

ÖZLEM ZINGIL KÖK

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth : 30.11.1979
Place of Birth : Bornova, İzmir (Turkey)
Passport Holder : Republic of Turkey

EDUCATION

2025 – present International Doctorate Programme: Business and Human Rights;
Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg, FAU Forschungszentrum Center for Human Rights Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU CHREN)
2008 – 2011 MA in Cultural Studies;
Istanbul Bilgi University, Graduate School of Social Sciences
2005 – 2007 LL.M in Economic Law;
Galatasaray University, Graduate School of Social Sciences
1997 – 2002 Bachelor of Laws, (LL.B)
Marmara University, Faculty of Law

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

January 2021 – present **Mekanda Adalet Derneği (MAD – Center for Spatial Justice)**, Legal Studies and Advocacy Programme – Programme Advisor

Leads the thematic area of business and human rights, providing strategic guidance and direct support to the organization as well as identifying emerging issues in the field. Collaborates closely with and provides support to the Environmental and Climate Justice Programme Coordinator on issues of corporate accountability. Designs and coordinates field research and legal interventions on environmental justice and business and human rights, drafting submissions to key international human rights mechanism including for Universal Periodic Review (UPR), UN Working Groups, and UN Special Rapporteurs as well as Rule 9.2 communications to the Council of Europe. Conducts legal documentation and empirical analysis to inform evidence-based advocacy on environmental justice and business and human rights.

Represents the organization in international civil society networks, including OECD Watch and the Coalition Against SLAPPs in Europe (CASE).

October 2017 – October 2025 **Hakikat Adalet Hafıza Çalışmaları Merkezi (Truth Justice Memory Center)**, Legal Studies Programme – Programme Director

Leads the strategic planning and operational management of the Legal Studies Programme, with a specific focus on enforced disappearances, police violence, impunity, human rights defenders and the shrinking of civic space in Turkey. Oversees and represents the organization at advocacy spaces before international human rights bodies, including the UN Working Groups, UN Special Rapporteurs and the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Manages a team of human right lawyers, including coordinating staff workloads, implementing and reporting on projects associated with Legal Studies Programme; oversees the work of Legal Studies Programme, conducting legal documentation, trial monitoring, and research.

September 2014 – January 2016

Uluslararası Şeffaflık Derneği (Transparency International Turkey),
General Coordinator, Lead Researcher

As a General Coordinator, directed the organizational strategy, staff management, and public representation of Transparency International Turkey, aligned with the Transparency International Secretariat's policies.

As Lead Researcher, developed policy on anti-corruption issues to help inform Turkish government and corporate actors and conducted research on corruption risks and policy implementation in the Turkish private sector. Provided training and policy advice to businesses on corporate social responsibility, transparency, and anti-corruption policies.

September 2014 – today

Self-employed Lawyer

Specializes in public law and human rights, with a focus on freedom of expression, right to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, and the right to liberty and security. Provides legal and regulatory advice on pressing human rights issues in Turkey to international NGOs and human rights bodies, such as the European Parliament Standing Rapporteur on Turkey, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, and Permanent Representatives of the member States of the Council of Europe. Represents clients before the Turkish Constitutional Court and the European Court of Human Rights.

June 2006 – September 2014

Doğuş İnşaat ve Ticaret A.Ş. (Dogus Construction Co.), Legal Counsel

Supported the legal management of construction, infrastructure, engineering and procurement projects in Turkey, Balkans, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Libya, and Qatar. Advised the all levels of operational teams; drafted and negotiated contracts for the construction and engineering works and public-private partnerships; provided legal and regulatory analysis and advice across commercial and labour law domains; supervised internal and external legal teams, including work related to commercial arbitration; supported the other entities within the Doğuş Group (such as Garanti BBVA and TüvTürk).

September 2003 – May 2006

Akinci Law Office, Legal Intern (until June 2005) and Attorney at Law

Advised domestic and international clients in sectors, such as telecommunication, construction, transportation, consuming goods, and automotive. Participated in corporate and commercial transactions, including private mergers and acquisitions (both domestic and cross-border); conducted legal research and provided advice across a range of commercial law issues; engaged in commercial and investment arbitration as a member of legal teams with relation to investment projects in Turkey, Russia, and Kazakhstan.

MEMBERSHIPS

The European Society of International Law (ESIL – SEDI), member

Center for Spatial Justice, founding member <https://mekandaadalet.org/en/>

Networks of Dispossession Collective, founding member <http://mulksuzlestirme.org/index.en/>

Human Rights Association, member <https://ihd.org.tr/en/>

Istanbul Bar Association, admitted in 2005.

SELECTED RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation and Environmental Defenders in Turkey: Law, Accountability and the Governance of Dissent (Book Chapter) In: Sostenibilidad y actividades empresariales: desafíos normativos en el Derecho internacional, europeo y nacional (a la luz de los nuevos retos geopolíticos), Carlos R. Fernández Liesa and Carmen Márquez Carrasco, eds. *In press*

After the *Apelasis*: Memory and Absence in Istanbul (Book Chapter) In: Prof. Dr. Turgut Turgut Tarhanlı'ya Armağan: Politika, Ekonomi ve Toplum Kesişiminde Hukuk ve İnsan (2026, in Turkish, Oniki Levha Yayınları)

[Law in the Shadow of Security: Violations of the Right to Life of Children and Youth in the Kurdish Region of Turkey \(2000–2015\)](#) (Co-Author and Editor) (2025, in Turkish and English, Truth Justice Memory Center)

Taking the Rights and Rightsholders Seriously: Guidance and Toolbox on Access to Remedy (Lead Researcher and Author) (2025, in Turkish, Center for Spatial Justice)

[Seeking Environmental Justice through Legal Means](#) (Lead Researcher and Author) (2024, in Turkish and English, Center for Spatial Justice)

Law Changes, Oppression Remains: Turkey's Counter-Terrorism Legislation since 1980 (Researcher and Co-Author) (2024, in Turkish, Truth Justice Memory Center)

[SLAPP: Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation in Environmental Disputes](#) (Lead Researcher and Co-Author) (2023, in Turkish and English, Center for Spatial Justice)

[An Overview of the Corporate Human Rights Responsibility in Turkey: Istanbul 3rd Airport, Galataport Istanbul, Hunutlu Thermal Power Plant, Kirazlı Gold Mine, and Yusufeli Dam](#) (Lead Researcher and Co-Author) (2022, in Turkish and English, Center for Spatial Justice)

[Keep the Volume Up: Intimidation Policies Against Rights Defenders 2015-2021](#) (Co-Author) (2022, in Turkish and English, Truth Justice Memory Center)

The Problem of Impunity for gross human rights violations committed in the 1990s in Turkey: The Prosecution Stage (Co-Author) (2021, in Turkish, Truth Justice Memory Center)

[Private Sector Anti-Corruption Guide](#) (Lead Researcher and Co-Author) (2016, in Turkish and English, Transparency International Turkey)

“National Integrity System – Turkey” (Contributor and reviewer) (2016, in Turkish, Transparency International Turkey)

“Open Data – Current Situation in Turkey and the Role of the Civil Society” (Author) (2016, C20 Turkey Position Paper)

“Enforcement of Anti-Corruption Laws: Turkey; UNCAC Civil Society Review 2015” (Co-Author) (2015, Transparency International) - monitoring report for implementation of UNCAC by Turkey.

“Exporting Corruption 2015” (Author of Turkish Chapter) (2015, Transparency International) - monitoring report for implementation of OECD Anti-Bribery Convention.

“Corruption in Turkey: Where, Why and How?” (Co-Author) (2015, Transparency International Turkey) – public survey on corruption perception.

Booklet “Impunity and Media” (Co-Author) (2015, in Turkish, Transparency International Turkey)

Assessment Report [“Transparency in Corporate Reporting: Assessing Borsa İstanbul BİST-100 Companies”](#) (Lead Researcher and Co-Author) (2015, in Turkish and English, Transparency International Turkey)

“The Language Banned by the Law: An Overview to the Prohibitions on the Language from 1980 to Today” (2011, MA Thesis, in Turkish, Istanbul Bilgi University, Graduate School of Social Sciences)

“Legal Actions against the Board of Directors’ Resolutions in Accordance with Article 12 of the Turkish Capital Markets Law” (2007, LL.M project, in Turkish, Galatasaray University, Graduate School of Social Sciences)