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Country Report on Terrorism 2021 - Chapter 5 - Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKP/C)

Associated documents

Aka DHKP/C; Dev Sol; Dev Sol Armed Revolutionary Units; *Dev Sol Silahlı Devrimci Birlikleri*; *Dev Sol SDB*; *Devrimci Halk Kurtulus Partisi-Cephesi*; *Devrimci Sol*; Revolutionary Left

Description: Designated as an FTO on October 8, 1997, the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKP/C) was formed in 1978 as *Devrimci Sol*, or *Dev Sol*, a splinter faction of *Dev Genc* (Revolutionary Youth). It was renamed in 1994 after factional infighting. "Party" refers to the group's political activities, and "Front" alludes to the group's militant operations. The group advocates a Marxist-Leninist ideology and opposes the United States, NATO, and the Turkish establishment. It strives to establish a socialist state and to abolish Turkish prisons.

Activities: Since the late 1980s the group primarily has targeted current and retired Turkish security and military officials. In 1990 the group began conducting attacks against foreign interests, including U.S. military and diplomatic personnel and facilities. The DHKP/C assassinated two U.S. military contractors, wounded a U.S. Air Force officer, and bombed more than 20 U.S. and NATO military, diplomatic, commercial, and cultural facilities. In 2001 the DHKP/C began conducting its first suicide bombing attacks against Turkish police. Since the end of 2001, DHKP/C has typically used IEDs against official Turkish and U.S. targets.

The DHKP/C was responsible for many high-profile attacks in 2012, including the suicide bombing of a police station in Istanbul. In 2013 a DHKP/C operative exploded a suicide vest inside the employee entrance to Embassy Ankara, killing a Turkish guard and seriously wounding a Turkish journalist. In 2013, three members of the group attacked the Ministry of Justice and the Ankara headquarters of the Turkish Justice and Development political party, using grenades and rocket launchers.

In 2015 the DHKP/C claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing that killed one police officer and wounded another. That year, Turkish prosecutor Mehmet Selim Kiraz was taken hostage and died from multiple gunshot wounds inflicted by the DHKP/C after police attempted to rescue him. Also that year, two women opened fire on the U.S. Consulate in Istanbul; one woman was identified as a member of the DHKP/C.

In 2019, two individuals linked to the DHKP/C were arrested by Turkish security forces after they had entered the Turkish Parliament and taken a staff member hostage.

In 2020, Turkish security forces launched a nationwide operation across 12 provinces, arresting 93 individuals linked to the DHKP/C. Although DHKP/C did not claim any attacks in 2021, Turkish security forces arrested dozens of individuals suspected of being linked to DHKP/C.

Strength: The DHKP/C is estimated to have several dozen members inside Türkiye, with a support network throughout Europe.

Location/Area of Operation: Türkiye and Europe

Funding and External Aid: The DHKP/C finances its activities chiefly through donations and extortion. The group raises funds primarily in Europe.

ecoi.net summary:

Brief description of the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (Excerpt of chapter 5 of the country report on terrorism 2021)

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Türkiye

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