

## Chapter 10

# THE ATTITUDES OF THE MINERS TOWARD EX-PRISONERS: TTK/THI (TURKISH HARD COAL INSTITUTION) ZONGULDAK CASE

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### Introduction

States should develop and carry out social policies in order to ensure for their citizens to spend a peaceful and honourable life. Besides the policies comprising all the segments of the society, privileged policies should be also carried out for disadvantage groups. One of these disadvantage groups is ex-prisoners. Turning those who were jailed as having been involved in a crime, then did their time and got out, into laboured individuals is also one of the implementations of social policies

The obligation of employing ex-prisoners in private sector was abolished in 2008 in Turkey and there is an obligation only for public institutions to employ an ex-prisoner. Most of time, just including ex-prisoners to working life is not enough alone to keep them away from committing a crime, the negative attitudes of their colleagues and society bring about some certain challenges. The problem about reintegration of the ex-prisoners to the society can be investigated in terms of prohibition of discrimination. The prohibition of discrimination that aims to provide a legal protection for disadvantage groups becomes a new field of law. (Engin, 2012).

### The Concept Of Ex-Prisoner

Ex-prisoner, after a change in definition in 2017, is defined in its latest and most up-to-date description in those who may benefit from the anti-terrorism law without being regarded as an invalid after having been wounded during the fight against terrorism (ATL-Anti-Terrorism Law), which was published in Official Gazette that was numbered as 27354 and entered into force in 19.09.2009 as follows; “Ex-prisoner is the person that is sentenced due to a felony or a crime that hinders someone from becoming state official, and the person serving their time in prisons, or the one whose penalty is reprieved, or who is paroled, or who cannot be hired according to the conditions that are determined in special laws, and who is suspended from public services for life.”

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When the attitudes of the miners, who participated in research, toward ex-prisoners take into account, they have generally moderate attitudes (neither positive nor negative) (scale mean = 3, 39). The attitudes of the miners toward ex-prisoners are not statistically significant according to their educational level, number of children, place of residence and the educational level of their wives. As a result of current legislative amendments, one hand the obligation of employing ex-prisoners in private sector has been abolished, on the other hand as a matter of social state, it has been stipulated that this obligation should be maintained to carry out by public institutions and organisations. Hence, after this regulation, the integration of the ex-prisoners to the society has become difficult on account of the constriction especially in the employment opportunities of the ex-prisoners. In this regard, the educational level and the professional competence of ex-prisoners should be improved as highly as possible to employ in private sector and their employment should be fulfilled. After employment, necessary precautions must be taken into account lest they should be marginalized in workplace environment.

Turkish Employment Agency has a significant role both in the education of prisoners and convicts and in the work placement. Provincial Employment and Vocational Education Boards, Penal Intuition Managements and Probation Branch Offices are highly responsible for reintegrating ex-prisoners to the society and for altering the perspective of the society toward the prisons and ex-prisoners in a positive way. With regard to providing employment conditions which are essential to reintegrate the ex-prisoners to the society after prison, it is necessary to encourage them to set up their own business and to support their enterprise initiatives. In respect to setting up their own business, it will be possible ex-prisoners to get a start in business by means of encouraging some institution such as KOSGEB, Microcredit and Nongovernmental Organisations to support ex-prisoner orientated entrepreneurship projects. Especially today, ex-prisoners' private enterprise initiatives should be supported as some private institution don't prefer them to employ within the scope of their businesses and also owing to lack of necessary public employment.

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