

Ergenekon attempted to trigger chaos

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Turkey will see one of the most critical days in the republic's history as the 1st hearing of the trial against the Ergenekon terrorist organization is held today. The hearing will occur at Silivri Prison and the Turkish people and media are expected to show great interest in the proceedings, in which 86 suspects will stand trial. A special hall in the prison has been set aside for the hearings. In the trial, to be conducted by the Istanbul 13th High Criminal Court, the defendants, including Workers' Party (İP) leader Doğu Perinçek, retired Brig. Gen. Veli Küçük, Cumhuriyet daily chief columnist İlhan Selçuk and former Istanbul University rector Kemal Alemdaroğlu have been indicted for establishing and managing an armed terrorist organization, inciting people to armed revolt against the government of the Republic of Turkey, attempting to render the government dysfunctional, soliciting premeditated murder, procuring confidential documents, being members of a terrorist organization

and providing weapons for Ergenekon.

What is Ergenekon?

It was former Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit who first used the term "deep state" in Turkey. Referring to a deep state in 1973, Ecevit had said, "The cover of the counter-guerrillas must be removed." However, this call went unanswered, and the issue was forgotten. Twenty-eight years have passed since then.

June 12 of last year was the beginning of the end for Ergenekon. Hand grenades seized in a shanty house in Ümraniye, Istanbul triggered a process in which the organization, particularly its civilian wing, would be deciphered to a significant extent. Retired non-commissioned officer Oktay Yıldırım was arrested, followed by retired Capt. Muzaffer Tekin, who was accused of being the mastermind behind an attack on the Council of State. The 1st detentions and arrests were followed by new ones.

The extent of the emerging network was shocking. The group operated on staunch confidentiality. What Ergenekon was a

major armed organization and it would not think twice about assassinating people to attain its goals. It had ties with other terrorist organizations including the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) as well as the mafia and crime gangs.

The price of betrayal was swift execution. They had members from every segment of society; but the group was organized into two major distinct groups: a military wing and a civilian wing, which was called "the lobby." The military wing could not be unearthed completely under the current investigation, but the lobby was largely uncovered.

Ultimate aim: Seize control of the government

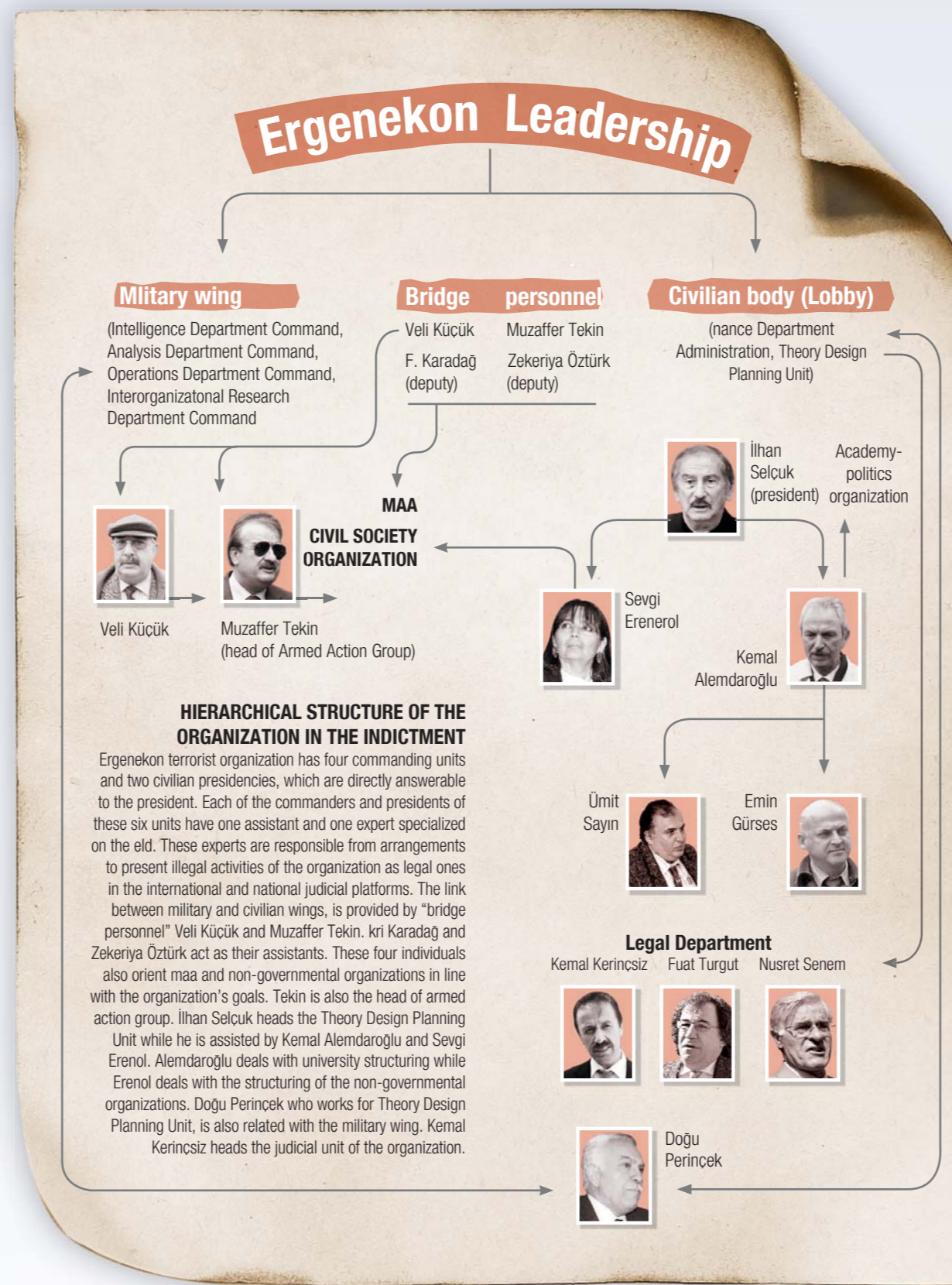
According to the indictment, the organization's short term goal is to stage acts that would trigger chaos and undermine confidence in the government. However, in the longer run, it seeks to ensure that in this chaotic environment, an illegal intervention against the government is regarded as acceptable by the people and that

the government is overthrown through an anti-democratic action.

The curtain on Ergenekon had been partially removed after a traffic accident in Susurluk in 1996 that revealed relations between elements of the government, the armed forces and organized crime. But the investigation could not be brought to completion due to the effectiveness and strength of the organization at that time.

Why it could not be deciphered

How has such a colossal organization been able to conceal itself for so many years? The organization continuously stresses the importance of secrecy for its members. Thanks to its cell-based structure, the organization's members can work independently of each other. So when some of its members are caught, they cannot provide information about other members. Moreover, the members of the organization with positions within the state prevent prosecutors from establishing links between the organization and its activities.



AMMUNITION FOUND IN ERGENEKON RAIDS



- 39 hand grenades
- 2 detonated hand grenades
- 11 kg of C-3 explosive
- 1160 gr explosive blocks
- 1 gas bomb
- 10 fuses
- 8 signal rockets
- 3 smoke bombs
- 21 TNT blocks
- 1 re bomb
- 84 capsules
- 24 re cartridges
- 50 bomb fuses
- 35 bomb fuses of various sizes
- 1 training grenade
- 2 explosive pipes
- 18 gr Emolite explosive
- 13-centimeter long fuse for explosive capsules
- 3 tubes of hydraulic acid
- 3 long-range rifle
- 2 rifles
- 2 air rifles
- 21 shotguns
- 3 blank shooting revolvers
- 34 cartridges
- 1074 shotshells
- 73 hunting shotshells
- 1 silencer
- 2 detonated anti-aircraft shells
- 2 detonated anti-aircraft shells
- 4 bayonet, knives, a large number of bearings, time-controlled fuses and other material used in making bombs, and wireless communication devices

KEMAL YALÇIN ALEMDAROĞLU

A former Istanbul University rector, he was involved in the student rallies organized against the Menderes government on April 28, 1960.

Charges: Establishing and managing an armed terrorist organization, inciting people to armed revolt against the government of the Republic of Turkey.

TUNCAY ÖZKAN

Journalist and Kanalortuk founder Tuncay Özkan was detained in his home in Istanbul in September along with former Police Chief Adil Serdar Saçan. Evidence linking Özkan to the organization was collected during searches made into the home and office of Sener Eruygur. The prosecution claims that Özkan is a member of the Lobby, or the civilian wing, of the Ergenekon organization. Özkan is remembered best for organizing massive demonstrations in three big cities of Turkey against the government last year.

SEVGİ ERENEROL

She is the spokesperson for the Turkish Orthodox Church, where Ergenekon's secret meetings were held. There are photographs showing that Tuncer Kılıç, the former secretary general of the National Security Council (MGK), Muzaffer Tekin, Kemal Kerinçsiz and certain retired generals attended these meetings, in which it is alleged that provocative assassinations were planned.

Charges: Being a member of an armed terrorist organization, inciting people to armed revolt against the government of the Republic of Turkey, procuring confidential security documents, illegally recording private information.

ALPARSLAN ARSLAN

The only known murderer in the Ergenekon trial, he killed Mustafa Yücel Ozbilgin, the head of the second department of the Council of State. After the attack, large sums of money were transferred to this bank account. Ties were discovered between him and Muzaffer Tekin. He has been sentenced to life imprisonment.

FİKRİ KARADAĞ

A retired colonel, he is the chairman of the Kuvayı Milliye Association. He is known to the public for videos showing him instructing new members of the association to take oaths on weapons and declare that they are ready to die and kill for their cause. He is believed to have been involved in planning attacks on Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk and several deputies from the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Party (DTP).

Charges: Establishing and managing an armed terrorist organization, inciting people to armed revolt against the government of the Republic of Turkey, attempting to render the government inoperative, illegally recording private information, failing to notify law enforcement about the whereabouts of fugitives.

LEVENT ERSÖZ

Former Gendarmerie General Command Intelligence department head Levent Ersöz, who is currently being sought as a suspect in the Ergenekon case, turned out to have traveled to Russia on June 29 when his detention was ordered by Ergenekon prosecutor. Although his close circle of friends said he went to Russia for business and would return within 10 days, Ersöz still has not returned back to Turkey. Ersöz served as a commander at the prison on the İmralı island in 2001 where PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan serves a life sentence.

TURHAN ÇÖMEZ

Former parliamentarian Turhan Çömez has fled the country since a search warrant has been issued for him in the Ergenekon investigation. However, he has spoken to the press since then, denying he had fled the country and asserting that his being abroad was for educational purposes. Photographs showing Çömez together with Turkish Orthodox Church Spokesperson Sevgi Erenerol, in poses suggesting that the duo was really close, were printed in the Turkish press.

VELİ KÜÇÜK

This name first came to prominence after the Susurluk accident on Nov. 3, 1996. Küçük, who was a colonel at the Kocaeli Provincial Gendarmerie Command at that time, was among the list of people with whom Abdullah Cella, who died in the accident, had contact with before his death. He is known as the founder of the illegal Gendarmerie Intelligence and Counterterrorism Service (LİTEM). One year after his promotion to the rank of brigadier general, he retired in 2000.

Charges: Establishing and managing an armed terrorist organization, inciting people to armed revolt against the government of the Republic of Turkey, attempting to render the government inoperative, soliciting premeditated murder, soliciting a bomb attack to create fear and panic, soliciting damage to property and possession of unlicensed explosives.

ŞENER ERUYGUR

Gendarmerie General Commander Gen. Sener Eruygur became the head of the Atatürkist Thought Association (ADD) after retirement. It is alleged that he was involved in two abortive coups codenamed Ayysığ (Moonlight) and Sarkız (Blond Girl) in 2004. In diaries attributed to former Naval Forces Commander Adm. Özden Örnek, Eruygur is said to be a passionate supporter of military coups. Under the scope of the Ergenekon investigation, he was detained on July 1, 2008. He was arrested on charges of being a top executive of the terrorist organization and sent to Metris Prison on July 6, 2008.

İLHAN SELÇUK

He was detained after the military memorandum that led to the overthrow of the government on March 12, 1971. He was tried in a military court. Although he had agreed to never discuss his interrogation, he wrote a book concerning this experience. He is the chief columnist and license holder of the Cumhuriyet newspaper.

Charges: Establishing and managing an armed terrorist organization, inciting people to armed revolt against the government of the Republic of Turkey, attempting to render the government inoperative.

MUZAFFER TEKİN

He was a lieutenant when he joined Turkey's peacekeeping campaign in Cyprus in 1974. In 1985, an investigation was launched against him in connection with an assault on four lieutenants at the Tuzla Infantry Training School. The military court sent him back to office. Through a Supreme Military Council (YAS) decision, he was forced into retirement. He was accused of being the mastermind behind the Council of State attack.

Charges: Establishing and managing an armed terrorist organization, inciting people to armed revolt against the government of the Republic of Turkey, attempting to render the government inoperative, procuring confidential security documents, soliciting premeditated murder, soliciting a bomb attack to create fear and panic, soliciting damage to property and possession of unlicensed explosives.

KEMAL KERİNÇSİZ

He is the head of the Grand Jurists' Union. He led official complaints against Firat Dink, who was assassinated in January 2007, and Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk, requesting that they be tried under the infamous Article 301. He lobbied against a conference organized for discussing Armenian claims of genocide at Boğaziçi University. He was an active supporter of many neo-nationalist organizations.

Charges: Establishing an armed terrorist organization, inciting people to armed revolt against the government of the Republic of Turkey, procuring confidential security documents, illegally recording private information.



ERGENEKON

