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Kadir Has University “Survey of Social-Political Tendencies in Turkey” 2014

**ın 2014 people have talked about unemployment and economy, parallel structure has not entered to the publıc agenda**

The Survey of Social-Political Tendencies in Turkey,conducted every year by Kadir Has University, continues to reflect the changes in public opinion in Turkey with the results of the 2014 survey. According to the results, in Turkey people have talked about economic problems and unemployment in 2014. Terror has kept its place in the agenda while in politics personal success of every politician was in decline. 50.3 percent of the respondents believed in the existence of the parallel structure while only 3.6 of them saw this as a problem. 38.4 percent of the respondents believe that 17-15 December operations were an attempt to uncover the corruption within the government. Turkish people expressed apreference for a parliamentary system of government with 79.3 percent.

Prof. Mustafa Aydın, Kadir Has University Rector; Prof. Hasan Bülent Kahraman Kadir Has University Vice-Rector; Prof. Osman Zaim, Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences Dean and; Prof. Banu Baybars Hawks member of Faculty of Communicationspresented the results of the“Survey of Social-Political Tendencies in Turkey”, conducted annually by the university, with a press conference.

The “Survey of Social-Political Tendencies in Turkey” was conducted between 4and 14 December 2014 with 1000 respondents, representative of the country’s population, aged 18 and above,residing in the city centres of26 cities. Questions on Turkish politics, economics and international relations were answered by the respondents in face to face interviews.

**CONSERVATISM ON THE RISE**

In response to the question “How would you describe yourself politically?” 37.1 percent of the respondents described themselves as “Conservativewhile 16.5 percent described themselves as “Republican/Kemalist”. 20.2 percent of the respondents defined themselves as being “Nationalist”. In responding to the question ‘How would you define yourself ethnically?’ 59.7 percent of respondents defined themselves as ‘Turks’ while 10.3 percent defined themselves as ‘Kurds’.It came out that 15.5 percent of respondents were not aware of the concept of “ethnicity”.

**UNEMPLOYMENT and economıcs are STILL THE MOST Important PROBLEMs**

Like all of the previous years, the most important problem according to respondents is unemployment. While last year 29.3 percent indicatedunemployment to be the most serious problem in Turkey, the amount of respondents giving the same answer to this question this year has risen to 33 percent.

According to 12.8 percent of respondents, currently Turkey’s most important problem is the economic crisis, while for 5.5percent it is the high cost of living, and for 6.4 percent it is income inequality. Those who see unemployment and economic problems to be the most important problemis now, at 57 percent. Terror, with a sharp rise has gone up to 13.9 from 4.7 since last year. The percentage of those seeing the Parallel Structure as Turkey’s most important problem has been 3.6. Corruption has not been regarded as a problem (0.7 percent).

**ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ON THE RISE**

In response to the question “How did the economic developments of the preceding year influence you?” there has been a sharp rise this year. 45.3 % of respondents stated that they were negatively affected by the economic developments of the preceding year. This rate was 1.6 in 2012 and 2.5 in 2013. 34.8 percent of respondents described the economic policies of the government as successful, while 43.7 percent described them as being unsuccessful. 31.3 percent of respondents stated that they weren’t affected by the economic developments of the preceding year, while 5.8percent replied that they were “unable to provide adequately for myself/my family”. 7.1 of respondents stated that they were better off economically.

**MILITARY SOLUTIONs FOR TERROR**

The most significant change compared to last year was in the responses to the terror issue.30.9 percent of respondents stated that political methods were the most effective way to solve this problem. Thisresponse to the same question last year was 35.8 percent. In 2013, 35.9 percent of respondents saw military methods as the way to solve the terror issue while this rate went up to 39.2 percent in this year’s survey. The ratio of respondents last year who regarded economic measures as being the best remedy for terror was 13.2 percent, while this year it was 9.1.

43.5 percent of respondents described President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to be successful this year whilethe ratio of those who found him to be unsuccessful was 35.9 percent. 37.5 percent of respondents thought positively about Presidency’s moving from Çankaya, while 48 percent of them thought the opposite. 37.6 percent of respondents regarded the new Presidency Building as a waste of country’s resources while 33.2 of them argued that it showed Turkey’s power.

According to the answers of questions about politics, the ratio of those who describe the government as successful has risen by 1 point to 36.7 while the rate of those finding Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu successful has been 33.8. Last year, during Erdoğan’s term of office, the ratio of those finding the Prime Minister successful was 38.7 percent.

The percentage of respondents describing the main opposition CHP as being successful went down from 19.6 percent last year to 15.4 percent this year. Those who find the main opposition party CHPto be unsuccessful has increased since last year from 64.4 to 67.9 percent. Those who find the CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğluto be successful has decreased from 19 to 13percent since the last survey while those thinking he is unsuccessful went up to70.2.

According to the latest survey’s results in which those who are uncertain are spread, 42.1 percent of respondents will vote for AKP if there is an election today, while 23.4 for CHP, 14.3 percent for MHP, 9.1 percent for HDP. 10.6 percent of respondents told that they would not vote.

**THE most TRUSTED INSTITUTION IS THE mılıtary**

Trust in the military has increased from 51.7 to 57.7 making it the most trusted institution in the country again. Trust in the Institution of the Presidency has fallen from 40.7 to 40.5 percent since last year and trust in the police/law enforcement has gone up from 35.3 to 39.5percent.

**LOSS OF TRUST IN FREE MEDIA**

According to the answers of questions about democracy and media, the greatest change compared to last year was in terms of the freedom of media. In responding to the question “Do you think there is free speech in Turkey” the rate of those saying “Yes” went down from 30.8 to 27.5 while those saying “Yes” to “The media in Turkey is free” went down from 38.5 to 24.6. Answering the questions about democracy, 12.9 percent of respondents said “There is no democracy” while 30.3 said “Democracy is getting weaker”, 31.4 said “It is a democratizing country” and 20 percent said “It is a democratic country”.

**ANSWER: JUDICIARY IS BECOMING POLITICIZED**

58.7 percent of respondents believed that Turkish judiciary is becoming politicized while 24.2 of them thought the opposite. According to the survey, the rate of those who find the government’s foreign policy performance successful is 32.5. In the survey, Israel isagain at the top of the list of countries to “pose the biggest threat to Turkey” this year, the latest political developments positively affected the desire of collaboration with USA in foreign policy.

The rate of respondents who support the government’s views on Kobani is limited with a 19.1 percent. The amount of respondents who think that ISIS is a terrorist organization is 93.2 and those who believe that it is a threat for Turkey is 82.3.