



THE NIGHT

UNCOVERING DETAILS OF THE FAILED COUP: TRACKING THE COUP PLOTTERS

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Daily Sabah Centre for Policy Studies is an Istanbul-Ankara-based, non-profit institute that focuses on Turkey's vibrant socio-political landscape and its reflections and wider implications both at the regional and global levels.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	■	Introduction
3	■	Military equipment used by putschists during the night of the coup
4	■	Critical locations in Ankara
12	■	Air traffic of the failed coup attempt
14	■	Critical locations in Istanbul
19	■	Targeting media
22	■	Financial damage caused by failed coup attempt



INTRODUCTION

On the evening of July 15, a small group of rogue soldiers within the Turkish military attempted to seize control of the government through a coup d'état. That Friday night, chaos wreaked havoc throughout the country as military tanks and gendarmerie forces blocked the Bosphorus and Fatih Sultan Mehmet bridges in Istanbul, as well as other strategic locations in various other cities. Military helicopters and F-16 jets swarmed overhead in cities and soldiers surrounded and heavily assaulted key government institutions, including the Parliament building in Ankara, which was bombed 11 times while deputies were still inside. At midnight, in an effort to take over key media outlets, putschists seized the state-run Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT).

The testimonies given by some of the junta soldiers and tangible evidences point to Gülenist Terror Group (FETO) leader Fethullah Gülen as the mastermind behind the failed coup. A retired imam, who currently resides in self-imposed exile in rural Pennsylvania, Gülen, and his followers, also referred to as Gülenists, have traditionally held positions of power in the judiciary, police force, state departments and media in Turkey.

President Erdogan, who, at the time the heinous operation was being played out, was on vacation in the western coastal city of Marmaris, used his cellphone's FaceTime application to connect to CNN Türk news channel just after midnight that same day. In his speech, the president called on the people to march into the streets to defend democracy. After a long night of violence, the dust began to settle on July 16 at around 8:00 a.m.. Seven-hundred unarmed soldiers who had occupied the General Staff building in Ankara surrendered to the police and 50 coup soldiers lay down their weapons on Bosphorus Bridge, one of the first locations secured by putschists the night before.

After the coup attempt, the state declared a three-month state of emergency. A total of 2,136 judges, 1,797 police officers and 6,314 pro-coup soldiers, with links to FETO have been arrested and Turkey has issued an arrest warrant for Gülen, the man responsible for the events that left 238 people dead and 2,190 wounded. This report, prepared by the DS Centre, focuses specifically on the technical details of what the coup plotters did on the night of July 15.

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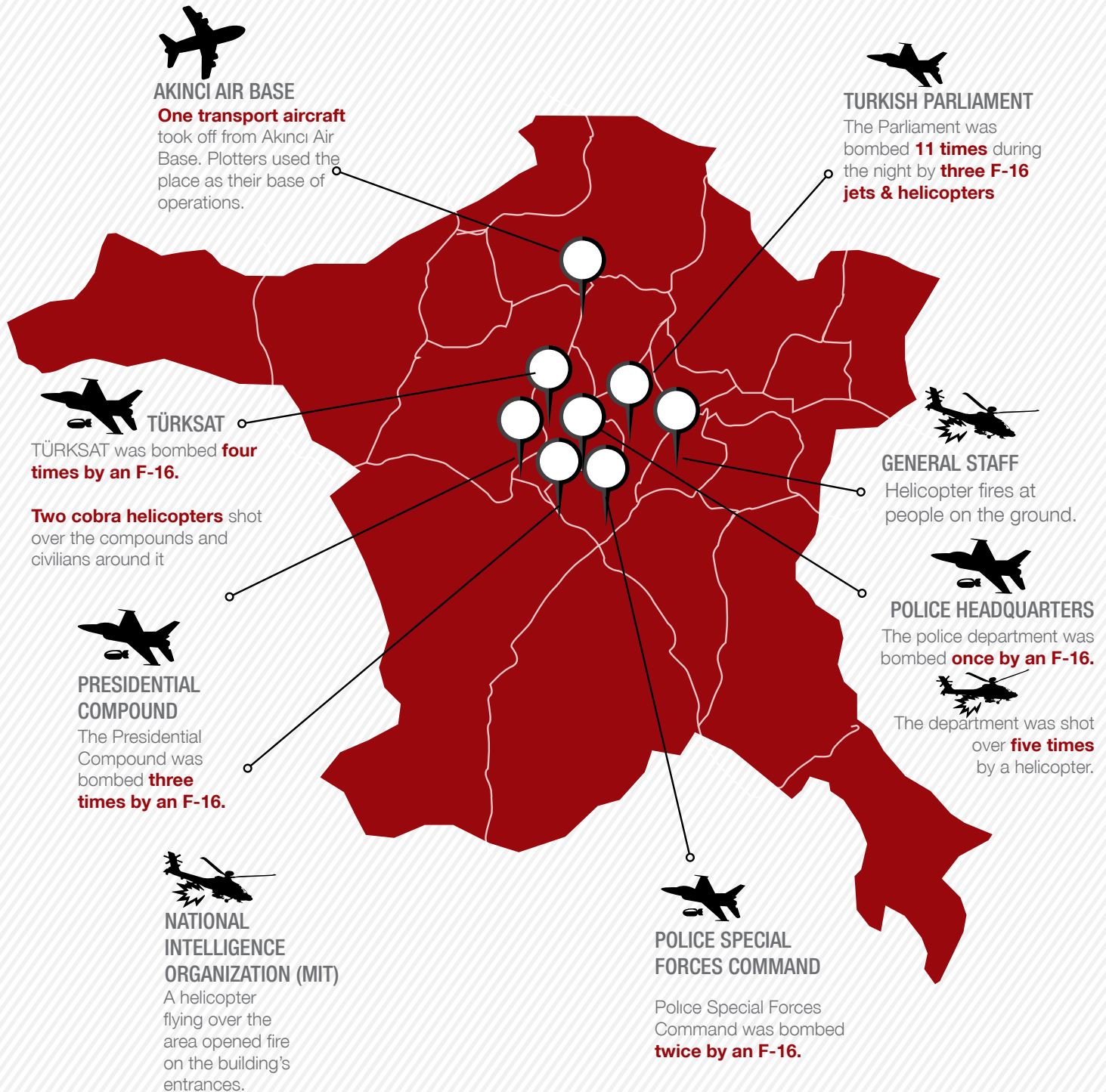
MILITARY EQUIPMENT USED BY PUTSCHISTS DURING THE NIGHT OF THE COUP

The most concrete traces of the coup night were the tanks on the streets along with the low-flying jets across the country. F-16 jets, piloted by the coup plotters, roared low over the country repeatedly during the chaos of Friday night, shattering windows and terrifying civilians with sonic booms.





CRITICAL LOCATIONS IN ANKARA



F-16s started to fly extremely fast and low over Ankara from 10:00 p.m. onward.

TURKISH PARLIAMENT WAS BOMBED



The building was bombed **11 times** during the night, injuring a number of police officers and staff and damaging the Parliament building. Coup helicopters shot and sortied over Parliament **8 times** on the night of the coup. **More than 15 blasts** were heard.

1:16 A.M.
(SATURDAY)



8 TANKS surround the Parliament's Dikmen entrance in the west, with four tanks at the Çankaya entrance in the east.

2:05 A.M.

95 deputies from three political parties (AK Party, CHP, MHP) meet at Parliament to denounce the coup attempt.

2:42 A.M.



The first F-16 bombs Parliament, where deputies had convened in the General Assembly hall for a live broadcast meeting.

02:49 A.M.

Deputies in Parliament take shelter.

3:22 A.M.

The second bomb was heard in Parliament.

3:23 A.M.

The third bomb was heard in Parliament.



PRESIDENTIAL COMPOUND

4:00 A.M.
(SATURDAY)

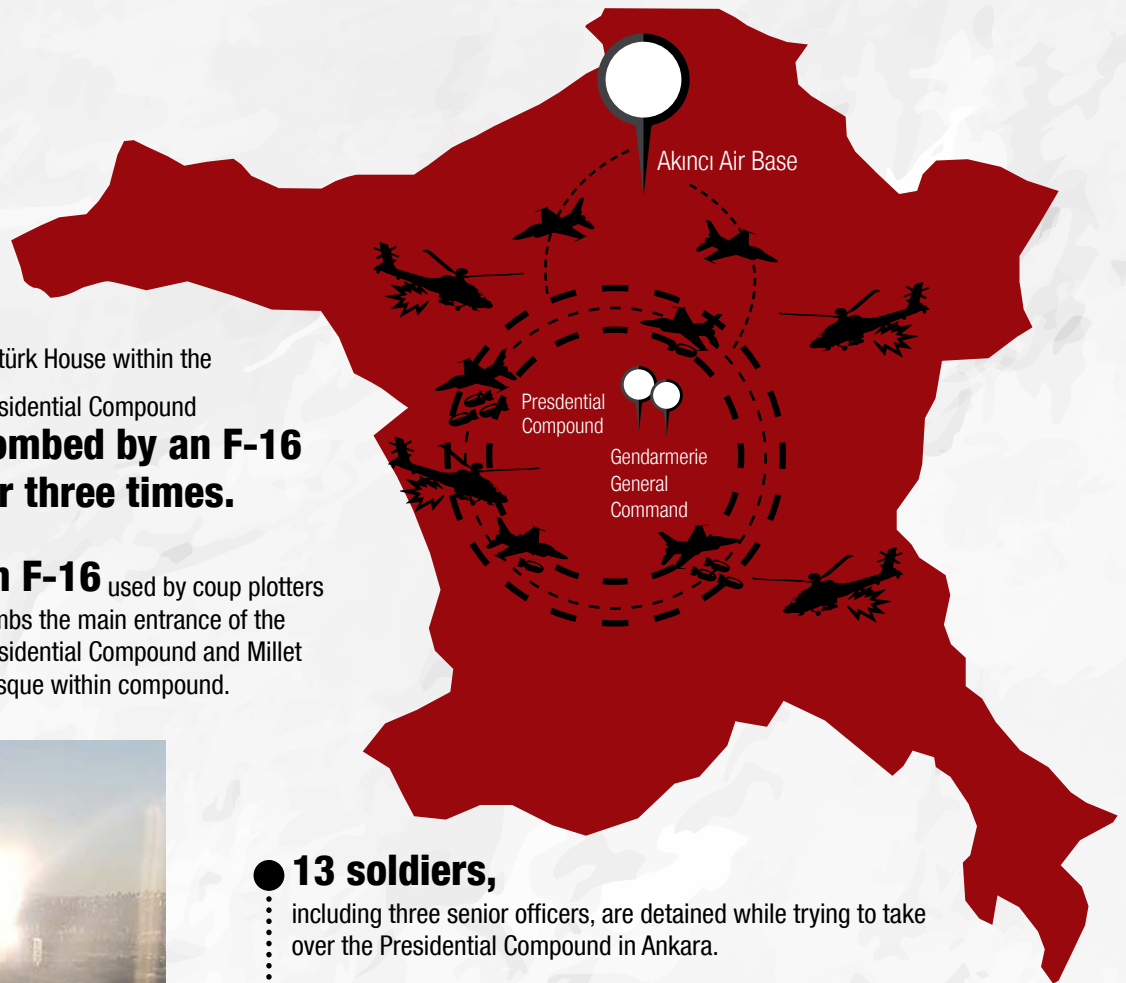
- Atatürk House within the Presidential Compound **bombed by an F-16 for three times.**

6:17 A.M.

- **An F-16** used by coup plotters bombs the main entrance of the Presidential Compound and Millet Mosque within compound.



Erdogan was in Marmaris for a vacation on the night of the coup.



- **13 soldiers,**

- including three senior officers, are detained while trying to take over the Presidential Compound in Ankara.

- The civilians gathered in front of the Presidential Compound are bombed from the air.

- The jet that bombed the Gendarmerie General Command harasses the people gathered in front of the compound with 40-50 times low-flying F-16s.



GENDARMERIE GENERAL COMMAND



6:16 A.M.
(SATURDAY)

8:36 A.M.



Intersection in front of the General Command of Gendarmerie bombed once by coup plotters from an F-16 warplane.

General Command of Gendarmerie secured by a team of Special Forces that neutralizes pro-coup soldiers at the site.

Sixteen pro-coup soldiers were killed.

POLICE SPECIAL FORCES COMMAND

10:00 P.M.
(FRIDAY)

- 20 coup plotters along with Brig. Gen. Semih Terzi occupy the Special Forces Command in Ankara. Sgt. Ömer Halisdemir shoots Terzi in the forehead.

Coup plotters kill Sgt. Halisdemir, shooting him 30 times.

12:30 A.M.
(SATURDAY)

- Special Forces command is bombed once by an F-16.



POLICE SPECIAL FORCES TRAINING ACADEMY



11:24 P.M.
(FRIDAY)

● A blast at the Police Special Forces Training Academy in Gölbaşı, Ankara

kills 42 officers in their sleep
and heavily damages the building.

2:05 A.M.
(SATURDAY)

● Coup plotters attack the Police Special Forces Training Academy.



Demet Sezen was killed during the attack. She was the mother of a 2.5-year-old boy.



Deputy police chief Cennet Yiğit, 23, was killed during the attack.



Father of three, Alpaslan Yazıcı, was killed during the attack.

ANKARA POLICE DEPARTMENT



1:01 P.M.



The police department is bombed once by **an F-16** and **a helicopter** shoots at the building **five times**.

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION (MIT)

The National Intelligence Organization (MIT) received intelligence about a coup attempt and informed the General Staff on July 15, 4:00 p.m. At 10:56 p.m. a group of coup soldiers surrounded the MIT headquarters.

A helicopter flying over the area opens fire on the building's north and south entrances. On Saturday morning the MIT announced the coup attempt was mostly rebuffed and that the coup plotters were Gülenists and will be tried for treason.

AIR TRAFFIC OF THE FAILED COUP ATTEMPT

The air vehicles reported to be controlled by the coup plotters.

4 × F-16
A CARGO PLANE from
Diyarbakır

1 × TRANSPORT
AIRCRAFT
from Akıncı Air Base

6 × CARGO PLANES
3 × TANKER AIRCRAFT
from Kayseri



48 F-16 JETS that loyal to the government
took off from **ERZURUM, DIYARBAKIR,**
DALAMAN and **BALIKESIR.**

1 Akıncı
Air Base

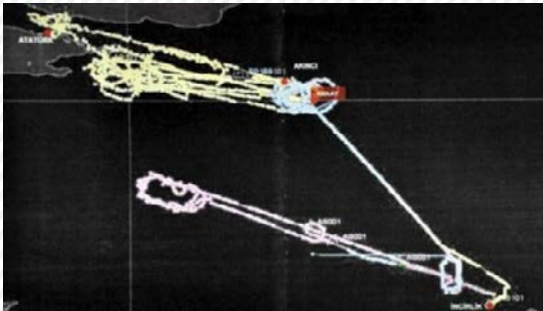
2 Eskişehir
Air Base

3 Çiğli
Air Base



İNCİRLİK AIR BASE

The route of
the aircraft
that took off
from İncirlik
Air Base on
July 15.



3 tanker aircraft taking off from İncirlik Air Base
refueled the F-16s used by putschists in Ankara
more than 20 times. The airspace around İncirlik
Air Base was closed during the attempted coup since
the tanker aircraft commandeered from the base were
used to refuel aircraft involved in the coup attempt. The
airspace around the base quickly re-opened in the days
after the attempted coup.

TIMELINE OF THE AIR TRAFFIC



7:06 P.M.
(FRIDAY)

Ankara Air Operations Centre informed Chief of Air Staff that General Staff Headquarters ordered all planes in the air must land immediately.

7:26 P.M.

Both Eskişehir Air Base as well as the commander of the Turkish Air Forces Abidin Ünal warned all military units against unauthorized take-offs.

9:05 P.M.

36 WARPLANES landed after the General Staff's order.

9:45 P.M.

Coup plotters started air trafficking despite warnings. **25 AIRCRAFT** had taken off, and **8** of them were required to return before arriving in Ankara.

10:20 P.M.

Ünal, being at the wedding ceremony when he heard about the unusual rush at the air forces base, ordered 24 other aviation generals existing at the ceremony to prevent the take-offs from bases under their responsibility.

10:25 P.M.

Ünal called the 4th main jet base commander, who was not at the wedding and asked him whether he is responsible for those take-offs. When the commander said "yes," he ordered him to land the warplanes, but his order was ignored.

10:30 P.M.

6 WARPLANES took off from the 8th main jet base in the southeastern city of Diyarbakır despite warnings.

11:00 P.M.

It was found out that Ankara Air Operations Centre was under the control of coup plotters. Ünal ordered all other generals around him to take necessary precautions. Apart from those at Akıncı Air Base in Ankara, İncirlik Air Base in Adana and Balıkesir Air Base, no unauthorized warplanes took off.

4:40 A.M.

Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım ordered all warplanes controlled by coup-plotters to be downed.

The unauthorized air vehicles were forced to land.

AKINCI AIR BASE



Plotters used Akıncı Air Base as their base of operations.

4 pro-coup F-16s take off from Akıncı Air Base.

Anti-coup jets bomb the air base until the next morning to prevent plotters from using the air base.

12:00 A.M.
(SATURDAY)

● Chief of General Staff Gen. Akar, who was taken hostage by coup plotters, is transported by helicopter to Akıncı Air Base in the northwest of Ankara.

8:00 A.M.

● The last warplane controlled by coup plotters landed. None of the vehicles, including helicopters, were permitted to take off from Akıncı Air Base.

8:52 A.M.

● Chief of General Staff Gen. Akar is released by a team of special forces through an operation on Akıncı Air Base, which was used as a base by pro-coup soldiers on the night of July 15.

10:41 A.M.

● Coup plotters who seized the control of Akıncı Air Base flee after the coup attempt is repelled.

11:15 A.M.

● **The F-4 2020 planes** that had taken off from Eskişehir shot over roads and in airspace around Akıncı Air Base to prohibit unauthorised air vehicles to take-offs. **18 F-4s dropped 16 bombs to 9 different spots.**

3:30 P.M.

● Air Forces Commander Ünal and 10 air generals who were taken hostage by coup plotters were released from Akıncı Air Base and went to the headquarters. Gülenist military officers, who were at Ankara Air Operations Centre, were surrendered to law-enforcement officers by those generals.

8:02 P.M.

● The operation at Akıncı Air Base ends.

GENERAL STAFF HQ

10:00 P.M.
(FRIDAY)



Shots are heard inside the General Staff headquarters in Ankara and a helicopter fires at people on the ground.

11:50 P.M.

During the coup attempt that was rejected by the chain of command **9 coup plotters** take hostage Gen. Hulusi Akar, the chief of General Staff, for nine hours.

8:00 A.M.
(SATURDAY)

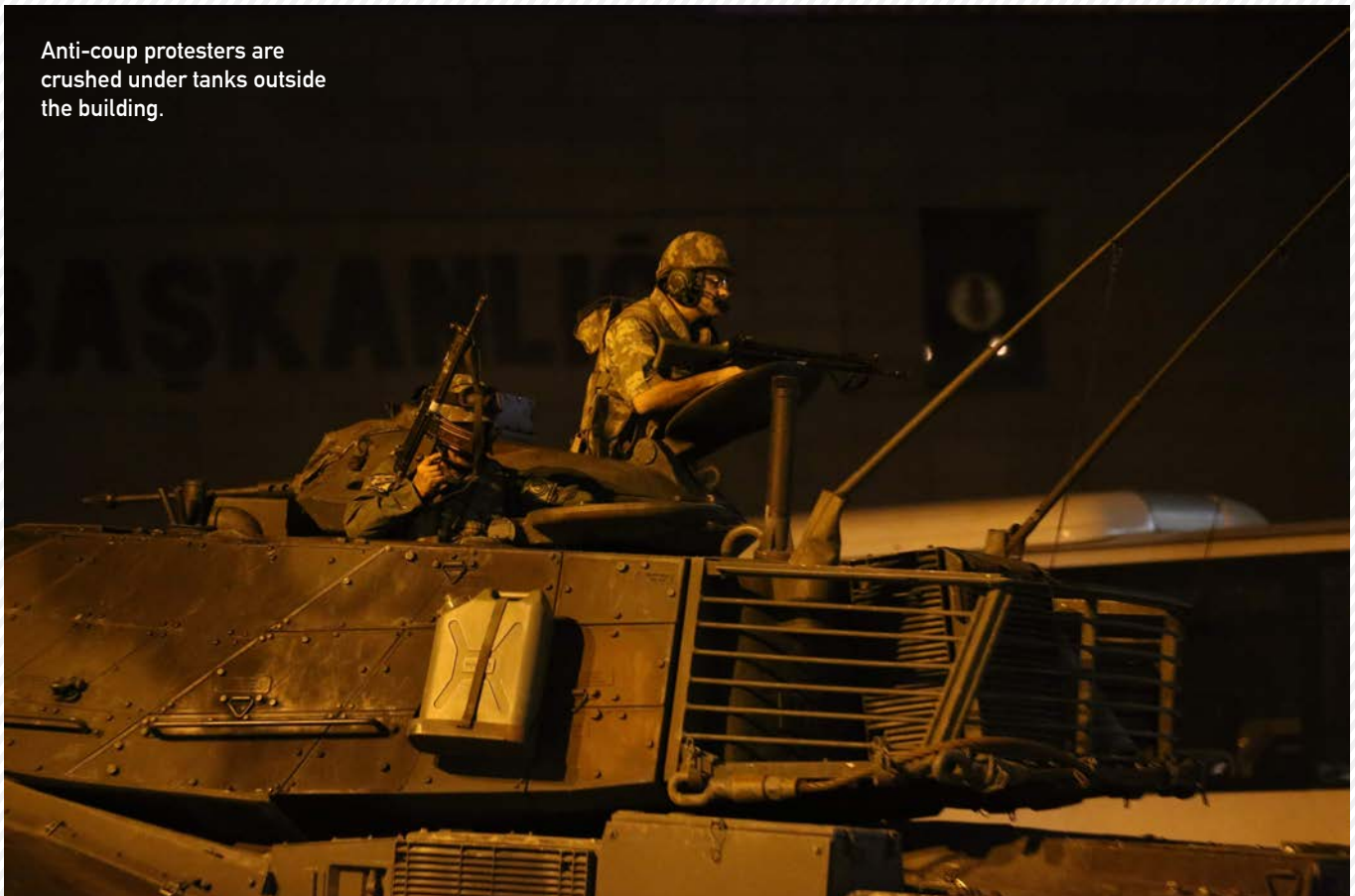
The General Staff building is taken back by soldiers loyal to the government.

8:30 A.M.

Gen. Akar, who had been taken hostage by coup forces, is released.



Anti-coup protesters are crushed under tanks outside the building.



MARMARIS



37

Gülenist putschists
attacked the hotel

3

helicopters were used
for the operation

4:42 P.M.
(SATURDAY)

● **15 coup officers** from the Special Forces Command, **12 soldiers** from the Search and Rescue Team and **2 commandos** from the **Underwater Offence (SAT) open fire and bomb the hotel** in the western coastal district of Marmaris where President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was staying. **The masked soldiers in heavy gear close in on the hotel, injuring five police officers in the clash.**



Command Sergeant Zekeriya Kuzu, one of the missing military personnel suspected of being involved in the coup attempt, was captured in Marmaris on July 25.

CRITICAL LOCATIONS IN ISTANBUL

CNN TÜRK

Studios were raided by coup soldiers and the building was kept under control.

TRT

The building was invaded, broadcasting was stopped and cables were damaged.

BOSPORUS BRIDGE

The bridge was blocked off by **136 coup plotters**, with **three tanks**, **two armored units** and **three trucks**.

VATAN AVENUE (ISTANBUL'S POLICE HQ)

Coup plotters blocked Vatan Avenue with **a bus**, **a lifting crane** and **6 trucks** to occupy Istanbul's Police HQ.

ATATÜRK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Four tanks, **four armored cars**, **four trucks** and **four military jeeps** controlled by **58 coup plotters** were moved to airport.

KISIKLI

The neighborhood, where President Erdoğan's house is located, was invaded by coup plotters and the roads were blocked by military tanks.

ÇENGELKÖY

Dozens of putschists, including **high-ranking coup soldiers**, arrived and fired at residents trying to prevent coup soldiers from gaining ground.

ISTANBUL'S BOSPORUS BRIDGE

10:00 P.M.
(FRIDAY)



Istanbul's Bosphorus Bridge is blocked off by **136 coup plotters**, with three tanks, two armored units and three trucks.

1:15 A.M.
(SATURDAY)

Civilians begin to gather around the bridge to resist against the coup plotters.

2:17 A.M.

2 civilians, one of them holding a Turkish national and white flag and the other with his hands raised **are shot by coup plotters** while walking toward them

3:15 A.M.

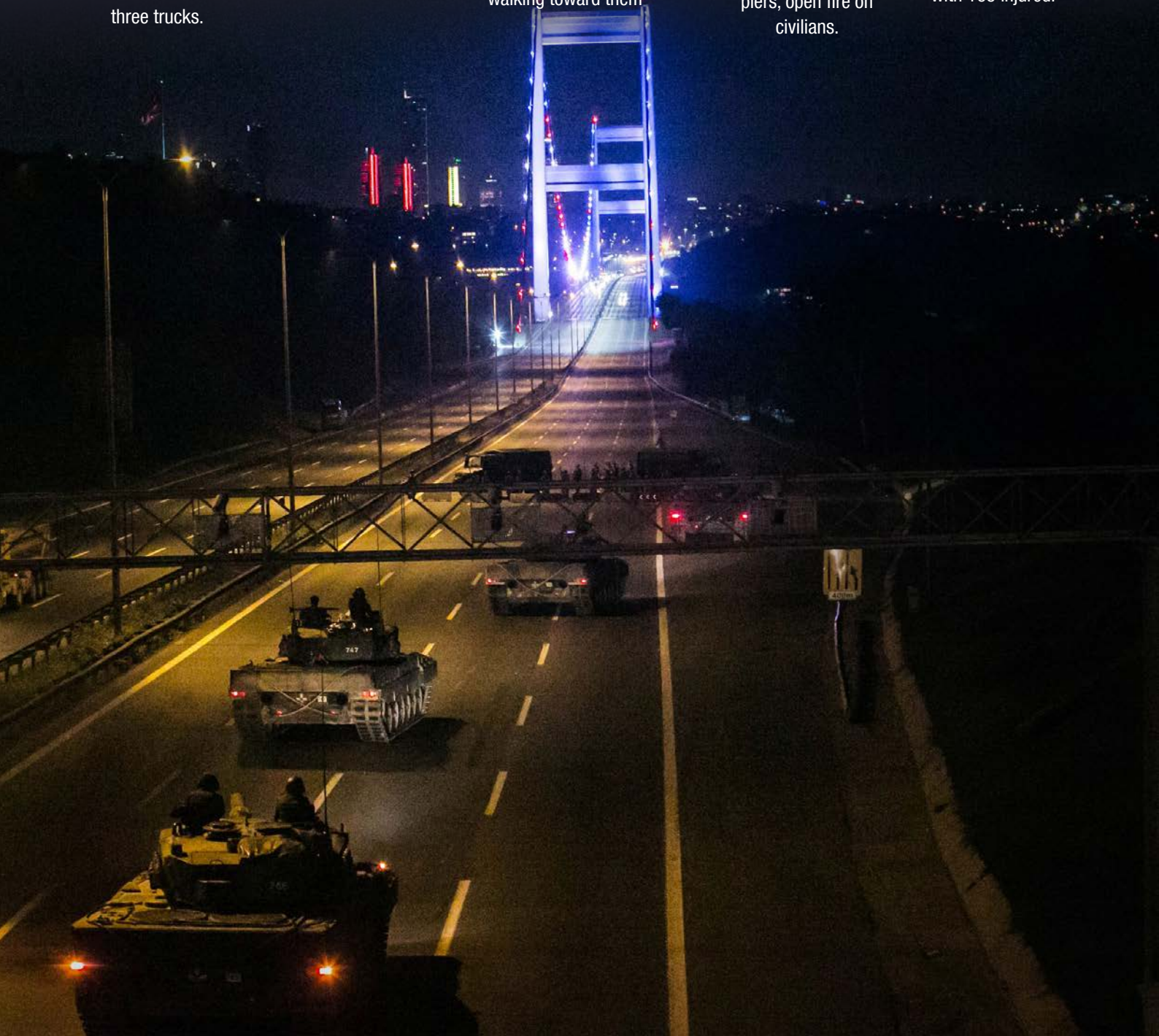


Coup plotters, **one with a sniper** on top of the bridge's piers, open fire on civilians.

6:40 A.M.

Coup plotters surrender to police officers.

29 civilians and five coup plotters die, with 165 injured.





ARRESTED

1 LIEUTENANT	13 SPECIALIZED SERGEANTS	100 KULELI MILITARY STUDENTS
2 SERGEANTS	20 SOLDIERS	

TOTAL NUMBER OF MILITARY VEHICLES ON BOSPORUS BRIDGE

3 TANKS	2 ARMORED CARS	3 TRUCKS
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TOTAL NUMBER OF PLOTTERS ON BOSPORUS BRIDGE 136

TOTAL NUMBER OF
INJURED CIVILIANS
165

34 DEAD
29 CIVILIANS
5 PLOTTERS



ISTANBUL'S INTERNATIONAL ATATÜRK AIRPORT



TOTAL NUMBER OF MILITARY VEHICLES ON ATATÜRK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

4  TANKS

4
ARMORED
CARS

4
TRUCKS

4
MILITARY
JEEPS

controlled by
**58 coup
plotters** are moved
to Istanbul's Atatürk
International Airport

11:45 P.M.

● All airports including Atatürk Airport are closed to air traffic. Coup plotters take the control tower.

1:00 A.M.
(SATURDAY)

● People begin to gather at the airport.

3:00 A.M.

● The airport is taken back by police and civilian groups who detained **2 generals and several soldiers** at the scene. **20 civilians lost their lives**, with **2 injured**.

3:20 A.M.

● President Erdoğan's plane lands at the airport.

4:30 A.M.

● President Erdoğan speaks to the media about the coup attempt. Erdoğan is greeted at airport by a horde of people.

VATAN AVENUE (ISTANBUL POLICE HQ)

1

BUS

1

LIFTING
CRANE

6

TRUCKS

9

HEAVILY ARMED
TANKS

blocked Vatan Avenue to occupy Istanbul's Police HQ.



11:43 P.M.



Coup plotters open fire on civilians.

**BETWEEN 12:00 A.M.
AND 05:00 A.M.
(SATURDAY)**

Civilians try to bring coup plotters down from tanks. Coup plotters, facing a huge demonstration, leave the avenue.

ÇENGELKÖY



17 people, including a woman, were killed by Gülenist plotters.



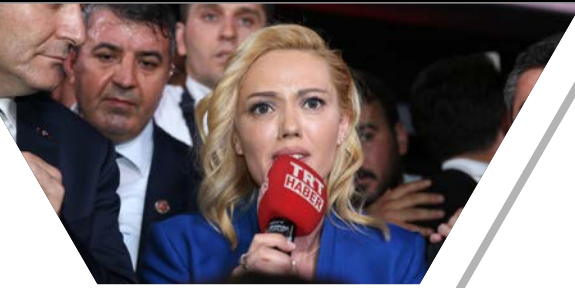
A soldier from Kuleli Military High School arrives to Çengelköy and announces that locals are required to go to their homes since a coup is underway.

Dozens of putschists, including high-ranking coup soldiers, arrive and fire at residents trying to prevent coup soldiers from gaining ground.

Putschists take nearly **50 civilians hostage** on the main street of Çengelköy and instruct them to remain still or they will die.

Locals are rescued when Special Forces arrive in Çengelköy and repel and arrest putschists at Çengelköy Police Station.

TARGETING MEDIA



TURKISH RADIO TELEVISION (TRT)

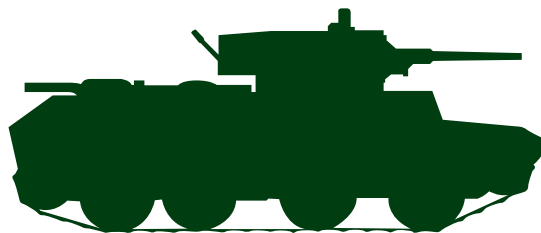
Coup plotters seize Turkish Radio Television (TRT), the national public broadcaster building in Ankara. At 12:04 a.m. (Saturday) TRT anchor Tijen Kardeş is forced at gunpoint to read out the coup declaration on air.

TURKISH SATELLITE PROVIDER (TURKSAT) COMPOUND

Before 01:30 a.m. 13 coup plotters invade TURKSAT Compound's Gölbaşı Ground Station with arms and tell personnel that the compound will be bombed to evacuate them. Two staff members were killed and three were injured while trying to resist. Later, the building was bombed four times by an F-16 and two cobra helicopters shoot over the compound and civilians around it.

TÜRK TELEKOM (TURKISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS)

At 04:00 a.m. (Saturday) Pro-coup soldiers attempt to occupy the Turkish Telecommunications company office in Istanbul. Later in the day, coup plotters shoot at resisting civilians, kill many including the village headman.



CNN TÜRK

At 04:00 a.m. CNN Türk studios are raided by coup soldiers, but the building is kept under control for a short time only. Soon after, a Special Forces operation, with the help of the civilians, takes back the studio from the coup plotters.



TARGETING MEDIA

PUTSCHISTS TRY TO INVADE TURKUVAZ MEDIA OUTLET

A helicopter carrying coup plotters attempts to land on the rooftop of the Turkuvaz Media Outlet building, but fails due to the satellites over the building. A group of soldiers fire at the fourth and fifth floors of Turkuvaz Media premises.



SATELLITE TELEVISION PROVIDER INVADED

04:00 a.m. (Saturday) Turkish satellite television provider Digitürk's premises is invaded by pro-coup soldiers during the night of the coup attempt. The building is later saved by police forces.



PUTSCHISTS THREATEN NTV TO CHANGE EDITORIAL POLICY

With all media outlets, including A Haber, CNN Turk across the country, NTV showed a firm stance against the coup attempt and followed a brave broadcasting policy. Coup plotters threatened NTV news channel to change its broadcasting policy on the coup night.



TRT WORLD ISTANBUL

At 00:30 a.m. TRT World, the international branch of the National Public broadcaster Turkish Radio Television (TRT), office in Istanbul is occupied by coup soldiers. The building is invaded, broadcasting is stopped and cables are damaged.



238 DEAD

171 CIVILIANS
63 POLICE
4 SOLDIERS

2,195 INJURED

2,028 CIVILIANS
146 POLICE
21 SOLDIERS

18,917 DETAINED

4,408 POLICE
11,705 PRO-COUP
SOLDIERS
2,631 JUDGES/
PROSECUTORS
114 LOCAL
AUTHORITIES
684 OTHERS

NUMBER OF DEAD COUP PLOTTERS

34

NUMBER OF INJURED COUP PLOTTERS

49

10,192 ARRESTED

1,751 POLICE
6,153 PRO-COUP
SOLDIERS
2,131 JUDGES/
PROSECUTORS
65 LOCAL
AUTHORITIES
93 OTHERS
2,341 UNDER
JUDICIAL CONTROL
2,037 RELEASED
4,135 STILL IN CUSTODY

FINANCIAL DAMAGE CAUSED BY FAILED COUP ATTEMPT



More than
TL 300 billion
(\$ 100 billion),

including warplanes, military helicopters, arms, bombs and buildings. Coup plotters damaged key state institutions such as the Presidential Compound, Turkish Parliament, National Intelligence Organization (MIT), Directorate of Counter-Terrorism, General Staff Headquarter and the Interior Ministry. Dozens of civilians' cars were crushed by tanks operated by pro-coup soldiers and shot with arms during the coup night. Ankara announced that the damage caused during the coup attempt would be reimbursed.



