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Evidence of Gülen's Involvement in July 15 **Coup Attempt**

JULY 2017

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Abbreviations

AK Party: Ruling Justice and Development Party

BDDK: Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency

FETÖ: Gülenist Terror Group

GATA: Gülhane Military Medicine Academy
HSYK: Supreme Board of Judges and Prosecutors

KOM: Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime Department

KPSS: Public Personnel Selection Exam

MAK: Combat Search and Rescue
MGK: National Security Council
MİT: National Intelligence Agency

RTÜK: Radio and Television Supreme Council

TİB: Directorate of Telecommunication and Communication

TRT: Turkish Radio and Television Corporation

TSK: Turkish Armed Forces

TÜBİTAK: Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey

YAŞ: Supreme Military Council YÖK: Board of Higher Education



INTRODUCTION

On the night of July 15, a group of putschist soldiers who had infiltrated various ranks of the Turkish military from the Gülenist Terror Group (FETÖ) network over many years carried out an attack against the government and Turkey's democracy. The attempt was to take over the state and destroy its institutions in general, not just the government, at the expense of 249 lives and injuring more than 2,000 people, using heavy weaponry, including fighter jets, helicopters and tanks. For many around the world, this was the first time they heard about FETÖ, although this group was known to the Turkish public. The threat it posed had been acknowledged by the government and steps were being taken to eliminate their dangerous influence in state institutions.

Among the steps being taken against infiltration and the group's threat to Turkey, the state's top security body, the National Security Council (MGK), decided to recommend the government declare FETÖ a terrorist organization. The recommendation, made at the meeting on May 27, 2016, was implemented without any delay. Prior to this step, FETÖ members were already accused and convicted of a string of crimes, including illegal wiretapping, fabricating evidence and blackmail.

Although the FETÖ network's most famous act was the latest coup attempt on July 15, it has functioned as a criminal enterprise for decades in Turkey under the leadership of Fetullah Gülen, who has lived in Pennsylvania, U.S., since 1999. In its strictly hierarchical structure, Gülen is the ultimate leader of FETÖ. He is known to have a say in almost all steps taken through his micromanagement. The group was successful in infiltrating public positions, including the police, judiciary, military, education, financial sector and media over decades, as it was a call made by Gülen to establish a state within the state, or what has come to be known as the "parallel structure".

In order to appear as a legitimate entity and appeal for support from the general public, FETÖ mostly institutionalized its activities among educational activities, from schools to dormitories, under the auise of an establishment that aims to help students with a moderate Islamic approach. However, this was only a cover to attract recruits and gain financial support from people and exploit their good will. Meanwhile, key figures in the hierarchical structure, which starts with Gülen and goes down to local figures, were able to hide their true faces and only acted upon receiving orders from the person who would be in charge of the duty. Just like the cells of a typical terrorist group, FETO's operatives laid dormant until they were needed, waiting for years and sometimes decades until they were called on to perform their duties. FETÖ's member base had gone up to the hundreds of thousands over the years, with members in almost all levels of state institutions. This is why the numbers of dismissals when the government began to take action against the "parallel structure" members seems so large. Many of those suspected of involvement in the coup have been rejecting the accusation, despite

Many of those suspected of involvement in the coup have been rejecting the accusation, despite clear and tangible evidence showing their links to the bloody coup attempt and FETÖ network. FETÖ leader Gülen has himself rejected the links and the accusation that he masterminded the incident. He initially claimed the coup was a ploy by the government, but when that was found not to be credible and prosecutors started to uncover evidence of direct links to the coup attempt, he changed tact and started to argue that while some FETÖ members could have been involved, he had no involvement in the act and those followers who were involved did not take orders from him.

In the following pages of this report, the DS Centre for Policy Studies has shared information on who Gülen is, how FETÖ members infiltrated the military over the years by committing a range of crimes, the timeline of the July 15 coup attempt, explanations of what happened on that night, and clear evidence of FETÖ's staging of the coup attempt. The evidence includes a range of material such as witness testimonies from court records and security camera footage of putschists abducting anti-coup figures and firing on civilians, which counters their claims of having no links to the coup attempt.



Who is Fetullah Gülen?

Fetullah Gülen is the leader of FETÖ and mastermind behind the failed coup attempt on July 15, 2016. He has been living in self-imposed exile, on a 400-acre property in the foothills of the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania, U.S., since 1999.



Fetullah Gülen THE MAN BEHIND THE COUP

Titles

Imam of the Universe, Mahdi, Hodja Effendi

Born on April 27, 1941, in Erzurum. Began primary school in 1946, in Erzurum. Studied at the Kurşunlu Mosque madrasah in 1954.

1966

He was assigned to İzmir as the main imam and served until 1971.

He formalized his operations in İzmir and met some of his senior operatives.

Arrested in 1971 by the post-coup junta and spent seven months in prison on charges of reactionary activities before being found not guilty.

1979

He started to write for the monthly Sızıntı (Fountain) Islamic magazine, which was published by his followers.

1980

He wrote an editorial for Sızıntı in which he praised the overthrow of the government

1981

On March 20, 1981 he resigned as an imam from the Presidency of Religious Affairs.

Gülen followers founded Zaman newspaper in 1986.

His illicit movement picked up in the 1980s and 1990s, with his articles distributed across the nation by his disciples. Funds collected by the movement were channeled into schools, media organizations and other projects to help recruitment and expand its influence. Recruits started to infiltrate state institutions, especially the military, police and judiciary, in an effort to assume state power from the inside.

1991

In November 1991, the first protocol was signed to open a Turkish high school in Azerbaijan's Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. The network eventually included hundreds of schools around the world in the 1990s. His charter schools in the U.S. became one of the main funding sources for the illicit organization.

1993

Gülen followers founded Samanyolu Television in January 1993, and the movement began to build a media empire from scratch as a tool to increase its political influence.

1997

During the 1997 military intervention that forced out the prime minister and precipitated a much-condemned clampdown on conservatives, he called on his followers to respect the will of the military.

1999

As judicial authorities closed in, he fled to the U.S. for "health reasons". The 1990s saw the movement come of age, with its operatives in the judiciary launching a widely discredited drive to punish, through illegal means, all those it perceived as opponents.

Between 2007 and 2013, he took advantage of the instability of the state system that occurred after the Balyoz (Sledgehammer), Ergenekon and military espionage trials by assigning the movement's own judges, prosecutors and academics. Those cases allowed FETÖ quicker infiltration of the state.

2013

By December 2013, the movement believed it was strong enough to take on the democratically elected government, launching an anti-corruption operation through its members in the judiciary and police to topple the government.

The government's swift response prevented the movement from taking over of the state, and a comprehensive investigation began to tackle the danger posed by Gülenists' judicial, security, media, business and education arms.

2016

On July 15, 2016, the remaining military operatives of the Gülen Movement in the military launched a desperate bid to topple the government. The coup attempt failed due to large public resistance and other factors.



Fetullah Gülen, leader of FETÖ.

How FETÖ infiltrated the Turkish Armed Forces

The TSK has traditionally been known for its rigid adherence to a strict interpretation of the principle of secularism. Religious rituals such as Islamic prayers were shunned by commanders who considered themselves defenders of the secular state and opponents of what they called reactionary movements, which meant any group with religious references. Manifestations of this mindset peaked during the Feb. 28 postmodern coup process, which resulted in a witchhunt among soldiers and public employees with conservative backgrounds. The utmost secrecy the group adopted while infiltrating every bureaucratic agency and institution and disguises they used may be one of the reasons for this mindset in the military. Statements from former followers of Gülen indicate that he instructed infiltrators to adopt the lifestyles of people in the sectors they infiltrated. For instance, they would drink alcoholic beverages with fellow officers although alcohol consumption is forbidden in Islam, the religion FETÖ operative claim to observe.

Prosecutors investigating the terrorist cult say Gülen and his followers initially attempted to infiltrate the military in 1971, when the military issued a memorandum to the government, effectively leading to its collapse. Gülen's imams, point men tasked with recruiting and supervising followers, started training young students to secure their admission into military

schools. In the aftermath of the 1980 military coup, Gülenists were gaining more clout in Turkey and, by extension, more followers that Gülen, with his elliptical yet eloquent sermons, attracted. An indictment prepared by prosecutors in the capital Ankara before the coup attempt suggests that many cadets loyal to Gülen who joined the military in the 1980s uninterruptedly rose to higher ranks and served as generals and colonels. Statements from Gülen prior to the 1980 military coup reveal that he had been planning to take control of Turkey's state institutions for over three decades.

According to Gülen's statements found in the bill of indictment prepared by Bakırköy Deputy Chief Public Prosecutor Ömer Faruk Aydıner for the fugitive Gülenist prosecutors of the December 17-25 operations, Zekeriya Öz, Celal Kara and Mehmet Yüzgeç, Gülen talked about a "putsch movement" that would take years to prepare and require taking control of educational institutions. "The putsch movement has started. However, this movement will only be implemented after 35 to 40 years, as it is not possible to carry it out in the current setting," Gülen reportedly said in a speech in İzmir, two months before the military coup on September 12, 1980. In his speech, Gülen also demanded that his followers build dormitories for all students, from middle schools to universities, and raise them in line with their goals.



Gülen tells his followers to infiltrate state institutions

In another video recording of Gülen's sermons from the 1980s, he instructs his followers to slowly infiltrate Turkish state institutions to take complete control of the system.

In the video, Gülen tells his followers that their goal is to "advance so much" so that they can infiltrate the vital points of the civil service and judiciary, which will "guarantee and secure their future."

Gülen told his followers: "The presence of our friends in the judiciary, civil service and other vital institutions should not be seen as individual obligations", and suggested they learn all the tricks of the trade to ensure their future.

Gülen described one of the goals of their movement as advancing without making it obvious until they have a hold on the system.

"It is necessary for us to be extremely careful and cautious", he said, and added that whoever wants to serve his movement should act like a diplomat who can manage the world and act cautiously in order to not raise suspicion and expose their identity.

He also said that each step taken before taking control of constitutional institutions is "too early", and also told his followers to keep what he said a secret.

"I know that the same way you throw your juice boxes into the garbage bin when you walk out of this room, you will also throw these remarks into the garbage," he said.

A colonel and military judge of the period, Ahmet Zeki Üçok, who was the only official investigator regarding FETÖ infiltration of the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK), said about those years in April 2016:

"Approximately 250 students are doing full Turkish questions in military high school exams when Yaşar Büyükanıt was Kuleli Military High School commander in 1986. As a result of the investigation, it was revealed that questions were given to the students by the cult. Fifty to sixty of those students were expleled. The rest of them were not touched to 'win them back'."

Following Üçok's inquiry into cult in 2009, FETÖ-linked judges and prosecutors charged and convicted him in the Balyoz (Sledgehammer) coup plot case (see page 11). He spent four years nine months in prison.



Retired Colonel and Military Judge Ahmet Zeki Üçok



Ahmet Zeki Üçok was acquitted from the Sledgehammer (Balyoz) coup plot case.

1990s – Nationwide expansion of FETÔ

The first half of the 1990s was the start of Gülen's nationwide opening. The FETÖ presence in the TSK was on the agenda at times. There were discharges from the military by Supreme Military Council (YAS) decisions. Gülen was a complainant about operations linked to the congregation in the Naval Forces and Gülhane Military Medicine Academy (GATA) and he met with then Prime Minister Tansu Çiller about the issue.



SİYASİLER HAKKINDA AĞIR LAF: "B SON DERECE İTAATKÂR, BUNLARI



Eski Başbakanlardan Tansu Çiller ve eşi Özer Çiller, Nurettin Veren'e bakanlık teklif etmis. Ancak Veren, Gülen izin sanan vermediği için teklifi kabul etmemis

ÖZE

(Nur

Fetullah Gülen next to then Prime Minister Tansu Çiller (L).

The General Staff has reported the number of personnel belonging to FETÖ, whose relationship was interrupted with the TSK between 1983 and 2014. During this period, 400 personnel were discharged from the TSK with YAŞ decisions due to being members of this organization.

The information that draws attention in the indictment, written by the Ankara Public Prosecutor's Office, is that the discharge period had stopped in 2003. This is reflected in the indictment as follows:

"The TSK has not discharged anybody who is known to be member of the Gülen cult after 2003. After that, the cult was empowered in the TSK and began to liquidate everybody who was not from the organization or opposition. Ergenekon and other military cases (see page 11) were opened not for the removal of military tutelage on civilian politics, but for the domination of the congregation. Today there are FETO members in significant numbers who work as officers in the TSK."

"The Ergenekon and other military cases were opened not for the removal of military guardianship over civilian politics but for the congregation leadership to dominate the TSK," the retired judge, Colonel Ahmet Zeki Üçok, said in his testimony. Üçok spoke of the Air Force, which played an important role in the July 15 coup initiative process:

"The management of the Turkish Air Force was taken over by FETÖ with this Sledgehammer case. After two months, the person who would be the commander of the force was put in prison and they made room for themselves."



2003 Sledgehammer case

Balyoz (Sledgehammer) is the name of a plot allegedly thought up by a junta in the TSK to overthrow the government. The plan is said to date back to 2003, one year after the ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party) came to power. It allegedly aimed at undermining the government to lay the groundwork for a military takeover. In September 2012, the Supreme Court had sentenced the defendants to six to 20 years in prison. However, the Constitutional Court unanimously overruled that verdict in June 2014, on the grounds that the rights of the defendants had been violated, especially from digital data collection and wiretapping. On March 31, the Anadolu 4th High Criminal Court cancelled the convictions of 236 defendants in the case. The case was conducted by Gülenist bureaucrats and judges to remove military officers and place Gülenist militants in their positions. All defendants were freed after a Constitutional Court verdict in June 2015. The defendants had claimed that all documents implicating them in the case were forged. One of the most striking allegations about the forged evidence is that an allegedly authentic Microsoft Word document detailing the coup plan conceived in 2003 was written using a 2007 version of the word processing software.

2010 Military espionage case

In 2010, the İzmir branch of the National Police Department, which was dominated by Gülenists, launched an investigation based on an anonymous tip sent by email, and detained 357 people, including high-ranking officers. Defendants were found in possession of confidential information about military facilities based on evidence and information they were collecting with the purpose of giving it to foreign intelligence service agents, according to the indictments. A court ruled for their acquittal in February, six years after the case started. FETÖ members in the police and judiciary have been accused of wiretapping hundreds of people by creating an imaginary terrorist group called "Selam Tevhid". Many politicians, journalists and bureaucrats were among those who were wiretapped.

2012 Ergenekon case

The infamous Ergenekon case began with the discovery of a large arms cache at the home of a noncommissioned officer in an Istanbul slum in 2007. Hundreds of people were tried on charges of scheming to overthrow the government. The country's military brass, in cooperation with prominent figures such as journalists and academics, was planning to incite strife in the country and eventually seize power. Ergenekon was named after a mythical land of early Turkic tribes. The case was linked to several criminal cases such as the killing of three high-ranking members of the judiciary in the past. A court eventually sentenced Ergenekon suspects to life terms after a lengthy trial that began in 2008. Former Chief of General Staff Gen. Ilker Başbuğ and 18 other defendants were sentenced to life in prison in 2013. The defendants repeatedly pleaded not guilty and claimed they were imprisoned on insufficient and false evidence, denying the charges they faced. A majority of the public, except staunchly pro-military circles, found little reason to disbelieve the case because Turkey has experienced three military coups and witnessed multiple coup attempts since 1960. According to the court's ruling, Ergenekon was dubbed a terrorist organization. The suspects, held in pretrial detention for years without tangible evidence, were released in 2014 after new legal amendments limited such detentions. The trial was reportedly the joint work of infiltrators of the controversial Gülen Movement in the judiciary and police, conducted to stifle opposition to the ubiquitous group that evolved into a politically motivated juggernaut from a simple religious congregation. They filed lawsuits against judges and prosecutors, claiming they were imprisoned on forged and fabricated evidence. The group used forged documents and illegal wiretappings to launch probes against their adversaries by exploiting members in the judiciary and the police.

ByLock application



ByLock, a texting app for smartphones developed by the FETÖ for the exclusive use of its own members.

ByLock, which was popular among Gülenists for secret communications, was launched by David Keynes in the U.S. However, it was revealed that his company was a front and the software for the app was originally written by FETÖ members in Turkey.

The web-based messaging app is estimated to have between 150,000 and 180,000 users. It was confirmed that its software was written before the election of members to the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors in 2014. FETÖ members were instructed to use ByLock after the December 17-25 operations. It was designed for both Android and IOS devices.

The National Intelligence Agency (MİT) hacked the ByLock server in Lithuania in 2014, breaking into the server and compiling the names of users in May 2016. According to the early findings, 18 million texts and around 4 million emails were found.

The app can be downloaded to desktops from websites with jailbreak applications. It was not available at the Apple Store or Google Play and was impossible to download directly to smartphones. An "ilnvitation" code a FETÖ member would send was obligatory to activate the program. It can only be transferred to a smartphone after downloading and activating it on a desktop.

For these reasons, finding ByLock on a smartphone is used as evidence in accusations of person's FETÖ membership. Also, the IP of computers on which ByLock is downloaded can be traced. This is how authorities say they can identify the people who use the app, or if they just downloaded it. As such, they then decided if the people on the list are linked to FETÖ.

Some of the messages between FETÖ members were revealed. The user information and messages obtained have expedited the investigation process.



Signals of a coup from FETÖ-linked figures



Gülenist professor Osman Özsoy divulges the coup a month beforehand.

The secret witness, code named "Ateş", testified in a criminal investigation that the terrorist cult used the encrypted messaging app Eagle to relay information to members. Although Ateş's connection to the cult has not been revealed, the witness is believed to be a former member of the terrorist group that has already been implicated in two other failed attempts in 2013.

"Users of Eagle [in FETÖ] received two messages in May and June, respectively. The first message read: 'A huge earthquake will take place in Istanbul in July. Get dressed properly before you go to sleep.' The second one had links to two YouTube videos, with one titled 'Veiled coup' and the other was about police officers arrested on Dec. 17-25," the secret witness said, referring to two coup attempts by FETÖ-linked police officers and members in the judiciary in 2013 to implicate prominent figures close to the government in a graft probe.

The witness said FETÖ members acted carefully in order not to leave a trail of evidence behind them that could connect them to the group, used smartphone apps that blocked the detection of their location and phone signals and apps emitting signals from false locations. The investigation in Kemalpaşa also focuses on threats made toward a senior bureaucrat. A FETÖ member

made toward a senior bureaucrat. A FETÖ member is accused of telling the unnamed bureaucrat in a conversation that took place in May that he would not "stay in office too long" and "bright days are near". The secret witness' statements are not the only evidence

of Gülenists foretelling the coup. Osman Özsoy, a professor linked to FETÖ, had suggested a month before the coup attempt that "a divine hand would fix everything that is wrong in Turkey" and "not a single citizen would take to the streets to protect democracy." "The situation in Turkey cannot continue this way, but I will not say that the future of this country is dark. In fact, Turkey's future is unbelievably bright. The current period will soon come to an end," Özsoy said in a TV show, adding that he wished he had become a colonel instead of a professor so that he could "contribute [to the process]."

Motivation of July 15

At the time, measures against FETÖ were being carried out in almost every public institution, including the TSK. Prior to the coup attempt, media reports suggested that there was a strong possibility that Gülenists in the TSK would be dismissed at the YAŞ meeting in August 2016. After July 15, Chief of General Staff Gen. Hulusi Akar also said in his testimony that the YAŞ meeting was the main motivation behind the coup attempt. (see page 19)



FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2016

4:00 p.m.

General Staff members evaluate intelligence about a coup attempt provided by the MİT.

5:30 p.m.

Certain precautions are taken, airspace is closed, military activity is prohibited and the General Staff inspects the Air Force Aviation Academy.

10:00 p.m.

Shots heard inside the General Staff HQ in Ankara and a helicopter fires on the people outside. Soldiers take control of state broadcaster Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) and the General Staff HQ as troops seize the Bosporus and Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridges.

10:30 p.m.

Putschist tanks roll to Istanbul's Atatürk International Airport.

10:56 p.m.

A group of coup soldiers surround the MİT headquarters in Ankara. A helicopter flying over the area opens fire on the building.

11:05 p.m.

PM Yıldırım, speaking over the phone to A Haber, describes what is happening as an insurrection and the perpetrators are a small group in the military.

11:24 p.m.

An explosion is heard at the Police Special Operations Center in the Gölbaşı district in southern Ankara.

11:30 p.m.

Chief of General Staff Gen. Hulusi Akar has been taken hostage by coup forces.

11:43 p.m.

Coup forces open fire on civilians in Taksim Square, Vatan Avenue and the Bosporus Bridge in Istanbul and around the headquarters of the General Staff in Ankara.

11:45 p.m.

Istanbul's Atatürk International Airport is closed to air traffic by putchists.

11:50 p.m.

Coup forces surround AK Party provincial organization buildings.

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2016

12:09 a.m.

Military helicopters open fire on MİT HQ and MİT forces return fire.

12:13 a.m.

Putschist soldiers force TRT anchorwoman Tijen Karas to read a declaration on live television.



12:26 a.m.

President Erdoğan starts to connect to TV channels over FaceTime on his iPhone and speaks live to the people, telling them to go out to defend democracy against the coup plotters.

12:30 a.m.

Turkish citizens take to the streets to protest the coup attempt on the call from President Erdoğan as well as calls for unity from mosque minarets in 81 provinces upon the instruction of the Presidency of Religious Affairs.



SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2016

12:35 a.m.

The first investigation into the coup attempt is launched in Istanbul, with Küçükçekmece Chief Prosecutor Ali Doğan saying coup soldiers would be detained wherever they were found.

12:52 a.m.

1st Army Commander Gen. Ümit Dündar connects live on TV and says: "This isn't an act supported by the Turkish Armed Forces."

12:57 a.m.

A military helicopter bombs a facility belonging to the Turkish satellite agency TürkSat in Ankara's Gölbaşı district.

1:01 a.m.

Jets and helicopters attack the Ankara Police Department. Defense Minister Fikri Işık says: "This is a coup attempt by a junta in the Turkish Armed Forces."

1:16 a.m.

Tanks surround Parliament in Ankara.

1:39 a.m.

Parliament's General Assembly opens with the attendance of Parliament speaker İsmail Kahraman and deputies.

2:00 a.m.

Police start to arrest coup soldiers.

2:05 a.m.

F-16 jets shoot down a helicopter used by coup forces in Ankara. Coup soldiers attack the Police Special Forces Training Academy in Gölbaşı, Ankara, killing 42 policemen.

2:30 a.m.

13 soldiers, including three senior officers, are detained while attempting to take over the Presidential Palace complex in Ankara. A MİT spokesman says the coup has been thwarted.



2:30 a.m.

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 fourt and fifth floors of Turkuvaz Media premises.

2:42 a.m.

Explosions are heard in Parliament, where 100 deputies had convened in the General Assembly hall.

2:49 a.m.

Parliament is bombed again and the parliament speaker and deputies take cover in the building's bomb shelter.

2:55 a.m.

PM Yıldırım, speaking live again over the phone to private broadcaster NTV, compares those attacking institutions with jets to members of a terrorist organization.

3:00 a.m.

TRT goes back on the air and continues broadcasting. The coup soldiers who tried to seize TRT's head office are arrested.

3:10 a.m.

PM Yıldırım warns that every military helicopter or jet flying over Ankara and over critical areas such as the MİT HQ, Parliament, Prime Ministry or Presidential Palace complex will be shot down.



SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2016

3:15 a.m.

Gunfire is heard again from the General Staff HQ.

3:20 a.m.

Erdoğan's plane lands at Atatürk International Airport in Istanbul. A hoard of people greet him at the airport.

4:00 a.m.

The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office rules on the custody of members of the coup plotters' Peace at Home Council and those in the judiciary who are affiliated with FETÖ.

4:30 a.m.

President Erdoğan speaks to the media at Atatürk Airport and gives details of the coup attempt.

4:42 a.m.

Helicopters open fire on the hotel in Marmaris where President Erdoğan had been staying before leaving around midnight. Masked soldiers in heavy gear besiege the hotel, injuring five police officers in the ensuing clash.

5:20 a.m.

PM Yıldırım tweets that 130 soldiers, including high-ranking brass, had been arrested and one putschist general had been killed.

6:00 a.m.

The Gölbaşı Chief Public Prosecutor's Office launches an investigation into coup attempt. The area is brought back under control after an attack on the Gölbaşı Special Operations Center kills 42 people.

6:30 a.m.

All streets leading to the Prime Ministry in Çankaya and the ministry's official residences, all of which are located in a security zone, are closed. Loyal Air Force pilots shoot down a military helicopter that bombed the TürkSat facility in Ankara's Gölbaşı district.

6:40 a.m.

Police take coup soldiers on the Bosporus Bridge into custody.

6:43 a.m.

Putschist pilots drop two bombs near the Presidential Palace complex.

7:00 a.m.

Coup forces in a military helicopter bomb gendarmerie headquartes.

8:00 a.m.

Reuters reports that the General Staff building is under the control of soldiers loyal to the government.

8:30 a.m.

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

8:36 a.m.

Gendarmerie General Command is secured by another team of Special Forces

9:40 a.m.

The Justice Ministry announces that 1,374 Turkish Armed Forces personnel have been detained.

11:45 a.m.

A no-fly zone is declared in the Marmara region, which includes Istanbul.

11:51 a.m.

A helicopter lands in Greece with seven coupaffiliated soldiers and one civilian seeking asylum.

2:55 p.m.

The Supreme Board of Judges and Prosecutors (HSYK) suspends 2,745 judges.

5:00 p.m.

Parliament's General Assembly holds an emergency session, all four parties issue a joint declaration condemning the failed coup attempt.



SUNDAY, JULY 17, 2016

- An armed fight takes place at Istanbul's Sabiha Gökçen Airport and police detain the remaining coup forces at Sabiha Gökçen Airport as well as at an air base in Konya.
- Police surround the war academies.
- The Board of Higher Education (YÖK) holds a convention of university presidents.
- Turgut Aslan, the head of the Police Counterterrorism Department, is found fatally shot in the head.
- Eleven soldiers and police, including İncirlik Air Base Commander Gen. Bekir Ercan Van, are arrested for complicity in the coup attempt.
- Former Air Force Commander Gen. Akın Öztürk is brought to the Counterterrorism Unit in Ankara for questioning.

MONDAY, JULY 18, 2016

- WhatsApp conversations between putschists are leaked and exposed.
- Public officials are banned from leaving the country.
- İncirlik Air Base is searched.
- Brig. Gen. İsmail Gürgen, the commander of the 18th Mechanized Infantry Brigade in the Gelibolu district of the western Çanakkale province, is released pending trial.

Gülen calls millions of coup protesters in Turkey fools and says they won't succeed

For related video



TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2016

- The two pilots who had earlier shot down a Russian jet are taken into custody.
- Former Istanbul Mayor Hüseyin Avni Mutlu is suspended from his job and detained in connection to the failed coup attempt.
- MİT suspends 100 personnel from duty.
- Those who use the controversial Twitter account under the name Fuat Avni (@fuatavni_f), which has been extensively used by Gülenists to manipulate, propagandize and intimidate, are reportedly captured in an operation. Some claim that the one running the account is Akif Mustafa Koçyiğit, who had been working as the head of the collection center of the Prime Ministry, a key position where intelligence is gathered.
- WikiLeaks releases what it calls secret correspondence between members of the AK Party. The contents of the emails do not seem as crucial as WikiLeaks suggested. Most of the emails are private information of the AK Party members, Google Groups notifications, newsletters from media outlets and spam.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2016

- Gen. Akar's aide confesses his affiliation with the Gülen Movement.
- 113 judges and prosecutors, including two constitutional court members, are arrested for having links to the Gülenist coup attempt.

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2016

- After a four-hour, 40-minute Cabinet meeting, President Erdoğan declares a three-month state of emergency following the failed coup.
- The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) suspends 29 personnel from duty.
- Tens of thousands of people gather on Istanbul's Bosporus Bridge to protest the failed coup attempt.





Chief of General Staff Gen. Hulusi Akar

Chief of General Staff Gen. Hulusi Akar

Chief of General Staff Gen. Hulusi Akar was forcefully detained by putchist officers at his post in the General Staff headquarters during the July 15 coup attempt and was brought to Akıncı Air Base, which was being used as the headquarters for the coup attempt.

Akar said in his testimony to prosecutors that coup plotters tried to make him speak to Gülen.

He stressed in his testimony that it was FETO members who planned and executed the July 15 coup attempt. He pointed to the upcoming YAŞ meeting as the main motivation for the coup attempt. The YAS meeting was scheduled for the first week of August and a decision was expected about the purge of staff associated with the Gülen Movement in the TSK.

"I think they thought their organization would take a huge blow after our Supreme Military Council meeting in August, which we prepared for studiously," Akar said. In his statement Akar said: "Major Gen. Mehmet Dişli sat on a chair next to my table and said anxiously: 'Sir, the operation is starting, we will round up people. Battalions and brigades are on their way, you will see a little bit later.' At first I couldn't make any sense of it, maybe he said planes, but I figured out that this was something that I could describe as a coup attempt and yelled in rage: 'What the hell are you saying, what operation, are you a maniac, never.' I did not notice if the door was open or not as I was facing backward. I asked where the deputy chief of staff and

other commanders were. [Dişli] replied: 'Don't worry, stay calm, he will come.' I kept asking questions like I wouldn't have anything to do with you, some other or others involved in such business, how can you talk to me like this, who are these people, who are you? I was very angry.

"I said the road they were taking is wrong, they are getting drowned in a swamp, they will pay for it, they should at least show some manhood and end this thing before others were involved and deaths happen and immediately stop this attempt. But I couldn't convince them. He said: 'Sir, this is over and everyone is on their way.'

"I said: 'You have disgraced the history of the Turkish Armed Forces, the only place you'll be going is the public prosecutor's office.' Erdoğan's speech destroyed the hope of the coup plotters. I told them they made it worse than a war and to go turn themselves in. As time passed, the morale of the coup plotters collapsed."

"Brig. Gen. Hakan Evrim said that he could get me in touch with their opinion leader Fetullah Gülen if I wanted. I scolded him, saying that I wouldn't get in touch with anyone."

Akar said he "never even touched" the manifesto the coup soldiers wanted him to read and sign to topple Turkey's democratically elected government.

"When they read their manifesto to me, I listened cynically and without any interest," Akar said.



Captain Ali Emre Eral (L)

Captain Ali Emre Eral

Capt. Ali Emre Eral was the first to confess in the main trial on the coup attempt. The captain was stationed in the Operations Department of the Office of the Chief of General Staff as putschists took over the premises and kidnapped Akar and other generals opposing the coup attempt. He was dismissed from the TSK after the foiled putsch and arrested. During the hearing, Eral, whose wife was also a member of the terrorist group, said to the court: "You will do what your superiors tomorrow," order recounting what his "elder brother" told him one day before the coup. "Elder brother" is a term used for civilian FETÖ members who command the group's infiltrators in the military and other institutions. Eral said it was a strange phrase to use, asserting that he was supposed to comply with orders from his superiors anyway as a military officer. When questioned, Eral's "elder brother" told him he would receive "a confidential order", claiming that he realized it was about the coup only on the actual day of July 15.

He said he was first recruited by FETÖ in 2001, during his freshman

year at military school. According to Eral, he regularly attended meetings of the terrorist group and, like other officers tied to the group, he was "assigned to an elder brother" who was a former civil servant. "Prior to the coup, he introduced me to another elder brother and that elder brother met me on July 14. After he talked about obeying orders, I sensed that something strange was happening," he said, claiming he was not told about the coup attempt earlier. "They probably did not trust me, but they were looking for a way to convince me to partake in the coup. They implied this two month prior when an elder brother told me about his dream regarding a putsch and asked me if it could turn to be real, to which I responded that a coup was impossible," he said.

Eral said he was not involved in the putsch and that he waited in his room at military headquarters until the next morning, the day the coup attempt was entirely quelled.

The officer denounced FETÖ in his statement to the court and claimed that he realized it was a genuine terrorist group after he witnessed the coup.

Brigadier General Fatih Celaleddin Sağır

Brig. Gen. Fatih Celaleddin Sağır was commander of an infantry brigade in the central city of Sivas. He was among the list of people the coup plotters planned to assign as a martial law commander if the coup attempt succeeded. Sağır confessed he was connected to FETÖ in his testimony to prosecutors.

According to his statements, Sağır said he often attended the meetings of Gülen followers, especially in the 1980s and 1990s, and served the movement for 10 years. He claimed he distanced himself from Gülenists after 2007, especially following the Sledgehammer and Ergenekon cases [see information on page 11] Gülenists conducted to imprison military officers.



Fatih Celaleddin Sağır



Police officers escort Brigadier General Fatih Celaleddin Sağır (detainee) to a police station. Sağır confessed to being a Gülenist.





Brigadier General Mehmet Partigöç

Brig. Gen. Mehmet Partigöç, who served as the head of the General Staff Personnel, Planning and Administration Department, is among the leading putschists. In his testimony, he claimed that he had no ties with FETÖ. However, there is camera footage showing him with putschist troops. According to testimony from his aide, Partigöç said to Special Forces personnel: "Do not let anyone in the vicinity of the General Staff, fend off any trespasser by shooting if necessary." The investigation conducted into Partigöç found that he actively took part in meetings between July 6 and July 9 led by Adil Öksüz at a mansion in Konukkent in which the coup plot was developed. Also, the assignment list prepared by the coup plotters reads that a new position called "2nd deputy chief of general staff" was created and Partigöç was assigned as the one in charge of the headquarters. Also, a \$1 bill, which is a signature object among FETÖ disciples, was found on Partigöc. His lawyers did not show up at the hearing held on May 29 and Partigöç did not speak during it.

General Staff Chief of Personnel Lieutenant General İlhan Talu

Lt. Gen. İlhan Talu was the head of the Personnel Department at the Office of the Chief of General Staff before he was dismissed from the military and arrested for links to the coup. His mission was to investigate FETÖ's infiltration into the TSK. After the coup attempt, he was accused of leaking YAŞ decisions and bringing forward the time of coup attempt from 3:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., after MIT provided intelligence about a possible coup attempt on July 15. He is also accused of "leading the way" for a putschist team of Special Forces as they entered the military headquarters to apprehend anti-coup generals. After guiding them to the command floor, Talu held meetings with fellow putschist officers on the next steps the coup. Talu rejected the accusations after his



İlhan Talu

detention and claimed he locked himself in his office at the headquarters and never stepped out during the coup attempt. In his testimony, he blamed former General Staff Personnel Planning Administration Head of Departments Brig. Gen. Mehmet Partigöç. Lastly he said: "I knew that Partigöc is a member of FETÖ. I understood that the coup was headed by FETÖ when I saw Partigöc's signature on the martial law directive."



CCTV footage of Talu in a hallway in the General Staff headquarters at a time when he said he had locked himself in his room.



CCTV footage of Talu leading a putschist team of Special Forces officers at the General Staff headquarters.

Lieutenant Colonel Levent Türkkan



Lieutenant
Colonel Levent
Türkkan, who
had been the
right hand man
of the chief of
General Staff,
was among
the putschists
who took Akar
prisoner on
the night of the
coup attempt.

Lt. Col. Levent Türkkan, who was the aide of Chief of General Staff Gen. Akar, confessed that he was a member of FETÖ, which he said was behind the July 15 coup attempt.

Türkkan claimed he was notified of a planned coup two days before it took place by Col. Orhan Yıkılkan, the chief adviser to Akar. Yıkılkan instructed him to prepare and said they would capture the president, prime minister and commanders on July 15. Yıkılkan was "instructed by brothers" during the coup and coordinated the actions of putschist troops, according to Türkkan. He said that "brother Adil" told Yıkılkan how to coordinate the capture of the headquarters and officers opposing the putsch.

According to testimony records, he said that Project Department Head of General Staff, Major General Mehmet Dişli, who also took part in the coup attempt, was a FETÖ member. "On July 15, I went to Maj. Gen. Mehmet Dişli's room. He is a Gülenist, too. He told us that he would ask Chief of General Staff Akar if he would like to be Kenan Evren or not," Türkkan said, referring to Kenan Evren, who led the 1980 military coup as the chief of General Staff and then took over as president. He confessed that they took Akar hostage on the night of the coup.

Speaking about his background, Türkkan detailed how he joined the group while he was a

middle school student, captivated by their reach out to impoverished students like him. When he sought to join military school in his youth, Türkkan, like fellow students, was brainwashed by Gülenists, was supplied questions and answers to an admission exam for military school, a common FETO tactic to infiltrate key institutions from the military to the upper bureaucratic echelons. During his stint at the military school, he had brothers assigned to him to instruct him on what to do for FETÖ and how to keep his affiliation secret. Soon, he was a devout member of the group, offering "himmet", or voluntary monthly donations to the cult from his salary. When he was assigned duty at the General Staff headquarters, brothers instructed him to wiretap the previous chief of General Staff, Necdet Ozel. Türkkan installed a wiretapping device in Ozel's room upon an order from "brother Adil", a civilian FETÖ member. Gülenists are already implicated in a string of investigations into accusations that they wiretapped thousands of people for the purposes of blackmail and gaining insider information about prominent figures from renowned journalists to the president.

At the May 22 trials in Ankara, Türkkan told the court that he was sick when he testified. His first testimony to interrogators, however, was a lucid account of his links to FETÖ.



Brigadier General Halil İbrahim Yıldız

Marine Amphibious Brig. Gen. Halil İbrahim Yıldız was responsible for bringing two anti-coup admirals to Çiğli on the night of the coup attempt.

Yıldız surrendered on the conviction of İzmir Police Chief Celal Uzunkaya and was tried at the İzmir 2nd Criminal Court. He argued that on that night, Vice Adm. Ömer Faruk Harmancık told him on the phone that they declared martial law throughout the country and sent the orders, and instructed him to act according to the orders.

"He told me to get Rear Adm. Aydın Şirin and Rear Adm. Nihat Doğan, who were in the region, and then Serdar Dülger, the executive officer of the Naval Forces in Gümüldür, and deliver them to Ramazan Elmas at the air base in Çiğli. I told my colleagues Col. Ramazan Gencer and Executive Officer Alican Özcan to get a team and take those officers to the Çiğli base," Yıldız said, explaining that the team he assigned found the two admirals in Foça and took them to Çiğli.

Instructed to undertake this task prior to the coup attempt, Yıldız said: "We had a meeting with some officers in Ankara to plan the coup during the nineday [Ramadan] holiday before July 15. Adil Öksüz also participated in this meeting. 'Öksüz said would go to the United States to present these projects to Fetullah Gülen. At the meeting, I was given the task of taking the anti-coup generals hostage. During the coup attempt, I took two of these generals hostage."

In his testimony, Yıldız said the group's Air Force imam, Adil Öksüz, had a meeting with Vice Adm. Harmancık, who was expelled from the TSK, Rear Adm. Sinan Sürer, Col. Hakan Bıyık, one of the defendants in custody, Hasan Coşkuner – codenamed "İhsan" – as well as many people whom he did not know the names of in a villa in Çukurambar, Ankara before the coup attempt.

"While the work in the villa continued, everyone performed ablution and prayed during prayer times, but the fards were led by a civilian there. As far as I saw on the news and in printed media after July 15, I understood that he was Adil Öksüz, called the 'air imam' in the Turkish Armed Forces. On the other days, just like my first day at the villa, he constantly visited the other floors, meeting with the members of other organizations who were conducting projects for the military coup. Oksüz did not meet with me personally. I just heard him talking to Harmancık. I heard Öksüz say that the coup plan was about to be completed, that a few elements were missing, that they would be completed and that they would be approved by Gülen. Öksüz said that he would present his plan to Gülen, not in writing, but by heart. It was discussed in the villa that if the shortcomings were resolved, the coup plan would be executed on July 15, otherwise on July 22. There was indecision about the date, but for both dates, the coup plan was to be put into effect at 3:00 a.m."

(The time was changed on orders from İlhan Talu, see page 21)

Yıldız said that he testified as a

secret witness in the course of the investigation under the codename "Kuzgun", that he had been informed about the coup attempt plan beforehand and that he was deceived by the group, informing the court that he wanted to take advantage of the effective remorse law because of the regret he felt for what happened.

"I was one of the first ones to testify that Fetullah Gülen was behind the coup. I am an Anatolian child who was made an admiral by a nation trying to exist. I want to be accepted as someone who was deceived and whose religious feelings were abused, but not to escape punishment. After evaluating the events of July 15, I surrendered before the failure of the coup attempt became definite. I gave my regard in the direction of the end of the attempt," he said.

Explaining that he met with the group in the early 1990s through an officer codenamed "Ahmet Ç." in a house where FETÖ members stayed, that during the chats held in the house, Gülen's books were read, his cassettes were played and his videos were watched, Yıldız said they were warned not to ask the real names of the members, adding that everyone knew each other by their codenames and that they did not question it under the circumstances of those days.

He said that he sent his child to Nokta College, which was closed due to its ties to FETÖ.

Confessing that prior to the Military Academy exams, a FETÖ member codenamed "Remzi" gave him the general culture questions, Yıldız said that he was given the codename "Tufan" by an elder brother when he was assigned from Istanbul to İzmir's Foça district, that he was known with this name for 10 years, that Hasan Coşkuner, one of the accused civilian defendants in this case, used the codename "İhsan", that this person participated in the meetings at the villa in Ankara where the coup attempt was planned, that he communicated with a VPN and over the Viber app entered with two-stage passwords and uploaded to the tablet Coşkuner gave him, that he received instructions from there and that they did not use the ByLock encrypted messaging app unless absolutely necessary.





SAS Commando Staff Sergeant Avşar Zırh was first set free. He got married, but then came back to authorities saying his conscience troubled him, and told what he knew.

Noncommissioned officer Avşar Zırh

Avşar Zırh was a noncommissioned officer and a member of an elite marine unit. He was a member of a team of soldiers assigned by coup plotters to capture Adm. Bülent Bostanoğlu, the commander of Turkish Naval Forces, but their mission was aborted when Bostanoğlu succeeded in evading capture on the night of the coup attempt. Zırh was released following initial detention after the coup attempt, but he turned himself in 10 days later "because of his guilty conscience."

Zirh confessed membership in FETO, explaining how Gülenists recruited him before he was admitted to a military school. Zirh told the prosecutor that he was getting money from the group for his educational costs.

He said an elder brother called him one day before the putsch and asked for a meeting. Zırh met him and a man he did not know in a house. "This person told me good things would happen tomorrow. The next evening, I met four other [Gülenist] officers at noncommissioned officer Cafer Saraç's house. There were three soldiers other than me. Saraç made a few phone calls and said we were assigned to a mission to arrest the commander of the Navy, but the mission was aborted because they failed to locate him."

Sergeant Oğuz Haksal

Sgt. Oğuz Haksal, who was in the Combat Search and Rescue (MAK) team that took eight generals hostage along with Air Force Commander Gen. Abidin Ünal in a raid at the Kadıköy Moda Sea Club during the coup attempt, confessed his links to FETÖ and demanded to benefit from the remorse law. Haksal said that they landed in the Moda Sea Club's parking lot with two helicopters on an order from Sgt. Yılmaz Bahar, a FETÖ operative. Following his testimony, Haksal was arrested and sent to Sincan Prison in Ankara.



Sergeant Oğuz Haksal (detainee)

Gendarmerie Colonel

Arif Kalkan

Remarking that he was assigned to transfer all the generals residing at the Güvercinlik Air Base Lodgment to Akıncı Air Base, Gendarmerie Col. Arif Kalkan said that a group called "YS", the initials of the Peace at Home Council, was created on line application at 6 p.m. on the day of the coup attempt and messages were sent from this group. Kalkan said: "I have been in FETÖ since I was in military high school. I had a face-to-face meeting with Gülen twice. In one of these meetings, Gülen gave me the codename "Baki". At the coup meeting held in Ankara, I was assigned to take some of the generals residing at Güvercinlik hostage and bring them to Akıncı Air Base. Gülen gave us the orders through the group leaders based in Turkey. And we acted according to his orders. I can easily say that the coup attempt was kicked off on Gülen's order," Kalkan said.

Kalkan gave this statement on Aug. 14, 2016. This confession is included in the indictment of the coup attempt's Gendarmerie Schools Command offshoot. Kalkan is currently under arrest on charges of being a FETÖ member.



Muhammed Uslu

Muhammed Uslu, codenamed "Murat", who served as an official at the private Secretariat of the Prime Ministry, handed to the prosecutor the names and codenames of FETÖ members he is acquainted with. It was also revealed that the former aide to the chief of General Staff also called Uslu "elder brother". Confessing that he has contacts with 22 FETÖ members, most of which are from the military, Uslu admitted that he is an elder brother in the movement. He also said that he was not at home on July 14, but several Gülenist military officials gathered in his house to hold a meeting about the coup while his wife was at home.

"I encountered Cemaat [FETÖ] during my high school years. But my first entrance into Cemaat houses was during my college years. In 2000, I was accepted into a college in Eskişehir. My family could not afford my college expenses at the time so my elder brother referred me to a dormitory owned by Cemaat. After staying in the dorm for a while, they sent me to a Cemaat house. We were six or seven people living together in the house. We were praying, studying and reading together. In my third year at college, I became the elder brother of this house. In my senior year, I became the elder brother of a couple of houses. I stayed at one of the houses and paid visits to the others to check them.

"The military and police clashing with each other and the killing of civilians, these are not things I am OK with. The Cemaat in the way I know it should not have attempted such actions. The meetings between my military personnel and elder brother Selahattin before the coup reveal that the Cemaat members knew about the coup beforehand, which clearly indicates that Cemaat played a role in the coup attempt. For these reasons, I deeply regret being a member of the group. I also regret joining the activities of wiretapping chiefs of General Staff and their deputies. I was Levent Türkkan's [see his testimony on page 22] elder brother and I supplied him the wiretapping devices. I want my regret to be considered while rendering a verdict as part of the remorse law," Uslu said.



Police Chief Mithat Aynacı, in a tank

Police Chief Mithat Aynacı

Mithat Aynacı is a former police chief from the Istanbul Police Department at the time of the Gezi Park protests, which began as a small environmental demonstration on May 31, 2013, and mushroomed into nationwide anti-government demonstrations. He had a part in the police's excessive use of teargas and arbitrary arrests during the protests. On Nov. 1, 2014, he was dismissed for his relation with the Gülen Movement. He managed to be reinstated after he won a lawsuit against his dismissal. The night when tanks headed to the Istanbul police headquarters, Aynacı, donning a military uniform, was found in one of the tanks. A video recording shows him getting into a tank and another one shows him exit in a military uniform.

A message sent with an instant messaging application from a senior Gülenist to a FETÖ member in charge of police officers, also implicates FETÖ. The message found on the cellphone of Zeki T., a former police chief arrested during the coup attempt, calls fellow Gülenists in law enforcement to "help troops". "Stop what you do and help the soldiers. Disobey the orders [to stand against the coup]. If you see anyone resisting, try to convince them to stop resistance. Inform the retired officers, too, and tell them to get their guns and go to military headquarters. Whoever is available should go to military headquarters, police headquarters and counterterrorism police headquarters. Shoot anyone resisting the coup and help the troops," it reads. Aynacı was a ByLock user and in possession of a \$1 bill, which helped secretive group's members recognize each other. Prosecutors point to links between several high-ranking military officers arrested for being complicit in the coup attempt, noting multiple phone calls between Aynacı and putschists. An anonymous witness also said Aynacı had links with FETÖ. According to the witness, Aynacı was staying at houses rented by FETÖ, joining their meetings and his ties date back to his school years.



Mithat Aynacı on the night of the coup, is taken out of a tank at the Istanbul Police Department from which he had been dismissed.

The 11 pilots who bombed Parliament, the bridge crossing and parking lot near the Presidential Palace complex, the Ankara Police Department, the Special Operations Department and the Türksat facilities on the night of the coup attempt were included in the indictment concerning Akıncı Air Base. According to the indictment prepared by the Ankara Public Prosecutor's Office, 68 people were killed in the bombings carried out with fighter jets on the night of July 15. Twenty-five pilots used F-16s in the coup attempt, with 11 of them having carried out airstrikes. While two pilots conducted low-altitude flights over Istanbul, two others were assigned to follow President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's plane and the other 10 pilots conducted low-altitude flights over Ankara. They tried to break the resistance of the people against the coup with sonic booms created by these low-altitude flights.



Lieutenant Colonel Hakan Karakuş

The indictment concerning Akıncı Air Base says that Lt. Col. Hakan Karakuş, who is the son-in-law of former Air Forces Commander retired Gen. Akın Öztürk, had directed the FETÖ-linked pilots who bombed locations in Ankara. It also says he went to the U.S. from İncirlik Air Base when Adil Öksüz and Kemal Batmaz, two FETÖ imams, were also in the U.S., and that they planned the coup with Gülen. Sixty-nine \$1 bills were found at his home. Karakuş was dismissed from the TSK and arrested.

Staff Colonel Mustafa Özkan

Staff Col. Mustafa Özkan, one of the pilots who bombed the people on the night of the coup attempt, dropped two bombs at 12:56 a.m. and one bomb at 1:18 a.m. with a fighter jet with tail number 94-0091.

As a result of investigations, he was found to use ByLock. Özkan was dismissed from the TSK and arrested.



Staff Colonel Mustafa Özkan

Pilot Staff Captain Hüseyin Türk



Pilot Staff Captain Hüseyin Türk.

Hüseyin Türk was a pilot staff captain at Akıncı Air Base. He confessed in his testimony that he bombed Parliament after cross-examination by the Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crimes Department (KOM). Hüseyin Türk and Uğur Uzunoğlu are accused of flying the jets that dropped bombs at the Police Special Operations headquarters, killing 44 people. The putschist pilot also said he received the order to target Parliament from Hakan Evrim, who was a brigadier general and commander at Akıncı Air Base. Evrim was previously reported as the putschist soldier who wanted to make Chief of General Staff Gen. Akar speak with Gülen.

Türk indicated that pilot staff Lt. Col. Hakan Karakuş, together with pilot Staff Maj. Mustafa Azimetli gave him the coordinates in a meeting before the coup attempt. However, he said that he did not know that they are linked to FETÖ and also denied that he is a FETÖ member.

Türk was dismissed from the TSK and arrested.



People inspect cars destroyed when Macit and other pilots dropped bombs on a street near the Presidential Palace, on civilians rushing to protect the building from putschist soldiers.

Lieutenant Müslim Macit

The pilot who bombed the Presidential Palace complex in Ankara on the night of the coup attempt admitted in his testimony that he knows that FETÖ was behind the coup attempt and that he hit the complex on purpose.

Macit told investigators that he received orders from civilians affiliated with FETÖ. He said that Gülenist Lt. Ahmet Tosun was ordering jets to strike Parliament, fly at low altitudes over Ankara's Kızılay Square and to hit the headquarters of satellite operator Türksat in a bid to cut off communications. He said that he fired on the Presidential Palace and dropped a bomb close to the mosque inside the complex.

"Later on, jets taking off from Erzurum came to stop me, so I went back to the base. In the meantime, I knew that we were carrying out a coup attempt," the pilot said, adding that he intentionally hit the targets. Müslim Macit was dismissed from the TSK and arrested.



Lieutenant Müslim Macit



Pilot Major Deniz Aldemir

Maj. Deniz Aldemir, the pilot of one of the helicopters used in the coup attempt in Ankara, confessed that he took camouflage and equipped students from the Military Academy and landed them at the General Staff headquarters to support the coup attempt.

"Before taking military high school exams, I met Gülenist students during secondary school. There was a student residence in Kırşehir. I would attend the meetings there. Then I was accepted in the Kuleli [Military High School]. They were surprised, because they had not made me study previously," he said.

In his testimony, Aldemir said that he has been linked to FETÖ since he was a student, and gave the following information about FETÖ's structuring in the TSK: "There are not high-ranking imams and senior fellow members in the FETÖ structuring in the Turkish Armed Forces. Civilians take care of it and they contact military personnel. We have never used any communication tool."

Aldemir said that putschist soldiers who assumed an active role during the coup attempt like himself were also FETÖ members. "I have been a FETÖ member since military high school. Helicopter pilots, Lt. Col. Erdal Başlar and Maj. Sadullah Abra, who bombed the Ankara Police Department, as well as Lt. Col. Murat Karataş and Maj. Taha Fatih Çelik, who opened fire on MİT headquarters, are FETÖ members like me."

Aldemir was dismissed from the TSK and arrested.

Army pilot Lieutenant Colonel İlkay Ateş

Accused of shooting civilian targets in Ankara, Army Pilot Lt. Col. İlkay Ateş confessed that he had been a FETÖ member since he was young. "They introduced me to Maj. Gökhan Çiçek who was appointed to Ankara. He was serving as an Army pilot major. His elder brother guides staff officers," he said. Following this statement, the prosecutors carried out an investigation and found that Çiçek's elder brother was Hakan Çiçek, the owner of Anafartalar College and who was arrested in the Akıncı Air Base. He said that senior fellow FETÖ members had given them CDs to study for military exams.





Those at coup headquarters:

FETÖ's top 5 civilian imams at Akıncı Air Base

FETÖ's top 5 civilian imams, who headed the coup attempt, were caught on camera at Akıncı Air Base in Ankara.

For related video



ADİL ÖKSÜZ Prime Suspect

A theology lecturer in Sakarya, a northwestern city, Adil Öksüz, 50, is accused of being FETÖ's imam in charge of the Air Force and of being one of the masterminds of the July 15 coup attempt. Öksüz was one of mysterious civilians at the Akıncı Air Base occupied by the plotters of the coup attempt.

He was captured near the base on the night of the coup and released on July 18, after his hearing at Sincan Court. The judge who freed Öksüz, Çetin Sönmez, was then arrested. In his testimony, Sönmez confessed that he was in contact with FETÖ when he was a university student and he was the elder brother of students at the Police College in 1988.

Testimonies from officers involved in the coup attempt point to Öksüz is the man who worked with generals to plan the coup and ordered its execution after receiving approval from Gülen. One of the generals, Brig. Gen. Halil İbrahim Yıldız, (see his testimony pp: 23), said that Öksüz was the man who organized the coup with generals in a villa in Ankara. According to his testimony, Öksüz met generals involved in the coup attempt days before July 15, and arranged plans to seize power. After that, Öksüz traveled to the U.S. to meet Gülen, and after

Gülen gave the green light to the plans on July 13, the coup plot was executed.

Despite being a lecturer with no formal appointments or relatives abroad, Öksüz was a frequent traveler and made more than 100 trips abroad between 2002 and 2016, mostly to the U.S., according to flight records. About one month before the coup attempt, he flew to the U.S. with his wife and three children and returned to Turkey alone a few days later. On July 11, he went to New York on Turkish Airlines Flight TK003 in business class, seat 4G and he returned to Istanbul two days before the coup attempt on July 13. Security forces found him near Akıncı Air Base. In his testimony he told the court in Ankara that he was near the base to visit an empty plot of land he was planning to buy and was taken to the base by military officers who had detained him.

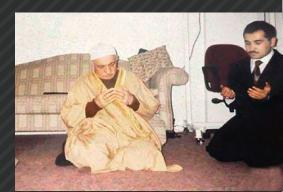
Referred to as the "black box" of FETÖ, Öksüz reportedly acts as the imam for the Air Force, and is a point man for Gülen who relayed his instructions to followers in the military. A recently surfaced, undated photo of Öksüz shows him sitting in front of Gülen in the latter's residence in Pennsylvania, U.S. The National Police Department set up a special task force to find Öksüz.



Adil Öksüz with Fetullah Gülen in Pennsylvania.



Custody photos of Adil Öksüz after the July 15 coup attempt.



Adil Öksüz (R) in the 1990s when Fetullah Gülen (C) was still in Turkey.



Hakan Evrim is ahead of Kemal Batmaz.



Kemal Batmaz, who has no military or official connection, in a hallway at Akıncı Air Base.

KEMAL BATMAZ

Kemal Batmaz was in seat 27H in economy class on the same Turkish Airlines flight to the U.S. on July 11 that Öksüz took. The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's investigating the July 15 coup plot announced that there was another FETÖ member at Akıncı Air Base who was captured shortly after the coup attempt. The suspect, Kemal Batmaz, is a former manager of a Gülen-linked company, is accused of planning and conducting the coup attempt with Oksüz. Batmaz was captured on security camera footage released by Turkish media outlets walking freely around the Akıncı Air Base in Ankara and conversing with officers who joined the coup. More footage shows Batmaz accompanying Öksüz at Istanbul's Atatürk International Airport as the two returned from the U.S. two days before the coup attempt. Prosecutors say Öksüz and Batmaz flew to the U.S., where FETÖ leader Gülen lives, on July 11, confirming allegations that Öksüz went to Gülen's Pennsylvania residence to get his approval for the coup plan.

For related video

Security camera footage of Brig. Gen. Hakan Evrim shows him saluting Batmaz, a civilian, as he passes by at the base.

Like Öksüz, Batmaz was a frequent traveler to the U.S., and although his ultimate destination was not revealed, he flew to the U.S. in January, March, June and July on the same dates as Öksüz.

Batmaz is a former manager of Kaynak Kağıt, a paper company, which was part of Kaynak Holding, which is viewed as the main source of financing for FETÖ. Authorities assigned trustees to Kaynak Holding for its links to FETÖ last year. Batmaz left the company in May 2015, and started up a real estate business, although it is believed to be a front to hide Batmaz's role as an imam for FETÖ, as an investigation found the company had no financial transactions and had not leased or sold property since it was founded.

Batmaz, the second executor of the coup attempt, is currently detained in Ankara's Sincan Prison.



Kemal Batmaz and Adil Öksüz returned to Turkey from the U.S. on July 13, 2016.

HARUN BİNİŞ

Harun Biniş was a former employee of a Gülenist holding.

The third man detained after the coup attempt along with Batmaz and was electronics engineer Harun Biniş, Biniş, seen entering rooms on security camera footage at Akıncı Air Base's command floor, told interrogators after his capture after his capture that he was at the base "to look for a plot of land to buy", as Öksüz had. Explaining that he stayed home until the morning of July 16 due to vertigo, Biniş said he did not go outside at all. He said that he shook hands with real estate agent Kemal Batmaz to look for a plot of land near Kazan during the week. Biniş was also identified as one of those who attended Öksüz's meetings with coup officers at a villa in Ankara prior to the coup attempt. Binis, a former executive at a technology company linked to FETÖ, Sürat Informatics, was already implicated in a case for illegal wiretapping of politicians, members of the judiciary, business figures and military officers. He was a suspect in the case of the Directorate of Telecommunication and Communication (TIB), a state-run agency that was closed after the coup attempt. Gülenist staff at TİB, where Biniş was contracted to install communications systems, were accused of illegal wiretapping operations, according to media reports.

Biniş is currently being held at Ankara's Sincan Prison.



Harun Biniş at Akıncı Air Base ostensibly to look for a plot of land to buy.



NURETTIN ORUÇ



Nurettin Oruç was also detained near Akıncı Air Base. He claimed that he was a filmmaker and that he was visiting a village near the base in preparation to shoot a documentary. However, Oruç said in his initial statements that he was visiting a village near the base to purchase land like Öksüz, Batmaz and Biniş. According to reports based on the chief prosecutor's statements, Öksüz, Batmaz, Oruç, and Çiçek visited the U.S. on the same days in March and June 2016.

The indictment says that Oruç's brother, former Gendarmerie Lt. Hüseyin Oruç was a deserter, that his wife Münteha Sevim Oruç, a teacher, was dismissed from the profession, that his uncle Şaban Çoşkun is under investigation concerning FETÖ and that his company partners Ferhat Küçük, Hacer Küçük, Muhammed Tüfek and his wife Hayriye Tüfek were involved in the investigation of the irregularity in the Public Personnel Selection Exam (KPSS) exam in July 2010. According to the analysis report prepared by KOM, in addition to Oruç, his relatives, deposited approximately TL 190,000 (\$52,877) in Bank Asya.

He is currently being held at Ankara's Sincan Prison.



Nurettin Oruç claimed that he was visiting a village near the Akıncı Air Base.

HAKAN ÇİÇEK

Hakan Çiçek was a businessman owning several schools in Turkey, including one in the capital where children of some top military officers attend. Cicek claimed he was at the base to discuss details of a social event his Anafartalar College would organize in cooperation with the military. "I was invited by Col. Ahmet Özçetin, a parent of one of our students, to Akıncı Air Base that night. Then military activity started around the base. I couldn't manage to escape from there. Then, in the morning, I saw people were fleeing, and I also vaulted over the wall and started to walk through a village. Then I was caught by gendarmeries. I am not a FETÖ member," Çiçek said in his first testimony to prosecutors. Ilkay Ateş, a lieutenant colonel arrested on coup attempt charges, said that Çiçek, whose brother is also a military officer, was a FETÖ imam overseeing staff officers.

Regarding his travels to the U.S. in January, March and June 2016 along with other civilian FETÖ imams, Çiçek said: "I go to the United States at the beginning of each year in order to close accounts. I go there to close accounts since I conduct exporting activities in the United States. I stayed almost a month in the States when I went there in February. I rented a horse farm in Los Angeles. I sent my daughter and son to a language school since they studied for university in U.S. schools. It is entirely coincidence that I went abroad and returned to the country with the mentioned suspects around the same periods. I do not know the people in question. My companies also have nothing to do with FETÖ. I do not have any requests to take advantage of the effective remorse law. I do not accept the cult charges."



Hakan Çiçek (R) at a ceremony at his school together with General Akın Öztürk (C).



Anafartalar College in Ankara had the appearance of a Kemalist school.



The hunt for Erdoğan

The president, who was on vacation in southwestern Muğla province at the time, had departed for Istanbul after being alerted of the coup attempt and narrowly escaped an armed attack on the hotel he was staying at in Marmaris. The hotel was bombed 15 minutes after his departure.



CCTV footage of the attack on the hotel Erdoğan was staying at in Marmaris.



Brigadier General Semih Terzi

Brig. Gen. Semih Terzi was the commander of the 1st Special Forces Brigade. The putschist soldiers who tried to assassinate Erdoğan in Muğla said they had received the order from Terzi. Terzi came first from Silopi to Diyarbakır on July 15. After the start of the coup attempt, he arrived at Akıncı Air Base in Ankara at 12 a.m. on a military cargo plane with 40 Special Forces officers. He then flew by helicopter to Special Forces headquarters in Gölbaşı. Terzi was shot dead by noncommissioned officer Ömer Halisdemir upon the order of Maj. Gen. Zekai Aksakallı, the Special Forces commander who was against the coup, at around 2:30 a.m. while walking into the headquarters.



A senior junta leader, Brigadier General Semih Terzi, ordered a team to capture Erdoğan, according to testimonies from the soldiers.

JANDARM

Gökhan Şahin Sönmezateş at the 2nd High Criminal Court of Muğla.

Brigadier General Gökhan Şahin Sönmezateş

According to the martial law directives containing lists of postcoup assignments for putschists, Brig. Gen. Gökhan Şahin Sönmezateş was designated as the undersecretary of MİT. The list revealed that those to be chief of General Staff and force commanders were also designated one by one. Sönmezateş is accused of leading the team gathered for the purpose of assassinating or capturing Erdoğan. Sönmezateş said in his defense at the first hearing of the trial at the 2nd High Criminal Court of Muğla that he had been instructed by putschist Gen. Terzi to take Erdoğan. Sönmezates admitted that he had committed a serious crime and that he tried to capture Erdoğan and take him from Marmaris to Ankara.



Brigadier General Gökhan Şahin Sönmezateş

Major Şükrü Seymen

Maj. Şükrü Seymen was the leader of a team of 11 soldiers who attacked the hotel where Erdoğan was staying. Erdoğan left the hotel about 15 minutes before the attack, and several police officers stationed at the hotel were killed in the maelstrom. Seymen and others managed to flee after their attempt to kill Erdoğan was repelled and hid in the countryside for two weeks before they were captured after a massive manhunt in the area around Muğla. In his testimony, Seymen said he was carrying out Brig. Gen. Sönmezateş's orders.



Major Şükrü Seymen



Şükrü Seymen (detainee)



Sergeant Zekeriya Kuzu

Sgt. Zekeriya Kuzu was captured with fellow putschist troops hiding in the forest outside a town in Marmaris. Kuzu and others were among troops who attacked the hotel where Erdoğan was staying in an effort to kill or capture him. He is also a FETÖ member.

Kuzu was the main Gülenist figure at Çiğli Air Base in the western city of İzmir, where he was called "pasha" for his influence over his superiors thanks to his links to FETÖ. It is further claimed that he was a FETÖ imam, or point man, who supervised fellow Gülenists in every rank in the military. He confessed in his testimony that he is affiliated with FETÖ and he gave the names of 57 military officers as FETÖ members.

On the day of the coup attempt, Kuzu said that Brig. Gen. Sönmezateş told the group of soldiers headed to Erdoğan's hotel to assassinate him to "take the president and come back." Kuzu and others traveled to Marmaris to accompany the team of assassins, who were all members of the Army, to kill or capture Erdoğan. Kuzu and the others fled when their plot was foiled upon resistance from police officers guarding the president and they failed to receive back up. The sergeant claimed he found out about the FETÖ membership of the other officers involved in the assassination attempt

when they were in hiding in Marmaris. "Captain İsmail [a Special Forces officer implicated in the coup attempt] asked the team, 18 soldiers, if there was anyone among them not a member of the Hizmet [Service] Movement. No one objected," he said, referring to the name FETÖ members call their movement. He acknowledged that although he was aware other officers' FETÖ membership, the level of secrecy made it difficult for members to recognize each other. Kuzu also said that Maj. Seymen told him that if authorities detained them, Gülenists would kill them.

Kuzu said in his testimony that he first met Gülenists in 2005 while he was stationed in the city of Konya, and he has been in contact with FETÖ since 2007. Like other officers loyal to Gülen, he was assigned an elder brother. In line with the secrecy among Gülenists, Kuzu said that he never knew the real identity of this elder brother but regularly met him. The elder brother gave him \$1 bill and told him Gülen sent it from the U.S. and said that he should carry it with himself to attract abundance. Later, Kuzu continued to meet with another Gülenist who introduced himself as "Tahir". From time to time, Kuzu supplied crucial information about military activities to elder brothers.



Sergeant Zekeriya Kuzu



Zekeriya Kuzu (front) during the team's capture in Marmaris.



\$1 bills FETÖ members used as ID cards, which police found on suspects.

Colonel Ali Yazıcı (R) served as an aide to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (L).



Erkan Kıvrak, a former aide to President Erdoğan.



Erkan Kıvrak (far L).



Ali Yazıcı (detainee).

Colonel Ali Yazıcı

Col. Ali Yazıcı who served as an aide to President Erdoğan up until the coup attempt, is accused of helping putschist troops trying to kill the president. Prosecutors say Yazıcı made an "inexplicable trip" to a military base in the city of İzmir where putschist troops gathered before flying to the resort town of Marmaris to kill Erdoğan, and repeatedly



Colonel Ali Yazıcı

sought to learn the location of the president from Erdoğan's entourage. Yazıcı did not explain why he drove to İzmir from Ankara with a military official, Lt. Col. Emin Güven, who testified that he has ties to FETÖ. Yazıcı claimed that he does not know Güven. When lawyers for the plaintiffs asked him about his phone calls, apparently to learn the whereabouts of the president, and said he did not know the phone numbers or people he called, despite phone records tracing the calls. According to former aide to Erdoğan Erkan Kıvrak's testimony, he learned the location of the hotel where Erdoğan was staying one day before the coup attempt and informed Yazıcı, who had asked him repeatedly for the information. He pointed to Yazıcı's role in the coup attempt, and said it was suspicious that Yazıcı had visited a military base in western Turkey that housed the helicopters that fired on the hotel where Erdoğan was staying during the coup attempt.

Yazıcı said he heard about a planned coup one month before the coup attempt, but was quiet on where or from whom he heard it. He did not explain why he did not inform the authorities about talk of a coup.



The assassination team Captain Haldun Gülmez

Capt. Haldun Gülmez, who was among the team that went to Muğla, was injured and captured by police. He was discovered to be carrying a document containing a "beddua", a prayer of damnation Gülen often recites to condemn the government. An interesting link connecting Gülmez and Maj.Recep Zafer, another coup officer, is an exam in 2010. The wives of Gülmez and Zafer were among the suspects of alleged fraud in the 2010 nationwide KPSS. This discovery drew attention as the fraud investigation and the failed coup attempt are related to FETÖ. FETÖ members are accused of supplying questions and answers to KPSS participants sympathetic to Gülenists, according to an indictment in the case. FETÖ is also accused of supplying answers to exams used for admission into military schools. It was revealed that 580 women who are suspects in the 2010 KPSS investigation are wives of military officers and they passed the exam answering more than 100 questions correctly.



Captain Haldun Gülmez.



Serkan Elçi gives his testimony.

Noncommissioned Officer Serkan Elçi

Sgt. Serkan Elçi is said to be among the soldiers who attacked the hotel in Marmaris.

Elçi said in his statement that he had not known anything about the coup and just followed orders. About an incident he witnessed when they arrived at the hotel in Marmaris on the night of the coup, Elçi said:

"When we searched for the president but couldn't find him, Zekeriya Kuzu swore at the police officers guarding the president and said: 'You will go through hell, it's all starting now. Don't mention God or the Quran. You said you were going to enter our dens, you sons of a thief. If you even dare to raise your heads, we



Noncommissioned Officer Serkan Elçi

will kill you. Where is [Erdoğan], which helicopter picked him up, at which airport will he land, when did the helicopter take off?"

Elçi was arrested in Muğla and later transferred to a prison in İzmir.

According to the indictment filed against 47 suspects and sent to the Muğla 2nd High Criminal Court:

Putschist soldiers searching for the villa where Erdoğan was staying walked into the hotel's garden at around 3:30 a.m. Murat Bayrak, one of the plaintiffs and a police chief serving at the Department of Presidential Security, was heard shouting at them: "Lay down your arms and surrender! We are police officers!" upon which the suspects responded: "You surrender!" Seymen was heard saying to the Bayrak: "Tell me right now where the president went or I will shoot you in the leg," swearing at and threatening him. The team that raided the hotel said: "You said you were going to enter our dens, we entered your dens now. Tell us right now where he is. Where did he go?" One of the police officers took the team to villa 1922 where the president was staying. They opened fire on the door and then inside the villa.



Kemal Işıklı

An expert at the Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency (BDDK), Kemal Işıklı, said that he served as an elder brother in the FETÖ hierarchy and oversaw the Special Forces unit that raided the president's hotel in Marmaris during the coup attempt.

In his testimony, he said: "Sgt. Murat Fırat, whom I knew was personnel in the Underwater Assault Commandos and had the codename 'Miraç', Sgt. Özgür Danışan with the codename 'Ömer', Sgt. Hamdi Çıplak with the codename 'Onur', Sgt. Fatih Kaya with the codename 'Hamza', Sgt. Mutlu Ferik with the codename 'Murat' and Sgt. İrfan Altuntaş with the codename 'İsmail' used to come to my personal residence. We read the Quran and had conversations of a religious nature. We never discussed politics. These people, who were members of the military, did not have knowledge of each other." Işıklı was the subordinate of another elder brother at an imam hatip high school codenamed "Cankurt" who gave him instructions.

"He told me to invite them and let us meet, and by them he meant the soldiers in the Underwater Assault Commandos. Then I phoned one person from each group, asked them to come over to my place and set different meeting times for them. I also called Cankurt and let him know when the soldiers were going to come. They came to my place at the times I asked them to, after which Cankurt arrived. He told them: 'Someone called. Kemal will come and see you. I want you to do what he says.' There was casual conversation afterward and then Cankurt and the soldiers left."

This was how the Underwater Assault Commandos were made aware of the imminent coup. They were the same commandos who flew on the night of the coup to Marmaris to arrest or assassinate Erdoğan.

lşıklı was arrested in his house in Çekmeköy, Istanbul, and sent to prison.



Kemal Işıklı was a civil servant experienced in banking and apparently experienced in leading Special Forces, according to his testimony.





TürkSat

Five civilians accompanied the putschist troops who went to the headquarters of TürkSat, Turkey's state-run satellite operator, on the night of the coup attempt to cut off nationwide TV broadcasts. These men turned out to be engineers from state-run science institutions who used to work at the same TV station linked to FFTÖ.

Putschist soldiers killed a TürkSat manager and an employee of the company when they opposed the takeover of the company headquarters as soldiers sought to end the broadcasts of all TV stations in the country.

The indictment against civilian suspects says Salih Mehmet Dağköy was an IT manager first for the FETÖ-linked Samanyolu TV and then for FETÖ-linked Şifa Hospital. Birol Baki, who is a specialist on uplink and satellite broadcasting systems, was also a former employee of Samanyolu TV and owned an electronics company. The other technicians, Burhan Güneş

and Aydın Yavuz were high-level employees at the state-run Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK). Both were dismissed from the institution for being suspected of having links to FETÖ. Uğur Özüdoğru worked as a computer engineer at a defense contractor and a state-run telecommunications body. Özüdoğru said in his testimony that he was contacted by now-fugitive FETO members before the coup attempt and was offered "a job with the military". "They told me that the soldiers had the approval of the United States and NATO and they would carry out a military intervention," he told the court.

The civilians arrested for the Türksat raid are not the only non-military FETÖ members involved. In Istanbul, security forces that were fighting the putschist soldiers discovered three men in plain clothes around the state broadcaster TRT building, which was one of the first targets of the Gülenist junta on July 15.

For related video dim





Salih Mehmet Dağköy, a FETÖlinked IT manager.



The TürkSat building on the night of July 15.



TürkSat was bombed during 15 July Coup attempt.



The TürkSat building on the night of July 15.

Istanbul TRT



The TRT building was one of the first targets of Gülenist junta.

In Istanbul, security forces discovered three men in plain clothes around the state-run broadcaster TRT building. The detained men had been captured in security camera footage jumping off the fence outside TRT's Istanbul headquarters minutes before. Initially thought to be civilians fleeing for their lives amid the brutal attempt to take over, their identities surprised the interrogators. Harun Şahin was the former manager of Sürat Teknoloji, a technology company closed for its links to FETÖ, and Niyazi Akalın was an engineer working at the same company. Seyfullah Genç was an engineer for Supercom, another technology company with FETÖ links.



Harun Şahin tries to escape from the TRT building. Şahin was the former manager of Sürat Teknoloji, a technology company closed for its links to FETÖ.



Niyazi Akalın was an engineer at Sürat Teknoloji, a technology company closed for its links to FETÖ.



Seyfullah Genç was an engineer at the FETÖ-linked Supercom technology company.



The civilians involved in the coup attempt running away from TRT on the morning of the July 16.



Ankara TRT



People rescue the TRT building in Ankara from the coup forces.

According to the indictment sent to the Ankara 19th High Criminal Court, Lt. Col. Ümit Gençer was tasked with the announcement of the coup declaration on state television TRT, by the Peace at Home Council, which carried out the coup attempt. After having met with Kemal Batmaz, one of the top five civilian FETÖ imams, at the Akıncı Air Base at around 3:30 p.m. on July 15, Gençer accompanied soldiers from the Regiment Presidential Guard Command, although he did not serve in the regiment, passing from the Guard Regiment to the TRT compound. Acting in concert with the previous regiment commander,

Col. Muhammet Tanju Poshor and the regiment deputy commander, Lt. Col. Ekrem Işık, Gençer and the others overpowered TRT personnel at gunpoint. Poshor and Spc. Sgt. Fatih Gazel made the personnel lay on the ground and put plastic handcuffs on them, and went on to control the security gates.

Meanwhile, Gençer, together with specialist sergeants accompanying him and the civilians Onur Demircan, Serdar Kaya, Murat Yıldız and Mustafa Aras, who had been brought by 1 st Lt. Eşref Bozkurt to the TRT building for technical support, forced TRT anchorwoman Tijen Karaş at gunpoint to read out the coup declaration.



Onur Demircan (R) in the TRT building on the night of July 15.



Ankara TRT



TRT anchorwoman Tijen Karaş reads out the coup declaration.

After Karaş read the coup declaration, Poshor, who was near the main security gate, called Gençer and told him that people had gathered in front of the building and asked him to come to the gate for reinforcement. Gençer went to the security gate with some of the specialist sergeants beside him. Seeing that Poshor had been shot and wounded by helicopters used by coup plotters, Gençer, at on Poshor's order, tried to prevent civilians gathered around the security gate from entering the building. Gençer fired several shots in the air but was caught by civilians and delivered to the police there who took him into custody.

The indictment says that a \$1 bill was found during a search of his home. A search of the suspect's workplace turned up lists containing phone numbers of commanders. An HTS report on the phone calls Gençer made to other FETÖ suspects was also included in the indictment.

"I learned of the coup attempt after 9 p.m. on the evening of July 15, from Presidential Guard Regiment Commander Col. Kutsi Barış when I went to the Guard Regiment and he showed me the messages with orders from the chief of General Staff," Gençer said.

"Col.I Barış told me that I was tasked with reading out the martial law directive on TRT. From that moment on, I acted in knowledge of the coup attempt. The advisor to the chief of General Staff, Col. Orhan Yıkılkan, called me on the phone and told me not to read out the martial law declaration myself but to have it done by an announcer. I regret what I did. When people approached us at the security gate and said we were making a mistake, I regretted it. After I had been detained, I understood that there was something wrong," Gençer added.

Digiturk

Security camera footage from the coup attempt shows some men exiting a helicopter flown by putschist pilots that landed inside a football stadium in Istanbul. Following this, the men in the company of heavily armed soldiers, hijacked a bus and forced its driver at gunpoint to take them to the TRT and Digitürk buildings.



A helicopter piloted by putschist soldiers lands in Vodafone Arena in Istanbul.



Coup officers at Vodafone Arena.



Coup plotters' WhatsApp group messages

According to the Akıncı Ait Base indictment, by Maj. Mehmet Murat Çelebioğlu set up a WhatsApp group called "we are peace at home" at 9:15 p.m. on July 15, for FETÖ members to use to communicate. The FETÖ members' texts were on66th Mechanized Infantry Brigade Command Lt. Col. Osman Akkaya's smartphone. He was arrested on July 15 while occupying the Istanbul Police Department. Some of the messages are reproduced below.

Start at: 15/07/2016 21:15:00 (UTC+3) Recent activity: 16/07/201609:36:21 (UTC+3)

BRIGADIER GENERAL (EYYÜP GÜRLER)

Time: 15/07/2016 22:09:16 (UTC+3)

Body: First Army Commander Ümit Dündar should be

immediately captured

CAPTAIN (MEHMET KARABEKİR)

Time: 15/07/2016 23:33:59 (UTC+3)

Body: I fired, there are people who are wounded.

MAJOR (MEHMET MURAT CELEBIOĞLU)

Time: 15/07/2016 23:34:16 (UTC+3)

Body: Continue Mehmet

CAPTAIN (MEHMET KARABEKİR)

Time: 15/07/2016 23:34:40 (UTC+3) Body: No concession, no hesitation

MAJOR (MURAT YANIK)

Time: 15/07/2016 23:40:47 (UTC+3)

Body: Gen. Partigöç's number is 05306620464

STAFF COLONEL (MUZAFFER DÜZENLİ)

Time: 15/07/2016 23:48:38 (UTC+3)

Body: Friends Air Force Commander Abidin Unal is at

the Moda Sea Club. Intervention is needed here

COLONEL (UZAY ŞAHİN)

Time: 16/07/2016 00:02:28 (UTC+3)
Body: Shoot the leaders at the AKP provincial

organization

STAFF COLONEL (MUZAFFER DÜZENLİ)

Time: 16/07/2016 00:20:36 (UTC+3)

Body: Intervene with force with weapons and tanks on the masses and police forces who stand against the

military forces.

STAFF COLONEL (SADIK CEBECI)

Time: 16/07/2016 00:40:00 (UTC+3)

Body: Private TV [stations] need to be shut down

COLONEL (MUAMMER AYGAR)

Time: 16/07/2016 00:51:06(UTC+3)

Body: We shot 4 people who resisted at Çengelköy.

COLONEL (MUAMMER AYGAR)

Time: 16/07/2016 00:51:09 (UTC+3)

Body: No problem

BRIGADIER GENERAL (EYYÜP GÜRLER)

Time: 16/07/2016 00:59:09 (UTC+3)

Body: Commander of second corps says "I'm not

sending troops."

COLONEL (MUAMMER AYGAR)

Time: 16/07/2016 01:32:11 (UTC+3)

Body: Need helicopter to first and second bridges. Around 20-30 people are shot by ourselves at first bridge, but brothers are in trouble at second bridge.

Need helicopter

COLONEL (AHMET ZEKİ GEREHAN)

Time: 16/07/2016 01:42:26 (UTC+3)

Body: The team went for NTV. If there is aircraft for

selimiye, there is team to intervene in media

COLONEL (MÜSLÜM KAYA)

Time: 16/07/2016 02:05:35 (UTC+3)

Body: Can the broadcast be cut?

COLONEL (UZAY ŞAHİN)

Time: 16/07/2016 02:06:06 (UTC+3)

Body: We are trying

STAFF COLONEL (MUZAFFER DÜZENLİ)

Time: 16/07/2016 02:40:42 (UTC+3)

Body: I forward the order again, fire on the masses

CAPTAIN (MEHMET KARABEKİR)

Time: 16/07/2016 04:02:10 (UTC+3)

Body: Crash, burn, no concession

