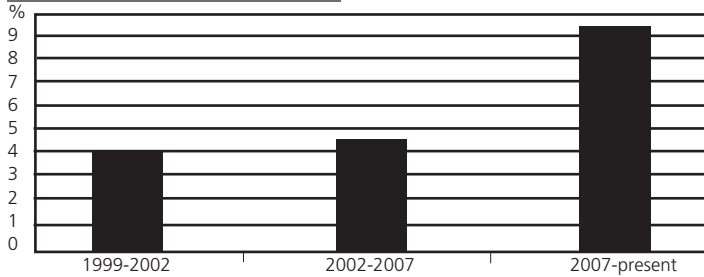


Women's Diminishing Power in Turkey

SONER CAGAPTAY/RUEYA PERINCEK

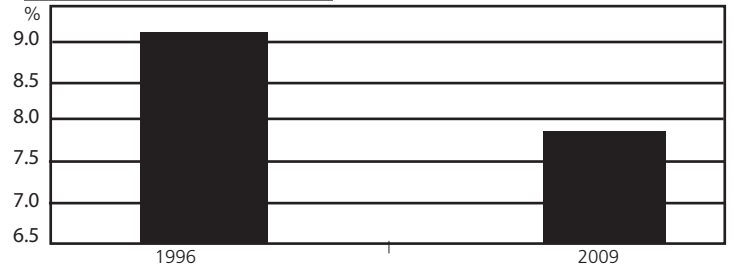
Since 2002, when the AKP government came to power, women's share in the Turkish legislature has increased:

Women in the Turkish parliament

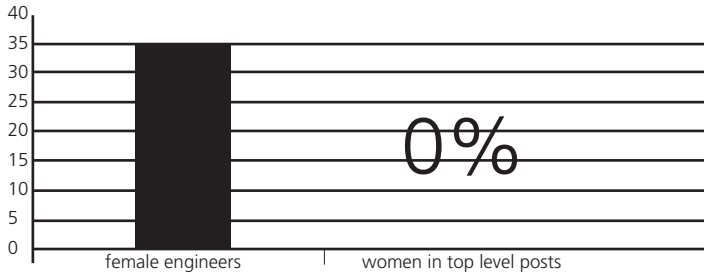


However, Turkey is a parliamentary democracy. The government controls the legislative branch and the bureaucracy. Women's share of executive positions has decreased under the AKP:

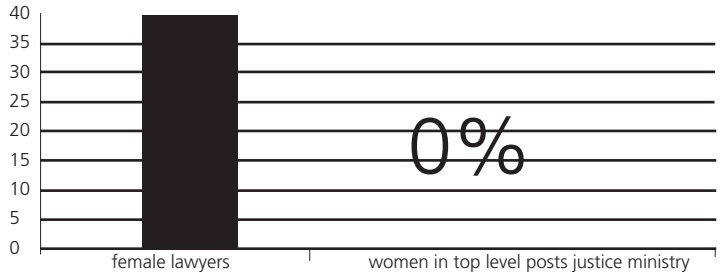
Women in executive positions



Women have no power at all in top bureaucratic positions [including undersecretary, deputy undersecretaries, advisors, and counselors], despite the fact that they are well represented in professional classes:

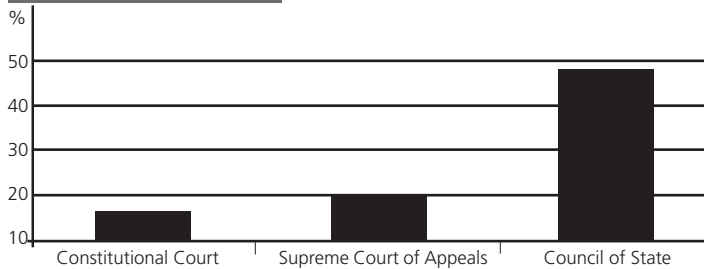


This is also the case in the justice ministry which does not have any women in top positions:



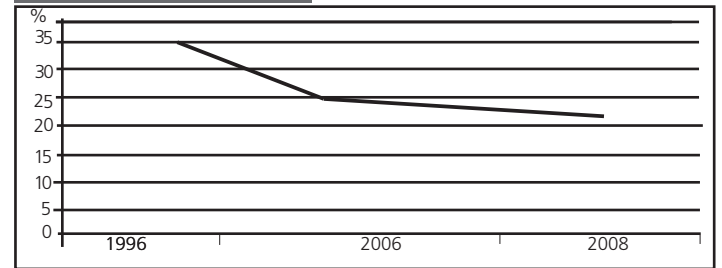
However women are well represented in the high courts. This shows their empowerment in Turkey when they do not face discrimination:

Women judges in top courts



The consequence: Under the AKP, women are losing power in Turkey:

Women in the labor force:



Sources: IRIS Group to Observe Equality: Women in Upper Level Bureaucracy Positions Report (2007), TUSIAD/ KAGIDER: Societal Gender Inequality: Problems, Priorities, and Recommendations (2008), KA-DER - Organization to Support and Educate Women Candidates: Women in Ministries Report (2009)

Soner Cagaptay is the director of the Turkish Research Program at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy
Rueya Perincek was research intern in the same program, currently she is a student at University of Bremen