

Report on the Interference in the 2020 TRNC Presidential Elections

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Report prepared by:

Mine Yücel, Abdullah Korkmazhan, Orhan Erönen, Mine Atlı, Derya Beyatlı

Rapporteur:

Tacan Reynar

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*Interviews are received as signed statements

INTRODUCTION

The Turkish Cypriot political life is full of examples of interventions from Turkey at various levels and forms. Interventions and irregularities in the 2020 Presidential Elections have been widely discussed by the media and the public.

This report includes detailed accounts of interventions and irregularities - in various forms and levels - in the elections. Documents show how the formation of a democratic election environment was prevented and how the will of the Turkish Cypriot community was not reflected in the ballot boxes.

We, like all Turkish Cypriots, do not accept these interventions and we cannot accept the fact that our will was not reflected in the ballot boxes. Therefore, we took an initiative right after the elections, and formed the 'We Are Reporting on the Interventions and Irregularities Working Group' to make an intensive effort to report the interventions and present them to the public.

With this report on interventions and irregularities, our aim is to make a note of these events in history, to inform the public, and to contribute to efforts to prevent further interventions against the will of the Turkish Cypriots. We will continue to work in this direction and improve the scope of this report with new data and information.

We Are Reporting on the Interference and Irregularities Working Group

Mine Yücel (Researcher), Dr. Abdullah Korkmazhan (Academician, Author), Orhan Erönen (Businessperson, Activist), Mine Atlı (Lawyer), Derya Beyatlı (Activist, International Consultant), Tacan Reynar (Former Judge, Lawyer)

INTERVENTIONS WITNESSED BY POLITICIANS:

As the 'We are Reporting Group', we reached out to some candidates, who have stated that there was an intervention in the elections and those, who stated there was no intervention, as well as some journalists, whose news reports caused public debate. We asked them to share what they had experienced during the elections process. The main issues raised in these interviews are shared below:

Serdar Denktaş, who participated in the election as an independent candidate, was asked to share his experiences during the elections process.

Serdar Denktaş on 2.12.2020 stated that:

- On the Friday before the elections, they were informed that transfers were made to the bank accounts of some citizens and an instruction was sent from the TRNC Central Bank to banks. According to this instruction, all transfers had to be deposited into the accounts by Friday the latest. After receiving information about this, some friends suggested to him that he withdraw from the elections in protest of what is going on, but he did not withdraw his candidacy because he did not want to let down the people and voters who supported him;

- Before the presidential election candidacy applications, there were some suggestions to him not run in the election. He met with the representatives of the Turkish National Intelligence Organization (MIT) at a friend's house at 12 o'clock at night, and that the person in charge told him 'if you withdraw your candidacy, you will be able to establish the relations with Turkey (with Recep T. Erdogan) that you were never able to;

- After he declared his candidacy, the people who supported him were harassed by certain circles, the people who supported him were visited, and there was pressure on some of the businessmen who supported him;

- After it became clear that Mustafa Akıncı would qualify for the second round, his own party was 'undermined';

- His phone was tapped;

- Within 15 days after he announced his candidacy, journalist Rasih Reşat was summoned to Turkey, but he did not go. Reşat was advised not to work with him;

- 7 deputies in the TRNC Assembly were summoned to the Beyaz Ev (TN: residence of the Turkish ambassador in Cyprus), and it was believed that the person, who leaked this information to the media was MP Faiz Sucuoğlu. As a revenge, Sucuoğlu was forced to withdraw his candidacy as head of National Unity Party UBP;

- Some media outlets that supported him, later changed their stance after he became a candidate;
- Some people went from village to village and said, 'We are speaking on behalf of the Turkish state.' This sentence was used a lot, his supporters were told that 'your vote will go in vain' and the voters were biased;
- He was followed by vehicles with official license plates during the elections process;
- Some businessmen were threatened by being told that they would never be able to win tenders;
- There have been interventions in the past, but there was never this much work done 'on the ground';
- The team that Recep Tayyip Erdoğan sent to the island consisted of 27 people, and that an additional 300-400 people worked with this team on the ground;
- On the election day, during the counting of the ballots, the ballot boxes were combined at the Near East University although the Near East University had clearly expressed whom it supports in the elections, it was not impartial. He wanted to send a representative to the Near East University on the election day, but the 'prosecutor' on duty there did not allow his observer to go in;
- He has question marks on the way the elections were carried out. The ballots were printed by the state, and it was possible for them to prepare as many ballots as they wanted to allow the officials to change the votes in the ballot boxes. This situation made him suspicious. Mr. Denktaş also expressed his suspicion by asking "Who owns the seals?"
- Mr. Denktaş stated that the probability of 'annexation' of the TRNC (TN: to Turkey) is now a very high probability.
- Mr. Denktaş said that the day after the first round of the elections, UBP had the list of all the people, who had not gone to the ballot boxes provided to them by the Turkish Embassy in Nicosia and said, 'Who could have given this to the embassy? Near East University.'
- Equal participation on state television BRT was prohibited, and this was evident from the news on elections;
- The media is not free, and the stance of the media can be changed by putting pressure on businessmen,
- Trolls were incredibly influential in these elections, and that if the first comment written under a statement was negative, the rest would always be negative;
- He stated that there must be a way to prevent the buying of votes.

In summary, according to the statements of Mr. Serdar Denktaş:

- Pressure was put on him by MIT to withdraw his candidacy. His phone was tapped, he was followed by official cars.
- The elections were not held fairly and equally among the candidates.
- The Turkish Embassy in Nicosia intervened in the elections.
- There was intervention in the elections by the teams assigned by the President of the Republic of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, through work on the ground.
- The votes were consolidated in non-impartial institutions, inspection and observation were not allowed.
- There are serious doubts about the printing and counting of the ballots.
- The media is not free, pressure was put on the media, trolls played an active role in the elections.

Mustafa Akıncı, who participated in the election as an independent candidate, was asked to share his experiences during the elections process.

Mustafa Akıncı on 15.1.2021, stated that,

- Turkey intervened in the elections heavily and openly;
- He was faced with an effort to discredit him after Crans Montana and this effort was aimed at the upcoming elections. Things done about the Cyprus Problem, the opening of Varosha and the fact that the officials of the Republic of Turkey did not come to visit the President of the TRNC, were all a part of this effort;
- He was faced with intolerance after expressing certain opinions as the President of the TRNC. For example, after sharing his opinion that a solution should be found in Syria through diplomacy and dialogue, his words were distorted and he received attacks; The opposition in Turkey also remained silent in the face of all these;
- Officials from the Turkish Embassy in Nicosia went to the villages and spoke to people there, and he found out from the media that Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu went to Karpaz while he was in Cyprus;

- They knew that when the elections were approaching, the Turkish Ambassador in Nicosia called some UBP deputies to the Beyaz Ev in the TRNC after visiting Turkey and told them, 'You have before you not only the ambassador, but the Turkish state'. Although it was reported in the media that only the ambassador was there, the Corps Commander and the MIT officer in Cyprus was also there. The deputies were told that "The Republic of Turkey definitely wants Tatar. It doesn't want Akıncı. For the Republic of Turkey, this is a matter of survival. You will also work to make sure Tatar is elected.' They observed that the deputies were kept under surveillance in period that followed and were given concrete tasks (such as 'bring this amount of cars to the convoy' or 'there will be this number of votes from the ballot box you are responsible for');

- These deputies were followed during the election period, UBP played the role of a subcontractor in these elections, and there was a strengthened team that said it was acting on behalf of Turkey along with MIT. It is said that they are still here. This team was here when there were interventions in the UBP congress and they heard about their activities. This team is in constant motion;

-These people were very open about their threats and attitudes and they wanted this to be known to public. They constantly said, 'Akıncı will not win. We took every precaution. Even if he wins, he will not be able to stay there.' These people mentioned poisoning and traffic accidents to different individuals, they gave the message that they could make an attempt against his life, and a message of this sort was shared on the social media at the time;

- After the meeting at the Beyaz Ev, he invited the Ambassador to his office and told him that what was being done is very wrong and that the ambassador's duty was not to follow the wrong instructions, but to work to ensure that wrong decisions are not taken and to work so that the wrong decisions are corrected. He told the ambassador 'even if what you are doing yields a result, it will not be easy to heal the wound that you open here.' He also conveyed to him that it was the biggest mistake for AKP and other political parties in Turkey to open branches here in Cyprus. The Turkish Ambassador in Nicosia told him, 'You want a federation, and you are after a different identity regarding Turkishness. You are after a Turkish Cypriot identity, Turkey with all its institutions wants a change here.' He told the Ambassador that he knew that the Corps Commander and the MIT representative accompanied him at the meeting at the Beyaz Ev, that his family was also threatened in that speech, that at the meeting in Beyaz Ev, it was said that 'we will make everyone know what Turkey wants' and that the name of one of his relatives was mentioned. Akıncı gave a written letter to the Ambassador to convey to Ankara, and three hours after the meeting the Ambassador brought the letter back to his Private Secretary saying one of the issues mentioned in the letter (representatives of associations being called to the embassy and being indoctrinated) was not true;

- He was threatened through his Private Secretary Cenk Gürcağ. Such interventions in the past always remained a secret but after a meeting with Mr. Gürçağ and an internal evaluation, they decided that these threats should not remain a secret and that they would take all the risks,

- After being threatened through Gürçağ, he summoned the Ambassador to his office again, but this time he refused to come saying that this was "Ankara's order";

- He also summoned the Commander of the Security Forces and said, 'You are responsible for the security of this country, the police is under your control. Border and internal security. I'm telling you these, for your information. If we were in a normal country, I would have ordered you to arrest those, who came and threatened us.'

- Unlike the interventions in previous elections, the Republic of Turkey with all its institutions and AKP-MHP deputies were on the field in this election. Three political parties in the TRNC were called to Ankara and the current (UBP-DP-YDP) government was formed,

- During the election period, lists were prepared for sports clubs, associations and individuals with their needs, and money was distributed,

- Considering the election results, Turkey's influence could be seen especially in İskele and Famagusta due to the demographics in these places;

- Months before the election, every household was literally harassed with 2/3 calls from Turkey under the pretext of conducting a 'survey', the tendency of the voters were found out and after this study was carried out, the voters were guided. They said from the very beginning that this constituted guiding the voters. Probably, in cooperation with mobile phone operators the numbers and names were known and the voters were called;

- All the intelligence, state and PR power of Turkey was used in this election. The Turkish Embassy in Nicosia worked as the UBP election headquarters;

- In addition, during this period, there were posts from real persons making death threats. There was a threat to shoot him with an unmanned aerial vehicle on the television. Besides they saw threats such as "let him fall victim to an accident" or "I'll blow his brains out," and trolls were used to a great extent;

-While all this was going on, the Turkish Ambassador in Nicosia made a statement saying that "there is no intervention".

In summary, according to the statements of Mr. Mustafa Akinci,

- There was an open intervention in the elections by Turkey. The Turkish Republic intervened in the election campaign with all its institutions. The Turkish Embassy in Nicosia served as the election headquarters.
- The President of the TRNC, along with his family, received death threats, suffered various smear campaigns and was the target of troll attacks.
- In this process, the MIT threatened the President through Cenk Gürçağ, the Private Secretary of the President.
- The Turkish Ambassador to Nicosia did not take into account the warnings of the Presidency regarding the interference in the elections.
- The Turkish National Intelligence Organization (MIT), an intelligence organization, took an active role in the elections, made threats and guided the voters.
- There were money transfers originating from Turkey during the election period and these were distributed to the voters.

Cenk Gürçağ, the Private Secretary of the President, during the meeting held on 6.1.2021 said that,

-At the beginning of September, the MIT representative named Ahmet at the Turkish Embassy, reached out to him through an intermediary person and said, "My top-ranking superiors in Ankara want to meet with you in Ankara." Gürçağ said due to his position, he could not give an answer without speaking with the President. After speaking with the President and deciding that this would not be appropriate he conveyed to them that if they accept, they could go to Ankara for an official visit after the elections;

- On September 17, 2020, a person named Ahmet reached out to him again and said, "Our friends came from Ankara to meet with you, can we have dinner." He introduced these people as "high-level superiors", and Gürçağ stated that they could meet at a public restaurant, but it would not be appropriate for him to go to the Beyaz Ev or the embassy in the election period;

- On September 18, 2020, at 19.00, they agreed to meet at Girne Archway Restaurant, but when he went to the restaurant at 19.00, he found out that there was no such reservation. At that moment a woman rushed in and said that she was a MIT member working for Mr.

Ahmet at the embassy. She said that there was a misunderstanding and that the meeting would take place at the Merit Park Hotel;

- At Merit Park Hotel, they met at the restaurant by the sea. No other customers were allowed in the restaurant, there weren't even any other tables there. When the people there said "welcome" to Gürçağ, he asked "welcome to you, but who are you?",

- He was told that they had come from Ankara, that Mr. Kemal was the head of MIT foreign operations, Mr. Osman was the head of the MIT Greece and Cyprus Department, and Mr. Hakan was an 'expert';

- After he asked 'why are you here?', he was told 'The enemy is at the door. We need people who love Turkey, who will not betray Turkey, and who will cooperate with Turkey to lead this place. This is why we are here.' And when he asked why he was called here, he was told,

'Because we looked into you; your father and uncles are all nationalist people who risked their lives at TMT',

Gürçağ replied, 'My uncle, my father and also my president were all wounded in the war',

He was told, 'We didn't know that. Why doesn't he say it? To look cute to the Greeks? Akıncı has a poisonous tongue,'

- Gürçağ said that he was an employee of a leader elected by the people of this country and that he would leave if the conversation would carry on like this. He was told in response,

'You may be patriotic, but you are working with traitors;'

They continued,

'Meltem Samani has changed your history in the history books. She took the glorious Cyprus resistance out of history books. She did what the Greek Cypriots wanted. Ali Bizden has the President write the statements. Ali Kışmir, Gürdal Hüdaoğlu and one of his greatest mentors, Mine Yücel... These are people close to the Greek Cypriot side, working for their intelligence service. All will be judged. We do not want Akıncı there. He won't be able to win anyway. We will make sure that he doesn't win. Even if he wins, nothing will ever be the same. We know every breath taken by the people close to him. I kindly request you to convey this to Akıncı. His withdrawal from the candidacy will be most beneficial for himself, his family and his close associates. Tell him to write it on Facebook tonight. We come from the very top. Nobody and nothing is more important than the survival of Turkey.'

-When asked why they wanted him to withdraw, reminding them that they said he would lose anyway, Gürçağ stated that they answered by saying 'so he doesn't trouble us'.

An appointment was requested from **Kudret Özersay**, who participated in the election as an independent candidate, and although he gave a positive response, there was no response afterwards. No interview could be set up with Kudret Özersay.

An appointment was requested from **Erhan Arıklı**, who participated in the election as a Rebirth Party YDP candidate, but no response was received from him.

The interview with **Tufan Erhürman**, who participated in the election as a CTP candidate, was transcribed, but just before the report was published, he stated that he did not find it right to sign his statements. Therefore, the interview with him on 07.01.2021 was not included in the report.

INTERVENTIONS WITNESSED BY JOURNALISTS:

Journalist **Ali Kışmir**, who is the President of the Press Workers' Union in the northern part of Cyprus, was asked to share his experiences during the elections process.

During the meeting with Ali Kışmir on 7.1.2021, he said that,

- About 2.5/3 weeks before the first round, someone called him and said a team from Turkey wanted to meet with him, and that this meeting was about the elections. Upon his acceptance, they agreed to meet at the Archway Restaurant in Kyrenia,

- He did not know the people, who called him and he did not feel safe, so he went there with Münür Özdiren. A person came with a rental car and said 'please, let's go.' Even though he told them he didn't want to go alone, he was told that he needs to go alone for purposes of confidentiality. He therefore had to go alone. They went to Kyrenia Merit Hotel with that person. Two people were waiting there for them and they told him that 'we are the ambassadors of the Republic of Turkey here.' They asked him what he thought about the elections. He said that he asked why they were asking this question, and addressing him, they said:

'Then let's talk more clearly. We are here to prevent Mustafa Akıncı from being elected. This man will not be elected. This man is an American agent. This man is an enemy of the Republic of Turkey. This man is in cooperation with the Greek Cypriots.' Kışmir said in response, "You cannot talk about my leader like that."

- He was openly asked not to support Mustafa Akıncı, but he refused. They said, "We want the relations between the Republic of Turkey and Turkish Cypriots to be good,' and they wanted him to convey Akıncı the following in these exact words:

'If he is elected, very bad things will happen to him. That's why he should withdraw now, get his ticket and fuck off to America. We know that he has a Greek son-in-law, and we know what his daughter has been up to. Akıncı should not be elected for the sake of the future of Turkey and the TRNC. If Akıncı is elected, very bad things will happen. Something will happen to him, we don't know what that might be. He is symbolically sitting in that post anyway. He's a man, whose term of office has expired. Whether he is elected or not, we have a list for after the elections. We know all the enemies of Turkey and the agents. We will take them all to Turkey.';

- They said that they had talked to nearly 50 journalists before him and that they were all convinced, and he was the only one who was not convinced;

- On the night of October 11, after the first round, while he was in front of Akinci's election office, a man approached him and said "I want you," and that this person ran away after his friends intervened.

Journalist **Rasih Reşat**, who took on a professional role in the election campaign for Serdar Denктаş, who was a candidate for the presidential elections, was asked to share his experiences during the election process.

Reşat, who avoided giving details on many issues, said during the meeting on 11.1.2021,

- Rasih Reşat, who works as a journalist in Northern Cyprus but also specializes in political communications and occasionally provides consultancy services in election campaigns, stated that he has always felt close to Turkey and has been talking with Turkish officials for years.

- Reşat stated that the Turkish authorities had a very different attitude towards him in the latest Presidential elections and that they had a hostile attitude towards him because he did not take part in Ersin Tatar's election campaign. Reşat stated that he took part in Denктаş's election campaign upon his proposal, this initially did not disturb the Turkish authorities and that this was communicated to him. Reşat stated that he was put under pressure with the orders of the team appointed by Turkey. Reşat stated that the members of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey, with whom he previously had very friendly relations, now adopted a commanding and instructive style and that he was extremely uncomfortable with this.

- Reşat also said that he rejected various offers and persuasion methods. After Serdar Denктаş's election campaign was successful in terms of visuals and messages, the team in Turkey that carried out Tatar's election campaign contacted again and renewed their offer to him to abandon his current campaign and to join Tatar's campaign.

- Reşat stated that he heard during that period that they had been in touch with many journalists and opinion leaders, and that many of them could not resist the demands and did what was asked, and that the relations of those who refused, like himself, deteriorated forever.

- During the process, Reşat said that many people like him were made targets by local elements for the authorities coming from Turkey through arguments like 'This person does not support us. He needs to be pressured.' He said he believes this process was being

directed by local elements. In this regard, he said it has been clear in every stage of the campaigning process that Tatar and his team were working with budgets that were very high by TRNC standards and were clearly coming from the outside.

- That he took on a professional role in an election campaign but neither Tatar and his team nor the team who had come from Turkey for Tatar and the embassy officials, who were helping them insisted in not understanding this and for this reason, he clearly felt that he was declared persona non grata in those circles.

Journalist **Pınar Barut**, Editor-in-Chief of Özgür Gazete, was asked to share her experiences during the election process.

Pınar Barut, in the meeting on 11.1.2021, said that

- According to their investigation, many voters from Turkey had 3,000 TL deposited in their accounts through banks during the election period. Some people acted as intermediaries to this transaction, and these people told voters that 'money will come from Turkey, if you want to benefit from it you have to vote for Tatar.' For this reason, some voters had to take photographs of their ballots because they got money in exchange of this, and they had to prove it. They published many such news reports on the election day,

- In the investigation she was carrying out, she got information that the Justice and Development Party AKP advertising team had been staying in two or three hotels in the TRNC for elections, and that they were carrying out Ersin Tatar's advertising propaganda. Fuat Oktay's name was mentioned alongside this team. As the news team, they first found out the hotel. There was a quarantine requirement due to the pandemic at that time, but these people were placed in the Lord's Palace Hotel in Kyrenia as soon as they got off the plane. The Lords Palace Hotel was not a quarantine hotel at that time. 20 rooms were reserved here. They received information that there were teams in other hotels too. A call centre team of 10-15 people was established in the Lords Palace Hotel, and this team was calling one by one a list of approximately 10,000 people they obtained from non-governmental organizations and sports clubs and asking them to vote for Ersin Tatar;

- As the news team, they obtained the first photo at 2:30 at night, and made it a headline in the newspaper. Under the headline 'Photos of the Intervention', the photograph showed that at 2:30 at night, Ersin Tatar and Hasan Taçoy were entering and leaving the hotel. However, the most important thing in these photos was Ali Genç, the head of the team of Fuat Oktay, the vice president of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. They photographed the team all

night. The team had an orange file and Tatar, who came to the hotel the next day left with the orange file. They even heard that the team said things like 'we tell the man, we have been telling him for how many days now, he still doesn't understand what he is going to do.' The news report was not denied in any way;

- After the news report was published, an official press release was published from the TRNC Prime Ministry's Press Office saying that the newspaper and the journalists, who prepared the news report were 'spies' and 'agents' working with foreign intelligence agencies. They received death threats after publishing this news report. Some statements were made, but nobody came out and said that this news report was a lie;

- The Prime Minister of the time, Ersin Tatar, said that he would sue the newspaper. Since the accusation was that they were foreign intelligence agents, it was up to Foreign Minister Kudret Özersay to determine this. Serdar Denktaş said to Kudret Özersay, 'As the Minister of Foreign Affairs, can you tell us who the agents are? Were you not going to file a lawsuit?' The police started an investigation, but there was no lawsuit against them because they didn't find anything other than journalism. Police collected all the camera footage to determine who took the photo. It was Barut who took the photo. Hasan Taçoy, a minister of the time, told her 'your images are on my desk.' They had claimed that the photos were serviced to them, but after the camera footage was revealed, they were left with nothing. They could not file a lawsuit. Barut filed a defamation lawsuit against Ersin Tatar and the Prime Ministry;

- Due to the statements, they received many death threats from the fanatical circles through fake accounts. They found out that the Turkish Ambassador called the Attorney General to the embassy to have them arrested, while some politicians (Serdar Denktaş, Erdoğan Sorakın for the Republican Turkish Party CTP, Nicosia Turkish Municipality's mayor Mehmet Harmancı, and unions) supported them so this attempt could not be carried forward;

- They know that the Embassy received the opinion of the TRNC Chief Public Prosecutor's Office and made an effort to have them arrested. After they published the news report many intermediaries from the UBP reached out to them to ask who their informant is, but they did not reveal their news sources. When they said that they would not do this, they were threatened: "Well then, when you go to Turkey, you will be arrested at the airport for being a spy, an agent.' Barut never went to Turkey after that date due to the pandemic, but she thinks there is a possibility that she will be arrested at any airport if she goes to Turkey in the future.

Report and Headline on 'HERE ARE THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF INTERVENTION':

HERE ARE THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF INTERVENTION- Özgür Gazete - Date: 5.10.2020

An advertising team from the AKP of about 20 people, led by Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay's Media Advisor Ali Genç meets with Tatar and his team every night at Lord's Palace. Meetings that will affect the fate of the country are being held in secrecy in hotel rooms.



THEY HAVE BEEN HERE FOR ABOUT 1 MONTH

The team appointed to lead UBP Head and Presidential Candidate Prime Minister Ersin Tatar's election campaign are staying at the Lord's Palace Hotel in Kyrenia. The team of 20 people, who have entered the country 1 month ago, meet with Tatar and his team every night.

THEY GIVE A REPORT, THEY RECEIVE ORDERS

Tatar and his team meet with Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay's Media Advisor Ali Genç and his team every night at late hours at the hotel they are staying. The team, who receives a report about the day, guides Tatar and his team on what kind of work should be carried out on the ground the next day.



GENÇ SEES TAÇOY OFF



The team from Turkey is staying at a hotel, which is not a quarantine hotel. The team, which leaves the hotel from time to time, does not generally do work on the ground, but those on the ground come to them. Economy and Energy Minister Hasan Taçoy went to the hotel the other night to meet with the team. Taçoy, who left the hotel at night at 2:30 was sent off by the team's leader Ali Genç.

TATAR WITH THE FILES



Moreover, Prime Minister Tatar was holding an orange file when he came to the hotel for one last time before participating in a TV programme together with the other presidential candidates. The fact that previously Genç's team had the same file leads us to believe that the file was prepared by the team and given to Tatar.'

İşte müdahalenin FOTOĞRAFLARI

YAKLAŞIK 1 AYDIR BURADALAR: UBP Genel Başkanı ve Cumhurbaşkanı Adayı, Başbakan Ersin Tatar'ın seçim çalışmalarını yürütmek için görevlendirilen heyet, Girne'de Lord's Palace Hotel'de konaklıyor. Ülkeye yaklaşık 1 ay önce giriş yaptıkları öğrenilen 20 kişilik ekip, her gece Tatar ve ekibi ile görüşüyor

RAPOR VERİYORLAR, TALİMAT ALIYORLAR: Tatar ve ekibi, TC Cumhurbaşkanı Yardımcısı Fuat Oktay'ın Basın Danışmanı Ali Genç ve heyeti ile her gece geç saatlerde, kaldıkları otelde bir araya geliyor. Günün raporunu alan heyet, ertesi gün sahada nasıl bir çalışma yapılacağına dair önceden belirlenen rotayı da Tatar ve ekibine veriyor

TAÇOY'U, GENÇ UĞURLADI: Türkiye'den gelen heyet, karantina oteli olmayan bir otelde kalıyor. Zaman zaman otelden ayrılan ekip, genelde seçim çalışmaları kapsamında sahaya inmiyor ancak saha ayaklarına gidiyor. Ekonomi ve Enerji Bakanı Hasan Taçoy da heyetle görüşmek için geçtiğimiz gece otelde gitti. Gece saat 02:30'da otelden ayrılan Taçoy'u, heyetin lideri Ali Genç uğurladı

TATAR ELİNDE DOSYALARLA: Ayrıca, Başbakan Tatar'ın, Cumhurbaşkanı adaylarıyla katılacağı program öncesi otelde son gelişinde elinde tuttuğu turuncu dosya da dikkat çekti. Aynı dosyanın daha önce, Genç'in yanındaki ekip elemanlarının elinde de görülmesi, ekip tarafından hazırlanan dosyanın Tatar'a verildiğini düşündürdü



"Genç Taçoy'u el sallayarak uğurluyor"



Ekiple görüşmek için her gece geç saatlerde otelde gelen Tatar, TV Programına katılacağı akşam ise akşamüstü saatlerinde elinde turuncu dosyayla otelde geldi



Yaklaşık 1 saat süren toplantının ardından, Tatar yine elinde dosyalarla otelden ayrıldı



Saat gece 02:30. Taçoy'u, Genç ve ekibi uğurladı.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN THE 2020 TRNC

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

1. 9.09.2019: Without the knowledge of even the President of the time Mr. Mustafa Akıncı, **Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu visited rural areas such as Karpaz** and attended a meeting with the citizens at Yenierenköy Municipal Public Beach together with Turkey's Ambassador to Nicosia, Ali Murat Başçeri.

2. 10 January 2020: After presidential candidate Kudret Özersay announced his candidacy, **President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** summoned Ersin Tatar and Kudret Özersay to Turkey. Fuat Oktay and Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu also attended the closed-door meeting.

3. 11 February 2020: Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu started a smear campaign against TRNC President Mustafa Akıncı, by saying "I have never worked with such a dishonest politician."

4. 15 February 2020: Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay and UBP candidate Ersin Tatar held a roundtable meeting in Varosha, named "Initiative on the Opening at the Closed-Off City of Varosha." On that date, the Presidential elections had not yet been postponed. While Mr. Akıncı was not invited to the meeting, organizations such as the Turkish Cypriot Bar Association refused to participate.

5. 6 August 2020: One of the presidential candidates, YDP chairman Arıklı stated that they had been invited to Ankara together with Ersin Tatar and that they were shown the survey conducted by Ankara for the Presidential elections.

6. 14 August 2020: Presidential candidate Mustafa Akıncı made a statement saying that a company called 'Ada Research' from Istanbul is trying to steer the elections under the pretence of conducting a survey over the phone in the TRNC.

- 15 August 2020: MPs within the UBP, who were seen as opposing the then Prime Minister Ersin Tatar in the political back stages, were invited by the Republic of Turkey Ambassador to Nicosia Ali Murat Başçeri to attend a meeting at the Beyaz Ev, which belongs to the Security Forces Commandership. The Corps Commander and the MIT official in the TRNC also attended the meeting.

7. 30 August 2020: AKP politician Mehmet Metiner during the Tarafsız Bölge programme by Ahmet Hakan on CNN Türk, said, "When we say, 'the Greeks among us,' these are what

we mean. Akıncı is speaking like a Greek Cypriot. Akıncı is the leader of those in Cyprus, who say that they want to get rid of Turkey's hegemony."

8. 10 September 2020: Yeni Şafak Newspaper which is in AKP's pool media, had this headline: "TRNC President takes refuge in Greek Cypriot and hits Turkey – Akıncı of the Greek Cypriots "

9. 17 September 2020: Turkish Journalist Can Ataklı declared on the Tele 1 TV channel that he had the information that AKP officials would overthrow Akıncı, and said "that issue has been taken care of ".

10. 18 September 2020: Cenk Gürçağ, the Private Secretary of TRNC President Mustafa Akıncı, was invited to dinner by MIT Foreign Operations Head Kemal, MIT Greece and Cyprus Department Head Ali and MIT specialist Hakan, who had come from Ankara, and received the threat that Mustafa Akıncı's withdrawal from the candidacy 'would be better for himself, his family and close employees.'

11. 2 October 2020: The AKP advertising team of approximately 20 people, led by Ali Genç, Press Advisor to the Vice President of the Republic of Turkey, Fuat Oktay, met with Tatar and his team every night at Lord's Palace Hotel.

12. 6 October 2020: The water from Turkey, which had been cut off for 10 months since 9 January 2020, started to flow after 'the broken pipeline was repaired.' Recep Tayyip Erdoğan organised a ceremony participated by Ersin Tatar despite the election bans and declared that the closed-off city of Varosha would be opened.

13. 9 October 2020: While answering the questions of Reşat Akar, President Mustafa Akıncı he stated that he is receiving threats to withdraw from the elections.

14. 9 October 2020: A total of 2,000 TL was deposited into the accounts of 9,872 people, under the name 'Pandemic Social Support.'

15. 16 October 2020: It was revealed that the Rector of Near East University was forcing all the university employees to make propaganda on behalf of and to vote for Ersin Tatar.

Events with no specified date:

- MIT agents meet with Serdar Denktaş to have him withdraw his candidacy
- A team of 27 people appointed by Recep Tayyip Erdoğan come to Cyprus
- Materials are distributed to sports clubs
- 117 million TL is transferred to the TRNC

CONCLUSION

As the 'We are Reporting Group', we had stated from the very beginning that we would share with the public the results of our research on whether the 2020 TRNC Presidential Elections took place in a democratic and transparent environment, and whether the will of the Turkish Cypriots was reflected in the election results.

The 'We Are Reporting Group' has reached certain conclusions after a detailed examination of the election process and its results. Especially, the interviews conducted with the candidates, who directly participated in the elections; the social media report, which details the manipulative publications and disinformation on the social media and the attacks against the candidates by certain circles; the attacks by certain media in Turkey during the election process; the observations and experiences of the candidate representatives, who were assigned to the ballot boxes on the election day; and the survey, which is included in this report, provided important data that were taken into consideration for the conclusion of this report.

In this process, the 'We are Reporting Group' received many information and complaints. In finalizing this report, these information and complaints were investigated, and their accuracy was confirmed. In some cases, enough data could not be found to confirm certain complaints (for example, the temporary civil servants at the Social Services Department being asked to provide a written declaration of who they will vote for; villagers at a village coffee house being threatened with a gun etc.). However, especially the statements made by the candidates, the survey and the report mentioned above provided satisfactory data for this report.

It is clear from the content of this report and the clear violations that have been made public that the elections did not take place in a democratic, transparent and safe environment. Some candidates received death threats and they were subjected to threats of violence to withdraw their candidacy. Despite all the warnings of the TRNC High Election Board, the actions of the then Prime Minister Ersin Tatar, who was a UBP candidate during the election period, were in violation of the Election and Referendum Law, and did not comply with the propaganda ban (meetings and statements with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and the opening ceremony of the closed off city of Varosha). UBP candidate Ersin Tatar met with political figures close to the government in Turkey in a hotel in Kyrenia during the election period. These meetings were photographed and reported by certain media. Tatar could not provide a clear and satisfactory explanation after these meetings were reported. He also remained unresponsive to the public reaction over the intervention in the elections, and Turkey's open interference in the elections. Ersin Tatar became the subject of these interventions to the detriment of other candidates. In this process, other

candidates (as can be seen from the report's interview section) received open threats and attacks to withdraw their candidacy in favour of UBP candidate Ersin Tatar. President and independent candidate Mustafa Akıncı and his family became the target of open attacks and violence threats. Akıncı received direct death threats through TRNC Presidency's Private Secretary by individuals, who introduced themselves as MIT agents. Mustafa Akıncı received pressure to withdraw his candidacy and/or not become a candidate. Another candidate, Serdar Denktaş, was faced with threatening and aggressive statements. During this election period, there were increased troll attacks against candidates other than the UBP candidate and especially against the independent candidate Mustafa Akıncı on social media. These attacks turned into a propaganda tool for the external intervention aimed directly at changing the election result. All these together with the experiences and observations of the polling officials on the election day show us that the 2020 TRNC Presidential Elections were not held on equal terms, and in a transparent and democratic manner. They also clearly demonstrate that some candidates received serious death threats; and that some candidates carried out an election propaganda with financial resources and political support from Turkey.

Looking at the content of the entire report and the developments in the relevant period, we can say that the will of the Turkish Cypriots was not reflected in the ballot box in the 2020 TRNC Presidential Elections. We can also say that the democratic culture, and the entity, which is alleged to be independent and sovereign, went through a crisis of legitimacy with open interventions from Turkey. It is necessary for especially the TRNC President, who represents Turkish Cypriots in the inter-communal negotiations, to show that Turkish Cypriots are represented in a way that leaves no room for doubt. However, the claim that UBP candidate Ersin Tatar, who won the elections through the open interventions of Turkey, represents Turkish Cypriots, has been weakened.

This report openly shows that in the 2020 TRNC Presidential elections, there were open interventions from Turkey, and that the representative ability and legitimacy of the elected candidate is debatable. Most importantly, Turkish Cypriots, who have been struggling for democracy, human rights and survival for many years, saw these values being seriously damaged. They also witnessed their internal elections period and its result get marred with heavy external interventions from Turkey.

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT ON THE ELECTIONS:

During the election period, there have been unprecedented attacks and smearing efforts against some candidates through the social media. In the analysis we have made as the working group, we have determined that these social media accounts were 'troll' and 'fake' accounts and that they were activated on more or less the same dates. The detailed social media analysis is as follows:

INTRODUCTION

Measures taken by the Turkish Cypriot authorities to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus that emerged in Wuhan, China, led to the postponement of the TRNC Presidential Elections originally planned for 26 April 2019, and the cancellation of some election rallies and crowded election gatherings.

The mentioned restrictions led to an election period during which the candidates carried out their propaganda activities predominantly through social media platforms. However, convincing evidence was found about a coordinated effort to influence the elections through social media.

For this purpose, two types of suspicious account groups operating in an organized manner have been examined: The first is the fake accounts that are called 'troll' and that spread various manipulative, misinformative or provocative content. The other is the users with many followers, defined as 'superconnectors' that have the potential to spread messages effectively and quickly.

It is understood that both types of account groups clustered around certain communities, engaged opposition audiences with their posts, and were motivated to exacerbate political and social divisions both in the northern part of Cyprus and Turkey.

It is seen that these groups prioritized strategies such as spreading unfounded allegations and fake news against candidate Mustafa Akıncı, inaccurate information about the Cyprus negotiations, and provocative and hateful rhetoric aimed at inciting hatred and hostility in a portion of the public.

In line with this strategy, messages aimed at attacking Akıncı's personal rights, positioning Akıncı against the Turkish Republic or the people of Turkey, and creating an artificial Turkish-Cypriot conflict were shared throughout the election period. These were aimed at discrediting the candidate in the eye of the voters.

FINDINGS

Between December 2019 – February 2020, tens of Twitter accounts based in Turkey were activated, and/or accounts that behaved with different motivations previously under different nicknames were reactivated.



IMAGE 1

To this end, tens of different accounts with nicknames like “TorosToroslar, RaufDenктаas, KibrisliEcevit, kibrislimucahit, KibrisTarihi, Denктаsgiller, kibrishikayeler, DOGUAKDENIZ, RUMPOSTASI, MagusalSevket, asenaribogan, neizledikya, ayseserd, DuruKaya96, liderakinci, KenanBzkrt, moodumuz” were activated in the same period.

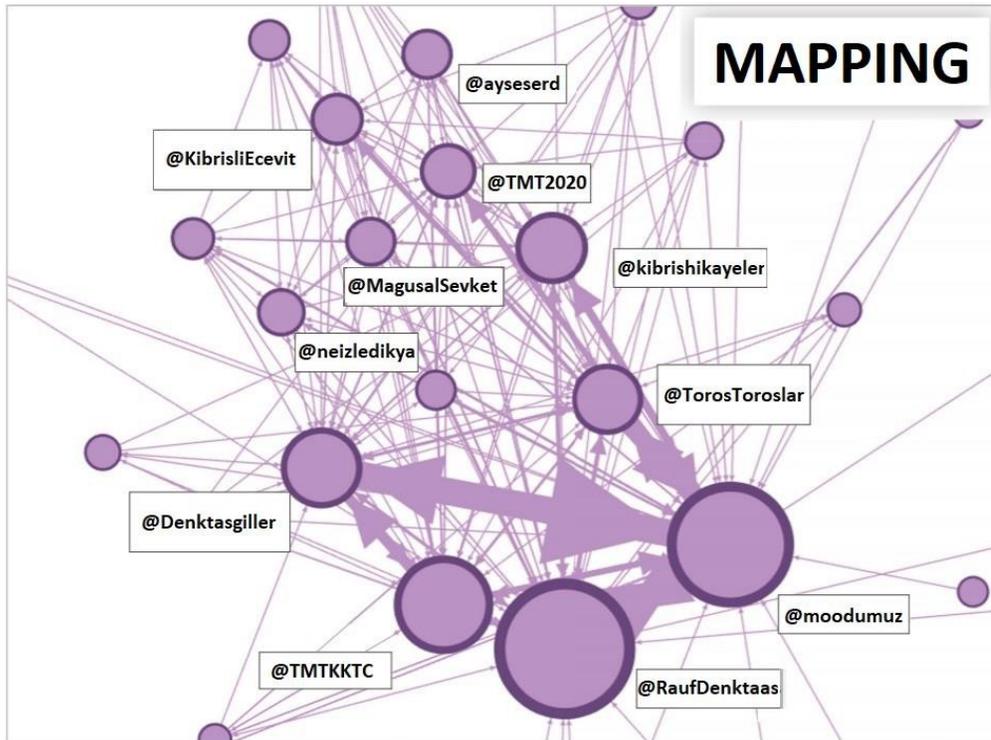


IMAGE 2

Through the *mapping* method it was determined that the accounts in question acted within the same cluster. It was also determined that many bots/fake followers were added to these accounts. The minimum number of bots/fake followers added was 1,000.

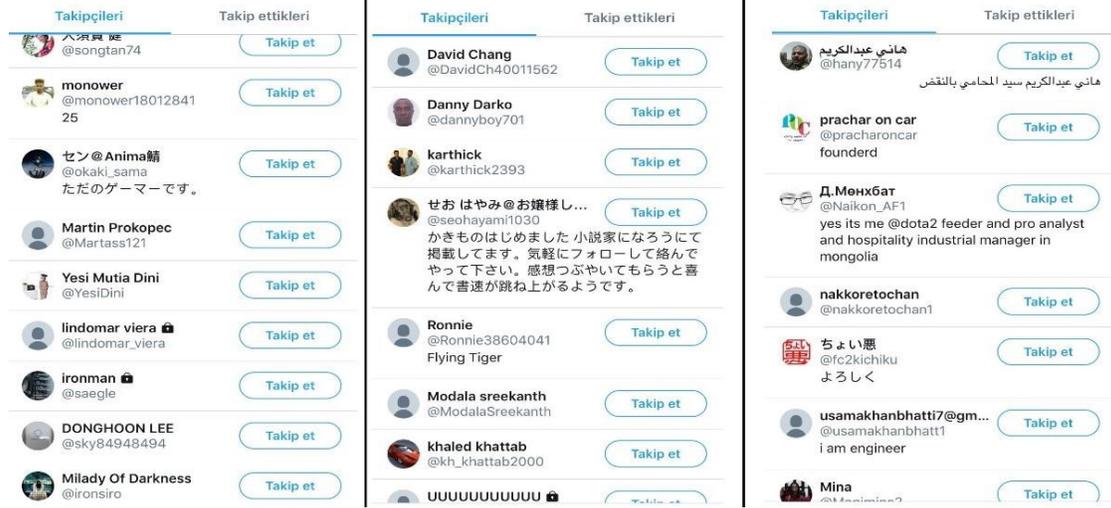


IMAGE 3

Besides them being coherent, the most significant common characteristic of these accounts was the posts on Cyprus and the fact that they pretended to be Cypriots by using photographs gathered from open sources.



IMAGE 4

It was seen that in the same period, fake accounts with a name similar to the one used by Mustafa Akıncı during his tenure were created. By sharing fake contents, these accounts aimed at misguiding and manipulating the community.



IMAGE 5

While the source of posts containing unfounded allegations, fake news, false information and hate speech against Akıncı were usually 'troll' accounts with Cypriot personas, thematic accounts assumed the role of 'superconnectors' and spread these posts.

Subsequently, through bot accounts managed from a single centre, these baseless claims were artificially turned into a trending topic (TT) on Twitter and discussed on other social media platforms. The aim was to create a public opinion against Akıncı.

After becoming a Trending Topic (TT), misinformative/manipulative posts were conveyed to wider audiences through media platforms close to the government in Turkey (newspapers, televisions, websites), and smear campaigns against Akıncı continued.



IMAGE 6

Because the most widely used social platform among Turkish Cypriots is Facebook, and thus the content on Twitter does not reach the Turkish Cypriot voters directly, it was determined that hundreds of fake accounts were created on Facebook between July 2020 and October 2020.

The manipulative content that was transferred to Facebook was spread in an organized manner through fake Facebook accounts in primarily buying and selling groups active in the northern part of Cyprus, humour, sports and citizens groups.

It has been observed that some media outlets close to the government in Turkey positioned Turkish Cypriot social media users as the target audience and shared these baseless claims as "sponsored content".

Besides Akıncı, Akıncı's family, close circle and Presidency personnel also suffered from cyber-attacks during the election period. In this context, baseless allegations and accusations were made that "a troll network was created by the Presidency", some names renowned by the Turkish Cypriot community were made a target. As a result, those names were exposed to slander, severe insults and threats.

AKINCI'NIN ÖRTÜLÜ ÖDENEKLİ ÇETESİ

Ali Bizden
KKTC Cumhurbaşkanlığı İletişim Koordinatörü

Gürdal Hüdaoğlu
Müşteşar

Cenk Gürçağ
(Özel Kalem)

Atıf Müezziner
Seçim, İletişim ve Strateji Uzmanı

Meltem Onurkan Samani
Cumhurbaşkanlığı Siyasi İşler ve Tarih Özel Danışmanı

Barış Burcu
(Sözcü)

Erhan Erçin
Diplomasi ve Ağ Özel Danışmanı

Bertan GÖRÜŞ
Seçim Kampanya Görevlisi

TROLLER

@s1e11sa1 @Arammojtabi @AlevAni @uglyturtleduck @alisan_58 @Kibrisliyk2018
@goulchakir @munurordali @kefkeff @ustasiyim61 @uyuyanuyuklayan @Afrandez_
@TheocharousH @emrahthepolitic @EsraAygin @tekmann_ali @TubiArici @GuvenNalbant

YANDAŞLAR

@barbarosansalfn @mertkancyp @MahmutAnayasa @Aysemden @RecepMarasi @oguc_mehmet
@alloglu_ayse @guneyIndeyzesi @alIkismir @Ulasrebel @evrendede @KemalBaykalli

IMAGE 7

The then Communications Coordinator Ali Bizden of the Presidency, Spokesperson Barış Burcu, and Political Affairs and History Special Advisor Meltem Onurkan Samani, those in Akıncı's team, as well as those, who declared support for Akıncı in the elections or declared that they wanted a solution within the framework of the United Nations (UN) parameters on the island, also became direct targets for pressure, bullying and intimidation policies consisting of serious insults, slander and threats.

RESULTS OF THE SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Perception and influence operations carried out through social media platforms threaten especially democratic elections, individuals, societies, economies and political systems all over the world.

International media and officials have repeatedly voiced allegations in 2017 and 2018 that during the United States (USA) 2016 Presidential Elections, some fake social media accounts were used to manipulate the elections.

According to these allegations; troll accounts created by the Russian Federation (RF) authorities tried to create a perception in favour of the former president of the USA, Donald Trump, by presenting manipulative and fake information against presidential candidates Hillary Clinton, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz and other Democratic Party figures.

A similar discussion took place during the 2017 French General Elections, and it was stated that fake news and some misinformative content, which circulated through social media platforms, provided a speculative information flow to influence the election results.

There are concrete and convincing findings regarding a systematic series of social media operations aimed at manipulation by trying to bias the political preferences of the Turkish Cypriot community from December 2019 until October 2020, when the TRNC Presidential Elections took place.

These virtual operations, while targeting especially Mustafa Akıncı, his close circle and the Presidency team of the period, were also aimed at intimidating Turkish Cypriot progressive figures, who advocate a solution in Cyprus on the basis of a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation.

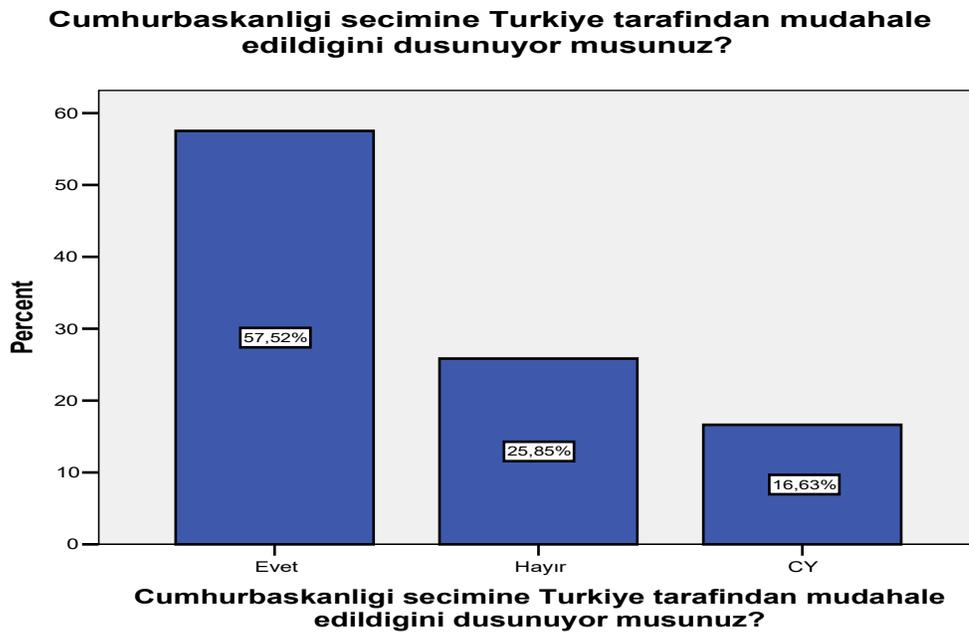
Observations and technical findings show that the mentioned social media operations originated from outside the island, and were of non-island origin and were coordinated. It has been revealed that these were spread by some media organisations, figures and social media accounts close to the government in Turkey.

SURVEY AMONG CITIZENS

This survey is the continuation of the work carried out by the Centre for Migration, Identity and Rights Studies (CMIRS) every three months. The survey was carried out in December 2020 among 500 people through telephone interviews.

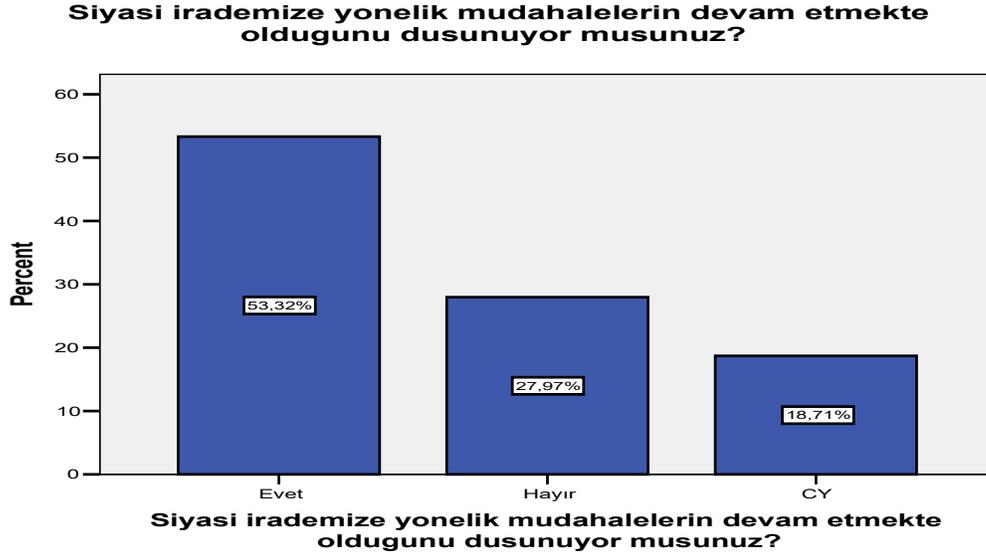
In this survey, the participants were asked whether there was any interference by Turkey in the presidential elections. 57.52% of the participants think that Turkey interfered in the presidential elections.

Do you believe that Turkey intervened in the Presidential elections?



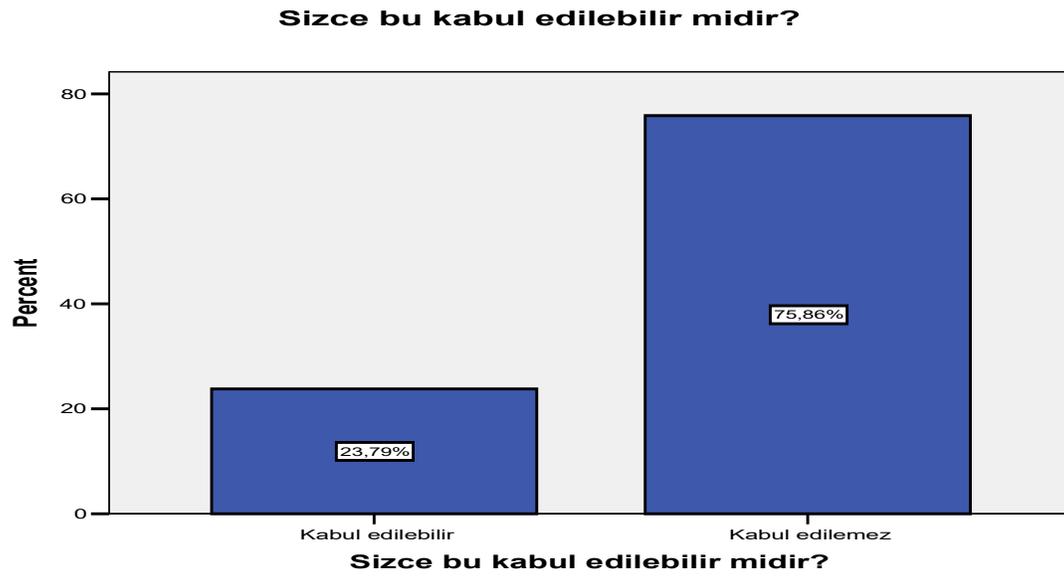
53.32% of the participants believe that the interference on our political will continues to this day.

Do you believe that interference in our political will is continuing?



75.86% of the participants stated that the interference in our political will is unacceptable.

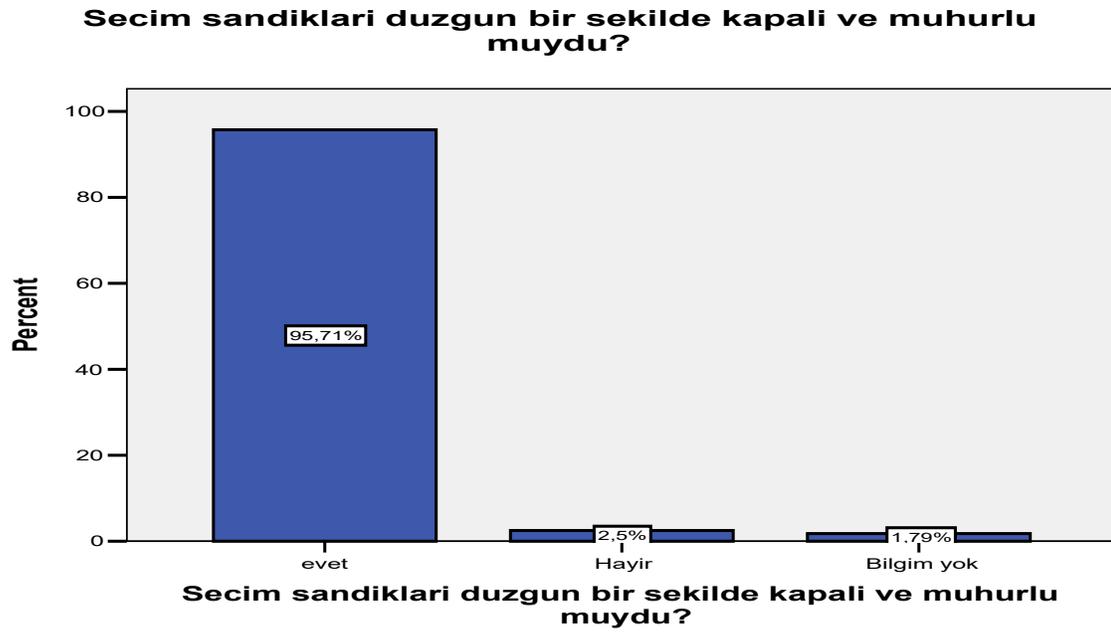
Do you think this is acceptable?



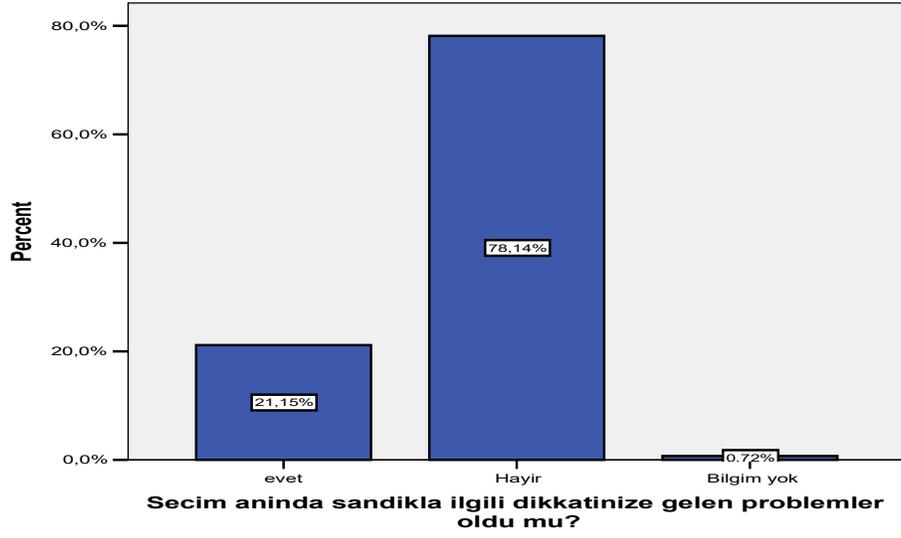
SURVEY AMONG POLLING OFFICIALS:

This survey was carried out among 280 polling officials through a telephone interview.

Were the ballot boxes appropriately closed and sealed?

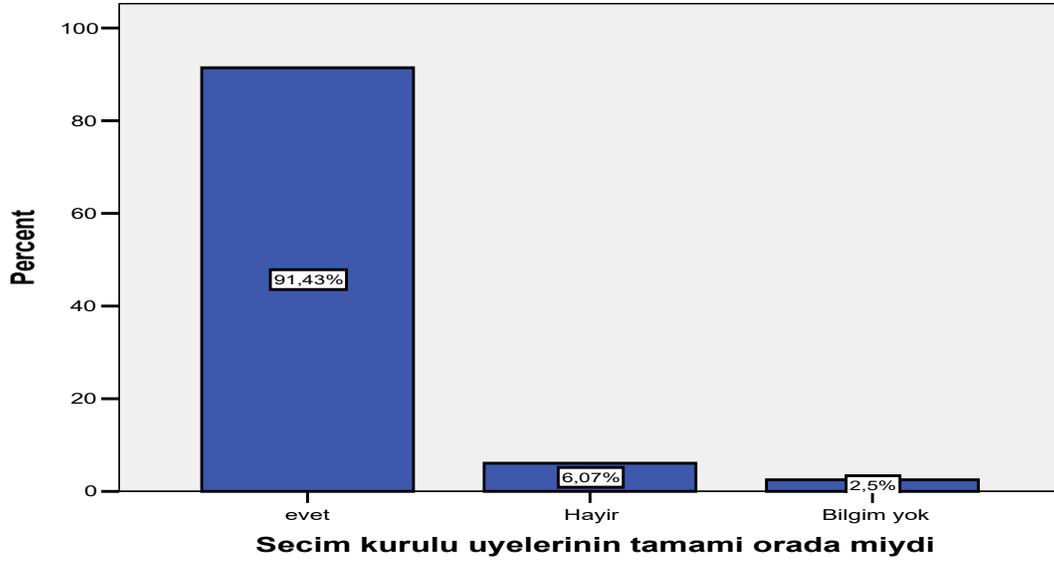


Were there problems that you observed regarding the ballot box?



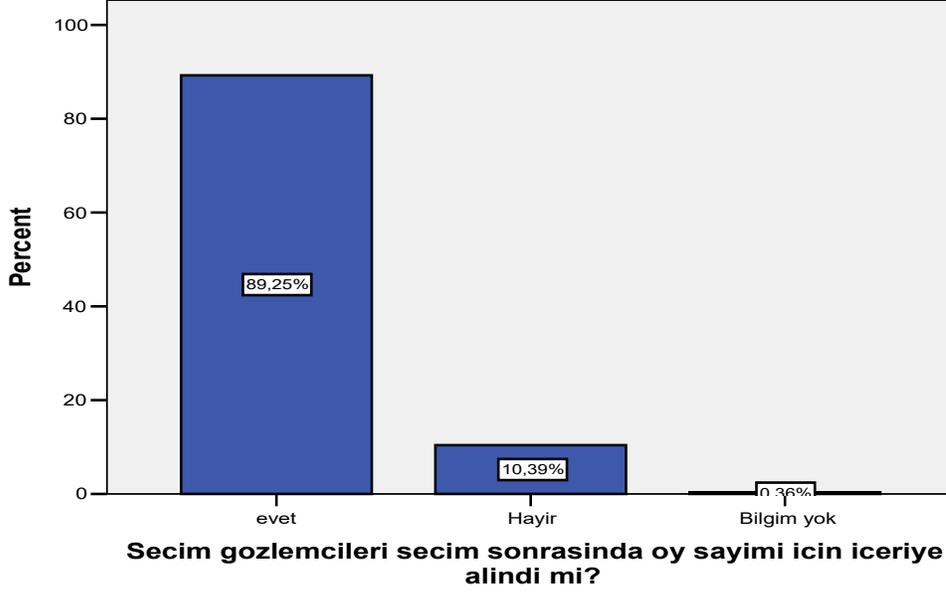
Were all the members of the election board present?

Secim kurulu uyelerinin tamamı orada mıydı



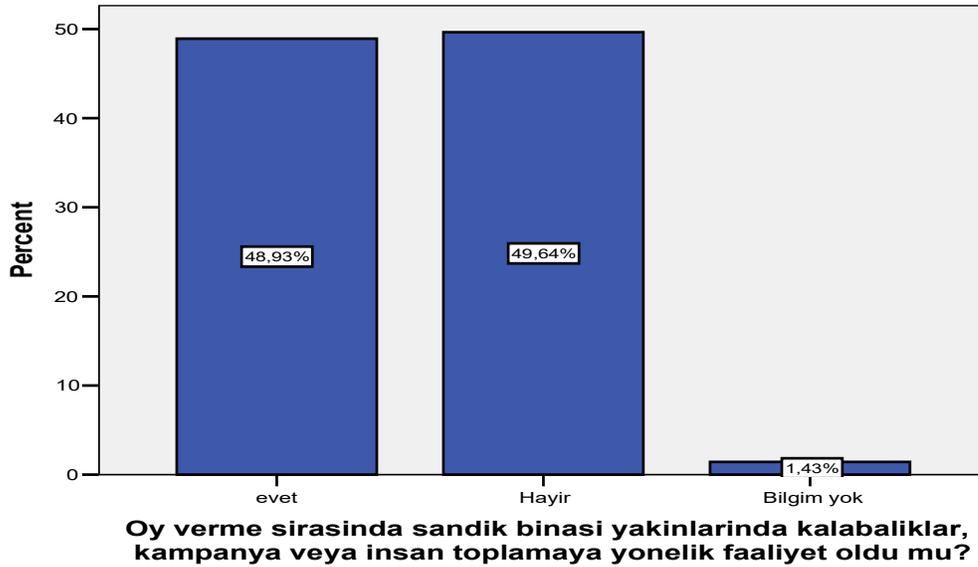
Were election observers accepted inside for the vote count?

Secim gozlemcileri secim sonrasinda oy sayimi icin iceriyeye alindi mi?



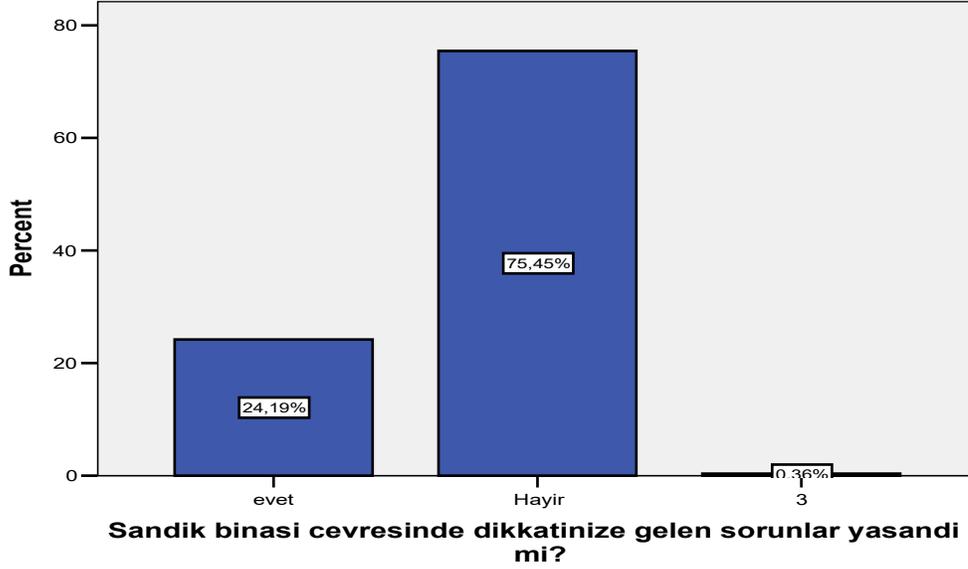
Were there efforts to gather crowds, make a campaign or gather people near the building where the voting took place?

Oy verme sirasinda sandik binasi yakinlarinda kalabaliklar, kampanya veya insan toplamaya yonelik faaliyet oldu mu?



Were there problems around the building where the voting took place?

Sandık binası çevresinde dikkatinize gelen sorunlar yasandı mı?



These problems were listed as:

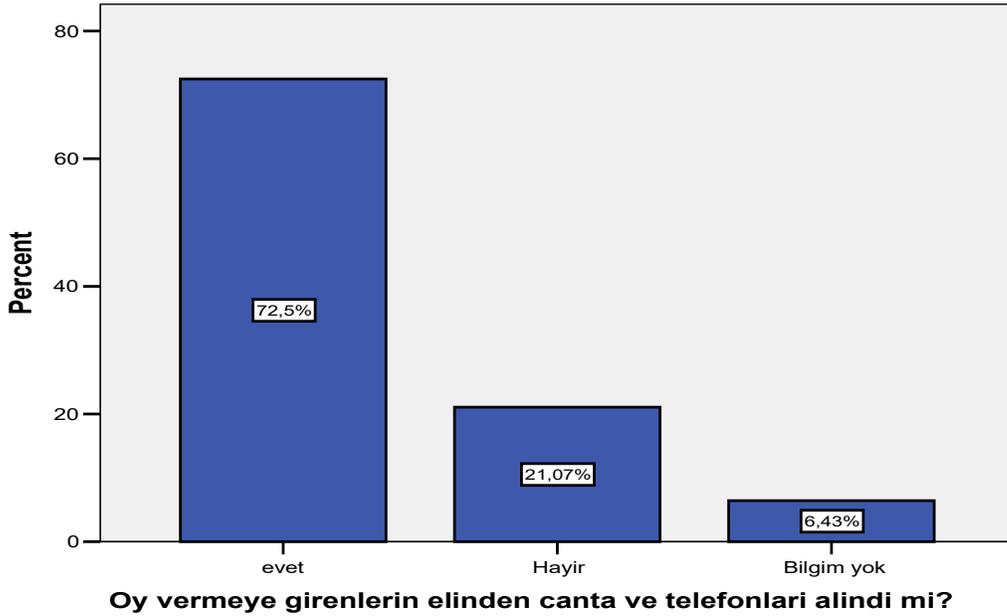
- In Atatürk Elementary School the mukhtar from UBP was at the door and he tried to guide people
- Tatar's men clearly put pressure. (verbal)
- Türkey Tokel and people from UBP threatened voters in front of the Barış ve Özgürlük Elementary School. Money was distributed. Identity Cards were collected a day before.
- People from UBP put pressure. They created problems during counting of the ballots, they placed a table
- 2,000 TL was distributed (ballot box no. 13)
- CTP observers were not accepted in the second round
- UBP supporters were creating perceptions in the public. They had steely gazes and put psychological pressure
- It was too crowded
- The room next door was the High Election Board
- UBP members were talking to the people and trying to get their votes
- Olgun Amcaoğlu was at the school I was at. A young man on a motorcycle was giving information to Mr. Olgun about the people, who came. Mr. Olgun noting down the names of the people mentioned

- A crowd made up of UBP supporters continuously talked to the people, who came and tried to persuade them to vote for the UBP candidate.
- The Minister of Finance came, a crowd gathered there at 5:30.
- Large families were welcomed by the representatives there. They had lists in their hands.
- An individual tried to vote in a ballot box other than the one he was registered to. I intervened. I was threatened by CTP. I gave his information to the relevant lawyer.
- I witnessed a police officer greet people and I believe that money was distributed. Some individuals had election lists in their hands.
- Photographs were taken
- There was an argument with the UBP representative. Only 2 representatives were allowed to stay in the room
- Money was distributed. Kurtuluş Elementary School ballot box 19
- Money was distributed by Mahmut Özçınar. Akçay no 2
- The voters lists were out there, and people were called in groups
- Some officials were supporting a certain candidate
- The voting room official, UBP observer handed a list to the official waiting outside. They made sure that the absentees were brought in
- UBP representative sat down with the list, he gave information about the absentees. There were objections in central İskele. There were fights in Yeşilköy. There were pressures during the vote count. The decisions were pro-UBP
- The presiding officer (from UBP) was chatting on the phone, we intervened, he was dismissed.
- The representative from UBP was checking the people who arrived against a list he had in his hand. I think they called those, who did not come. They were asking about the people, who had not come, and they were waiting for them
- Falsified ballots, threats, blackmail, buying votes
- UBP representatives were checking the names of people against these papers they had and were trying to collect votes this way
- They worked with lists. We called the High Election Board but could not reach anyone
- I observed that some individuals were conducting secret conversations before and after voting
- They were making controls with the lists they had
- Some people were telling the people, who came: 'Don't put out the sun' and 'Vote for the sun.' I witnessed a minister speaking on the phone and saying 'if the job is done, make the payment'
- The seals that were sent had a tape on the reverse side. Officials removed this tape. There were votes stamped with the reverse side of the seal (Kuruova)
- They made lists, they put pressure on people they had given money before. The police distributed.

- UBP representatives followed up with the voters with the lists they had
- There were interventions. Lists were being circulated outside. There were ballots that were folded in a different way.
- Names were given by those inside to those outside. The groups outside called the people, who did not come one by one. In every election period, the same people from the same party are called
- People were guided by the parties, there were conversations like 'as we agreed' between families and party representatives at the external doors. Various suggestions were made to bring people in groups to vote.
- I saw UBP members pick up people, who did not come, from their homes with rental cars.
- I saw party representatives take people from their homes to vote and bring them to the ballot box.

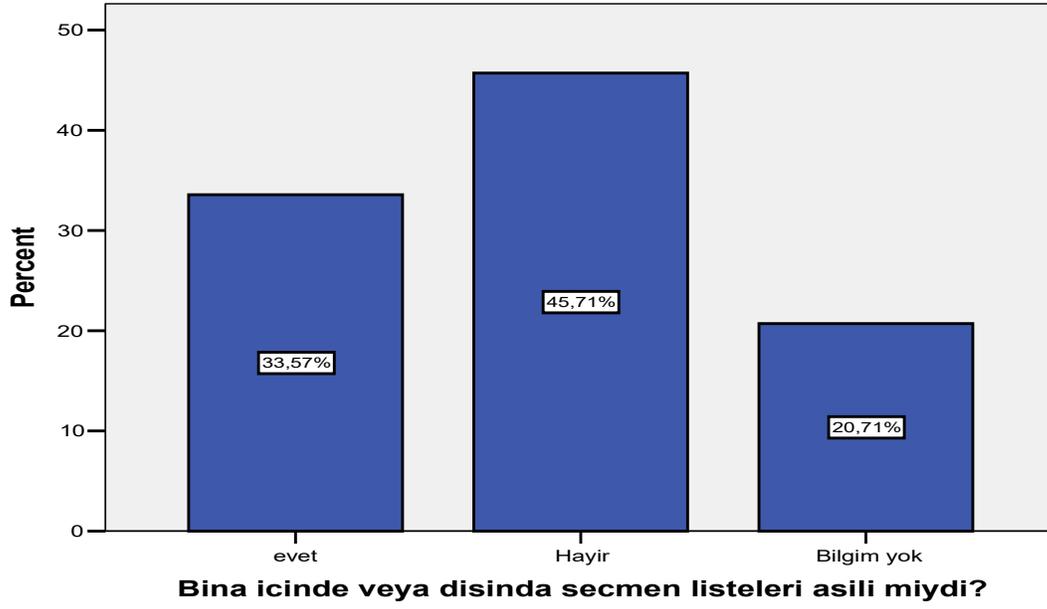
Were the bags and telephones of voters taken away?

Oy vermeye girenlerin elinden canta ve telefonlari alindi mi?



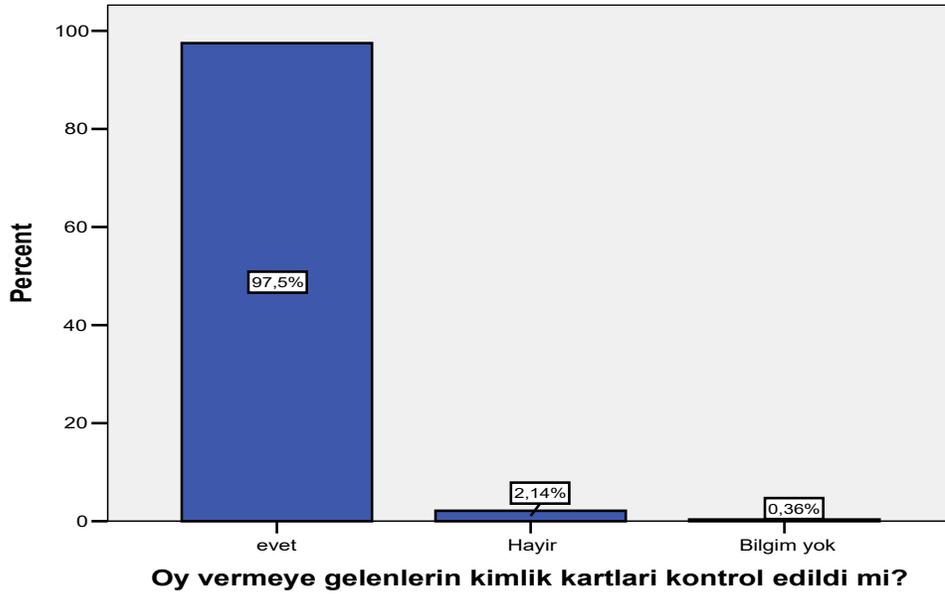
Were there electoral lists in or outside the building?

Bina icinde veya disinda secmen listeleri asili miydi?



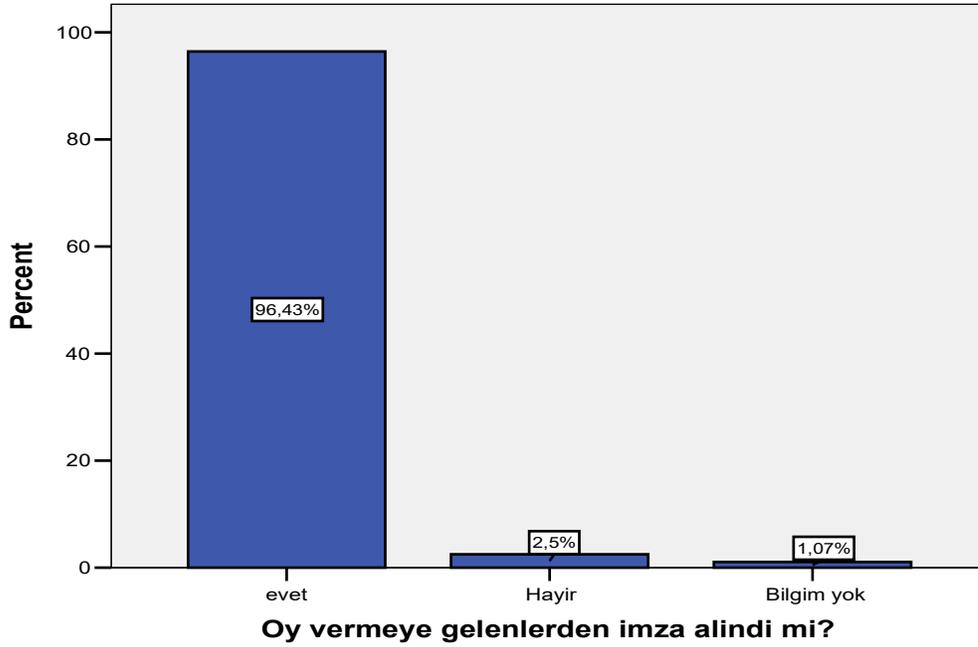
Were the ID cards of voters checked?

Oy vermeye gelenlerin kimlik kartlari kontrol edildi mi?



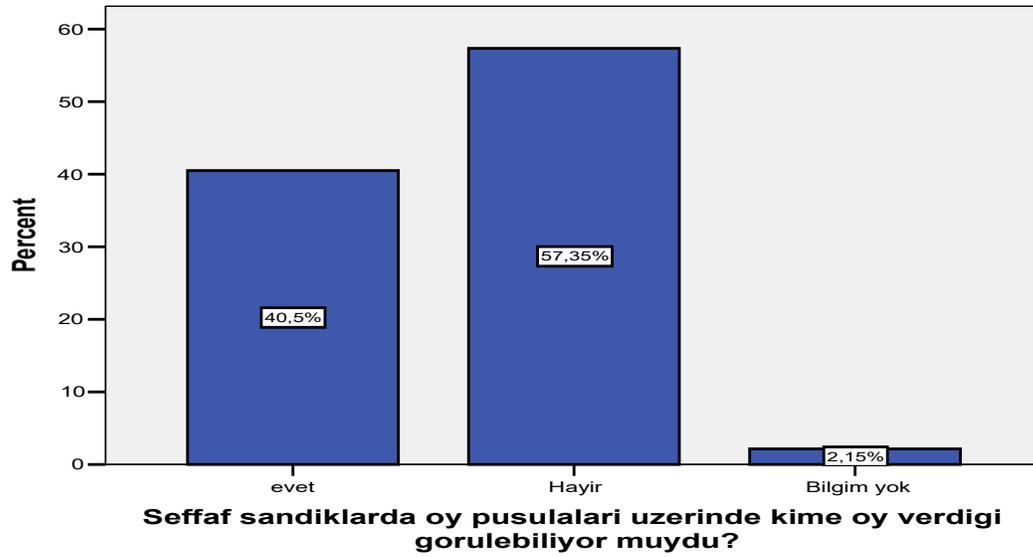
Were the voters asked for their signatures?

Oy vermeye gelenlerden imza alindi mi?



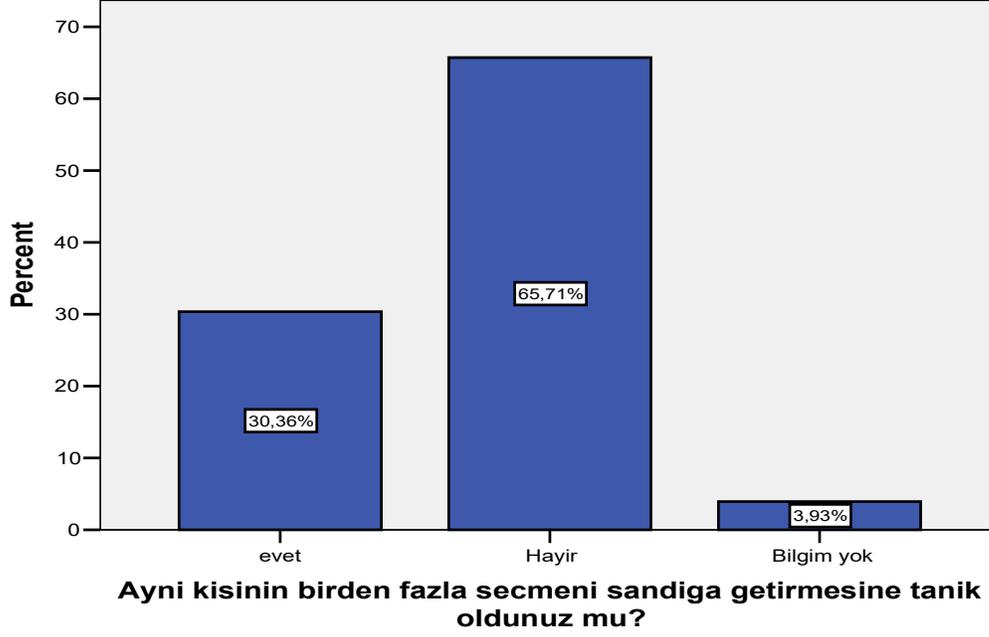
Could the votes on the ballots be seen through the transparent ballot boxes?

Seffaf sandiklarda oy pusulalari uzerinde kime oy verdigi gorulebiliyor muydu?



Have you witnessed the same person bring more than one voter to the ballot box?

Aynı kişinin birden fazla seçmeni sandığa getirmesine tanık oldunuz mu?



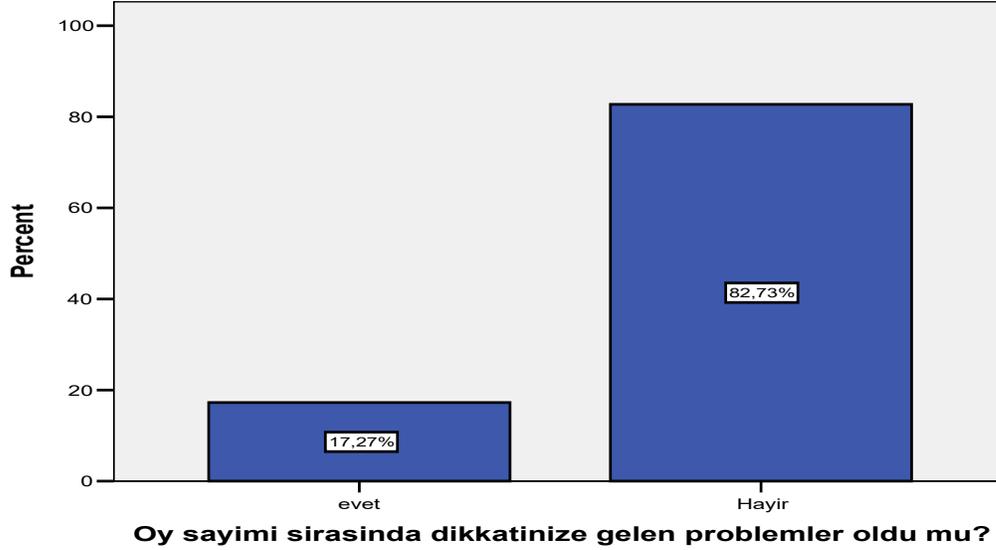
Were you allowed to serve as an observer during the vote count?

Sizin oy sayımında gözlemci olmanıza izin verildi mi?



Did you observe problems during the vote count?

Oy sayimi sirasinda dikkatinize gelen problemler oldu mu?



These problems were listed as follows:

- He was only able to watch from a distance.
- They didn't allow us to go inside, we placed a table to watch.
- Tatar supporters put pressured to have the ballots sealed twice counted, I warned the police, problem was solved.
- During the vote count, the other party opposed and tried to have our votes counted as invalid, but we intervened and there was not a big problem.
- Whenever there were objections, a group of 20 people from the other party made loud noises, started fights and arguments.
- The UBP observer tried to count the votes with the presiding officer, I intervened. I said that this was not possible. They backed down.
- There were arguments. Some tried to come in and intervene.
- There were objections about the ballots sealed twice, they said it was the shaking of the hand. The presiding officer was put under pressure.
- The presiding officer counted as valid 1 ballot sealed twice. He accepted a ballot that should not be accepted. At the last moment, when the vote count was over, he accepted this vote that should have been invalid.
- Different counting methods were used in different ballot boxes.
- We were not allowed in. Ballot box no. 24 in Kalkanlı.
- They made us sit far, then we got closer.
- It was done in a haste. There was no opportunity to observe.

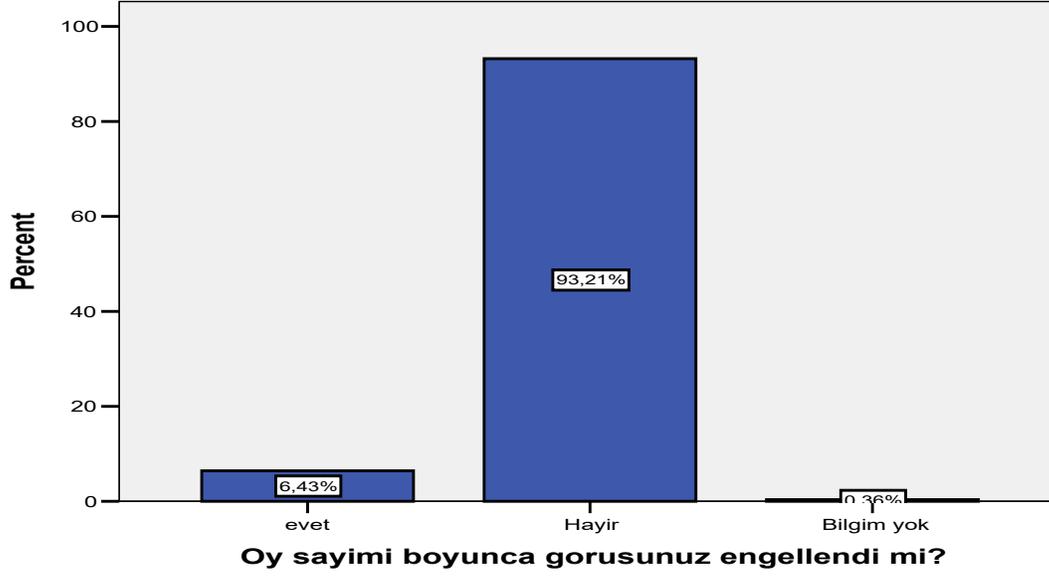
- YDP created chaos and unrest.
- There was an argument with the CTP observer.
- Ballots were cast on behalf of those abroad, there were objections, but these objections were not accepted.
- Although I was an observer in the first round, because there were two observers in the second round, I was not allowed inside on the grounds of covid 19.
- UBP observers and representatives were trying to cut off those, who came to vote and control them with the lists they had.
- Fast counting and objections were not taken into account
- Fast counting
- There were two ballots folded together. One was accepted and the other was considered invalid. Both should have been invalid.
- Ballots folded in a different way (sign)
- The head of the local party organization and the mukhtar asked why I came. I said I was an observer, they walked up to me marched on me, and the problem was not resolved even after the police officer came. I couldn't serve as an observer during the vote count. (They said, "You think we going to do something illegal?")
- UBP observers made baseless claims and had the presiding officer count this vote.
- Court judges in the Alsancak region had to explain the difference between observers and representatives.

Could all the observers observe the vote count?



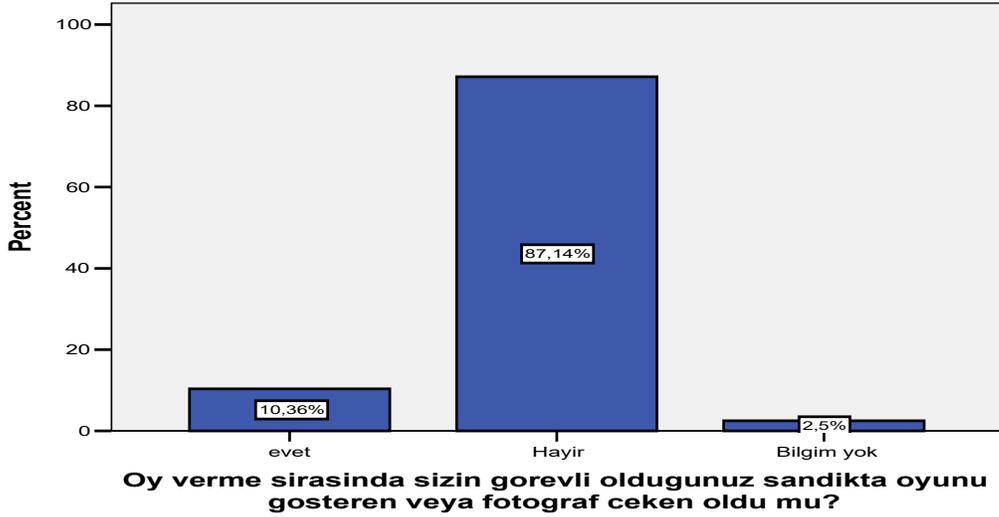
Was your vision blocked during the vote count?

Oy sayimi boyunca gorusunuz engellendi mi?

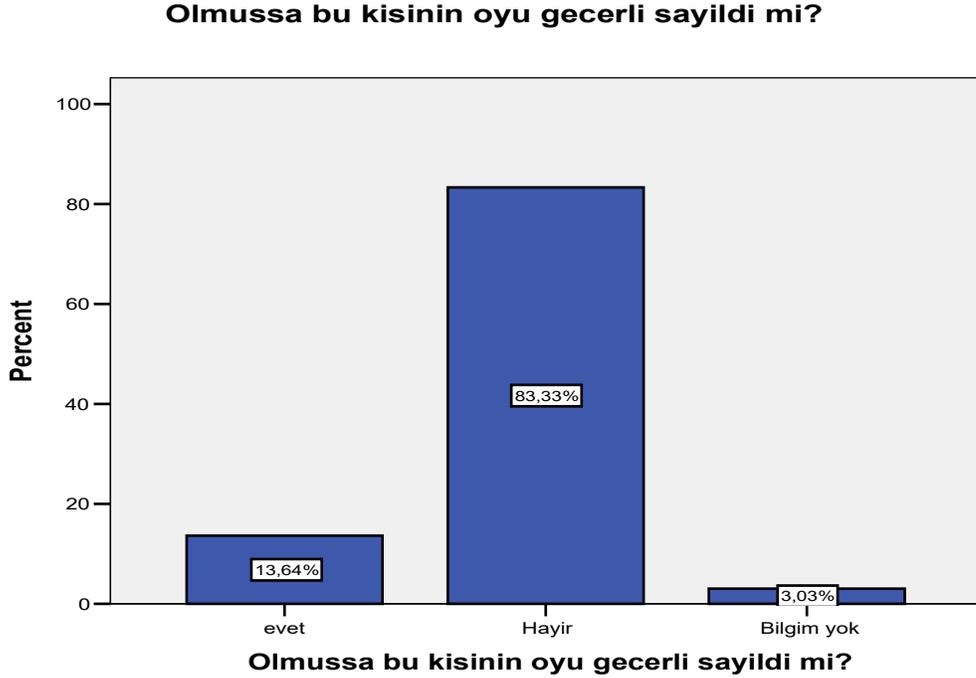


Did you have any voters who showed their ballots or took photographs?

Oy verme sirasinda sizin gorevli oldugunuz sandikta oyunu gosteren veya fotograf ceken oldu mu?



If so was his/her vote deemed valid?



Other comments:

- They forced people to do what they wanted them to do. Ersin Tatar gave a short speech in the Gönyeli municipality. On September 9, Taçoy spoke with people one by one and guided them.
- Due to the seal behind Akinci, when the voters cast their votes there were objections that this was a double seal. But it was solved after a little discussion.
- There were statements that UBP was leading and expressions like 'don't bother, we will win'.
- In the second election, a person came without an identity card, I intervened. Because it was a village, they were going to accept it. But I intervened so that everything is done according to the rules, and he gave his ID.
- I would have expected the High Election Board to be more attentive. They should have intervened against those with lists. I am of the opinion that the police did not properly prevent these situations and did not fulfil its duty.
- I encountered the problems listed above during the voting at the Yeniyüzyıl nursery school.
- Ballots were destroyed without being cast into the boxes.
- There were no observers in Balalan and Sipahi.
- I was an official at ballot box 1. In the notice I received, it said ballot box 30. I reported it to district election board, and they told me to change it by hand. I stated that such a thing was not possible. Then the prosecutor brought another notice with my ballot box. I think this was part of the intervention.

- The representative from UBP was sitting inside during voting. He was checking those who arrived against the list he had.
- There was an air of tension caused by the police.
- In the second round, an additional voter list was brought at Yedidalga ballot box no: 24 at 10:30. I am of the opinion that there were military personnel on this additional voter list. I objected but my objection was not accepted. I memorised the first name on the additional voter list. I reached out to some lawyers. I also explained the situation to Mr. Tacan Reynar through social media.
- Observer friends were blocked in other ballot boxes.
- We were not allowed in, we had to watch from the window.
- In the second round, the observers were changed during the vote count (except for the presiding officer). Those who came in the second round were UBP supporters and they tried to count some of the invalid votes, but they gave up this effort, when they saw that the presiding officer was democratic.
- The head of the balloting committee knew who the ballots with the reverse side of the seal belonged to.
- They followed the people they distributed money to.
- We saw that some polling officials were speaking with UBP supporters. We intervened.
- The voter said who he voted for, showed it and put it into the ballot box. The ballot was deemed valid.
- With the transparent ballot boxes, the ballots were very visible, and it could be seen who voted for who. I had difficulty getting in as an observer.
- Ballot box officials consist of the same people at every election, and even the police officers on duty are the same people. These persons belong to certain parties.
- Foreigners constantly asked for names during the voting process.
- The fact that the votes could be seen openly and clearly in the transparent ballot boxes created pressure on the people.
- People whose faces I saw for the first time came to vote.
- UBP deputies brought people to the ballot boxes, called everyone one by one and brought them to the ballot box.
- UBP representatives (inspector) were accepted into the room from the morning and was served drinks.
- The High Election Board was very careless in choosing the election board members and presidents. These people were taking sides.
- While presiding officers and police should be impartial, I saw that they treated the UBP observers in a different way. Even though they received food from the High Election Board UBP also served food.
- We had to tell the election board members which votes are valid, and which are not.
- I saw that the ballots were carried by the polling officials, and not the police.