

Bedirhan Kaya, one of the 864 babies living in prisons in Turkey together with their mothers, came face to face with prison bars in 2018 when he was only 8 months old. He spent the first four years of his childhood in prison, longing for the sky, trees, and soil.

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Unable to endure the injustices they faced in their home country, the Abdurrezzak family attempted to cross the Maritsa River into Greece on 13 February 2018.
However, their boat capsized during the journey. Ayşe Abdurrezzak, a teacher, and her two children drowned.
Search efforts on the river later recovered the bodies of the mother and her two children.

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Hülya Usanmaz (31), the HDP Co-chair of the Artuklu district in Mardin, was imprisoned after her 6-year-and-3-month sentence for her political activities was upheld.

At that time, she had to take her 12-month-old daughter Avşin with her into prison.

Avşin, who suffers from hemangioma, had been receiving regular monthly treatment at a private hospital in Adana, but her treatment was interrupted due to prison conditions.

Despite doctors warning that 'A closed environment, irregular lighting and lack of natural daylight pose a serious risk to her health; we can only fully treat this condition with 12–15 months of continuous therapy,' the mother's request for a postponement of her sentence was rejected.

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Following the July 15, 2016 coup attempt, approximately 19,290 women were imprisoned for acts that were not criminal under the law. 822 children (under the age of 6) live in prison with their mothers.

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Children imprisoned with their mothers for non-criminal acts such as depositing money in a bank, joining a union, or using ByLock...

The European Court of Human Rights, in the case of Yüksel Yalçınkaya v. Turkey (Grand Chamber, Case No. 15669/20, 26 September 2023), ruled that such acts cannot be considered crimes.

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Hatice Akçabay, fleeing the injustices she faced, attempted to cross the Maritsa River into Greece with her 7-, 5-, and 1-year-old children, Ahmet, Mesut, and Bekir.

However, their boat capsized. Akçabay was found clutching her 1-year-old son.

She and her three children lost their lives, leaving behind immense grief.

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Mehmet Akif, who entered prison with his mother at just 7 months old, turned 3 on September 2, 2021.
During this time, he never went outside; he learned to walk and run in the prison yard.
He never saw a park or a garden.

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Arzu Akçakaya was arrested after fingerprints of hers were found on Fethullah Gülen books, which were banned in Turkey following the civil coup.

She was sent to Konya Ereğli Prison along with her 15-month-old daughter, Damla.

When her baby fell ill, they took her to the hospital, but her medication was provided only six days later.

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Unable to live safely as a family in their country, the Teke family attempted to cross the Maritsa River from Edirne into Greece, but their boat capsized.

Their 9-year-old daughter, Nurefşan, lost her life.

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Meliha and Mehmet were arrested in July 2016 and sent to Tarsus Type T Prison.
Their son, Murat Eymen, grew up in prison alongside his mother, who was serving a 9-year and 9-month sentence.
However, when he turned six, he was forced to be separated from his mother due to prison regulations.

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Due to prolonged detention and torture, the imprisonment of pregnant women despite legal prohibitions, lack of access to healthcare in prisons, forced migration journeys, accidents during visitation trips, harsh prison conditions, stress-related illnesses, and suicides, 79 children aged 0–18 lost their lives.

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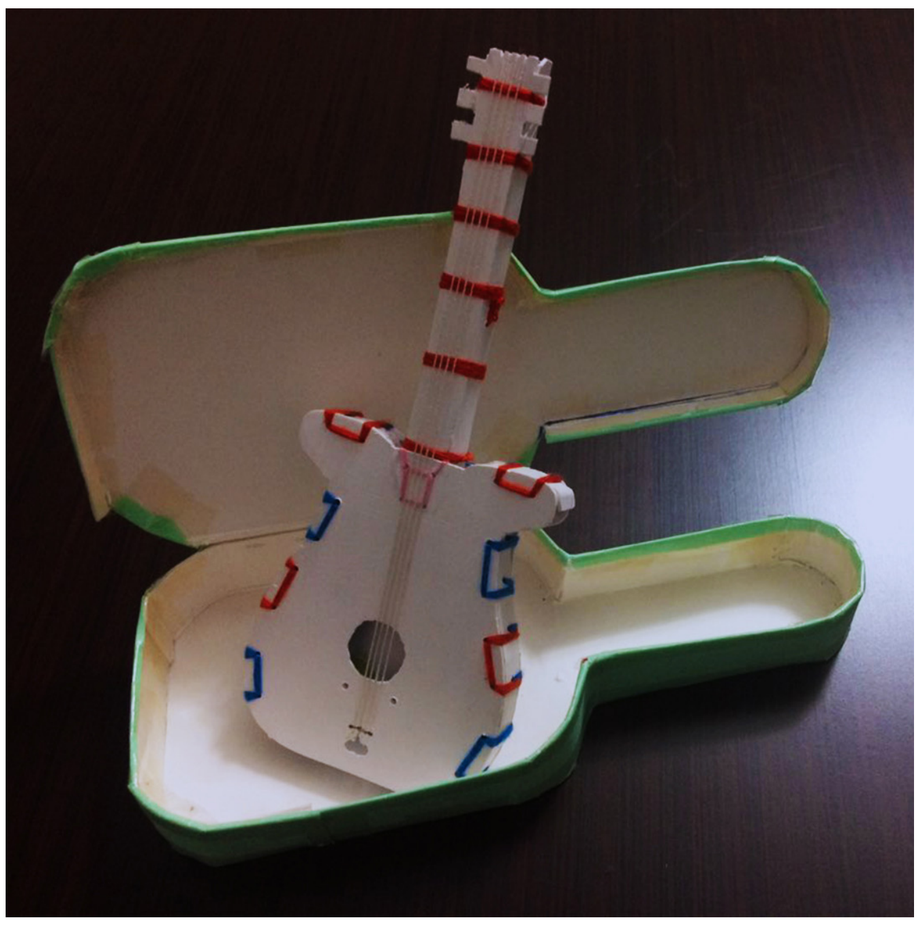
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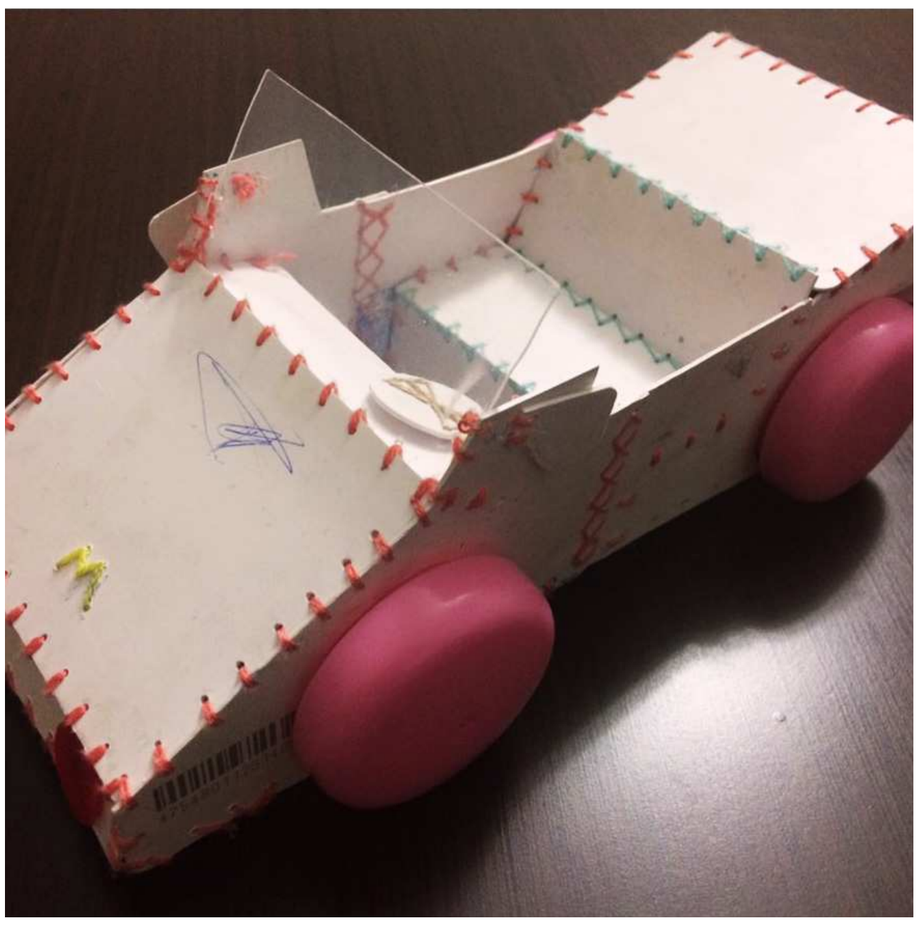
A toothpick comb made in prison by a father for his daughter.



A small teddy bear made by a jailed father for his daughter from a dish sponge.



A guitar made in prison by a father for his child.



A cardboard car made in prison by a jailed father for his son.

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