them to announce the messages of the coup plotters or to silence them.

The attempt failed, leaving behind more than 240 dead and in excess of 1,500 wounded.

It was the people of Turkey from all backgrounds and political views who thwarted the plot. They displayed a historic solidarity as they stood bravely in front of the tanks and reclaimed their democratic rights. The Turkish media also played a key role in foiling the coup attempt.

Q2. How did the government control the situation?

People united together against this violent conspiracy; all the political parties and Members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly stood firmly by democracy, legitimate democratic institutions and the Constitution. A Joint Declaration in defense of democracy was issued during the extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly on the 16th of July.

This democratic resolve of the citizens of Turkey should be viewed as a guarantee by itself that they will never bow to authoritarian rule.

It is now clear that the FETO was behind the coup attempt in Turkey. It was led by a network of military officers of varying ranks who are affiliated with the Group. It was also supported by non-military individuals and groups known to be affiliated to Gülen.

Turkey is now united in a spirit that has not been witnessed since the foundation of the Republic.

Foiling of 15 July coup attempt by the Turkish people from all walks of life has been a milestone in Turkey's democracy history.

Q3. Exactly how did the people turn up to support government against the coup plotters?

7 August rally in Istanbul which gathered more than 3 million people from all political backgrounds was another historic and unprecedented milestone for Turkish democracy.

The rally was unprecedented not only by the record number of participation. It was also the first political rally bringing together the President, the Prime Minister, and the leaders the main opposition parties. Moreover, for the first time in our history, the Chief of General Staff of the Turkish military addressed to millions of people, condemning the coup attempt and reiterating the commitment of the Turkish armed forces to democracy.

The rally demonstrated not only the staunch and united position of Turkish people against the coup attempt. It also showed that the Turkish people and all the mainstream political parties are united in the conviction that Fetullah Gülen Terrorist Organization was the culprit of this foiled, despicable attempt.

This was not a picture which the perpetrators of the failed coup attempt had expected.

We hope that the international community has heard loud and clear the messages given by millions of people and all



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major political parties in this rally.

The Turkish nation has thwarted the most violent act of terror and treason against its democratic institutions on the night of 15/16 July. It is only natural for the Turkish State to now take all necessary measures within the limits of its constitution in order to counter this terrorist group and to protect its democracy.

In the face of grave and violent attacks against the national security and FETO terrorist organization's infiltration everywhere, as closely manifested during its coup attempt on 15 July 2016, the declaration of the State of Emergency was deemed necessary.

The Republic of Turkey is aware of its obligations related to democracy, human rights, the principle of rule of law and international conventions in this process and as in the past, due respect will be shown to fundamental rights and freedoms and the principle of supremacy of law will be strictly observed.

The 15 July coup attempt was also an attack to the military-security capacity of Turkey, amidst our fight against terrorism as before including the fight against the PKK and DEASH.

Resilience of the Turkish people averted the coup and we continue our fight against terrorism as before. We continue to deport foreign terrorist fighters, share and process intelligence on DEASH and are vigilant about the violent attempts of PKK.

Q4 May you please describe what it meant; the Gülen Movement (Fetullah Gülen Terrorist Organization/ FETO).

Fetullah Gülen is a preacher with no religious scholastic background, a graduate of primary school. He established his movement in early 1970's.

Gülen initially built the ideological foundation of his movement on the teachings of Said Nursi, an Islamic Scholar, but later parted ways.

Even at those times, his approach was criticized by mainstream Islamic groups and scholars.

From 1974 onwards, Gülen formed his own network and sought strategic allies. He has transformed himself a leader of a cult, based on the belief that he was the Messiah, the awaited one.

One of Gülen's main objectives was to protect his cult's interests and his sphere of power at any cost at critical times.

That is the reason why he supported the 1980 military coup, and the military intervention of 28 February 1997.

After the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, Gülen expanded his network in Caucasia, the Central Asia and the Balkans, and eventually established presence in around 160 countries across the world.

Starting from mid-1990s, Gülen began to present himself and his movement as an enlightened and pro-Western face of progressive, moderate Islam. However, this was just window dressing. In reality, he was leading a radical, secretive cult. He was presented to his followers as the chosen one, who speaks to Prophet Mohammed in his dreams, and as guided directly by the Prophet.

He actually left Turkey and moved to the US subsequent to a trial that charged him with attempting to topple the secular state in 1999.

Since then Gülen lives in Pennsylvania and runs, through clandestine networks, a huge empire consisting of educational institutions, companies, media centers and civil society associations.

Q5. What is the origin of this organization?

The FETO is a "sui generis" criminal organization.

"Concealment" is the key tactic of Fetullah Gülen.

The members of his cult are ordered to disguise their affiliation with Gülen.

Although they live a very pious life, they are permitted to violate religious codes in order to blend in with the mainstream majority in certain organizations they are asked to infiltrate.

Gülen supporters hide their identities and pose as leftist, rightist, liberal, secular, religious, pious, etc., according to prevailing circumstances.

This video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gptKWc089A>) is one of the many examples in which Gülen instructs his followers to hide their real identities and to use any means to reach their goals. "You must move in the arteries of the system without anyone noticing your existence until you reach all the power centers... until the conditions are ripe, they [the followers] must continue like this... You must wait for the time when you are complete and conditions are ripe, until we can shoulder the entire world and carry it... You must wait until such time as you have gotten all the state power, until you have brought to your side all the power of the constitutional institutions in Turkey... Until that time, any step taken would be too early - like breaking an egg without waiting the full 40 days for it to hatch. It would be like killing the chick inside."

During another sermon he said "the philosophy of our service is that we open a house somewhere and, with the patience of spider, we lay our web, to wait for people to get caught in the web..."

Q6. Briefly, could you please give more details on the front façade of the organization?

FETO has a two-tiered organizational model and a strict hierarchy.

The first layer is the legal and visible side.

On appearance, F. Gülen heads a civil movement called "Hizmet" (Service).

Again on appearance, "Hizmet" is a moderate, tolerant, non-violent and pro-dialogue social movement.

The variety of associations in media, education, humanitarian work, printing and banking sector, business associations etc. were established first in Turkey and later in different parts of the world.

Under the guise of legitimate social service efforts, Gülen and his followers gained access to vast financial resources, human capital, political and social influence.

An example of global political reach of the Group, can be found in the reporting of the Times: "A Conservative MP, was paid more than 100,000 Pounds to author a report which focused almost exclusively on actions by the Turkish government against Gülen-linked organizations and brought about accusations against Turkey of violating human rights. The research was commissioned by the Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF), one of the front organizations of FETO".

Dark Underbelly

Such vast wealth and influence have not been accumulated through legal conduct of business. It involved money laundering, bribing and operations through shady firms/holdings. It also involved destroying rivals through abusing state authority, which they acquired by infiltrating state structures, including the police, judiciary and finance. In fact, the members of FETO have infiltrated all critical state institutions in Turkey: Armed forces, police, intelligence, judiciary, central bank, treasury, etc.

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