



## **SPECIAL ADVISORY: MILITARY COUP UNDERWAY IN TURKEY**

**15 July 2016**

### **SITUATION**

Earlier today some military units in Turkey launched an attempt to take over the Turkish government. Elements within the government are resisting, and claims and counter-claims by various factions are contradictory. Military activity is apparent, or reported to be taking place in Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir and Gaziantep. The national television network is apparently under the control of the military. Communications systems, including social media, are working sporadically at best and are likely to be unreliable for the near future. As of 23:00 Zulu on Friday 15 July 2016, demonstrators and advocates for both sides were on the streets in Ankara and there are reports of clashes between these sides and between military and civilians. Demonstrators have entered Ataturk Airport, both in the terminals and reportedly on the ramps. The airport is closed.

### **ASSESSMENT – SHORT TERM**

This is a fluid, dynamic and difficult-to-assess situation. Television images show large crowds of civilians on the street in Istanbul and there are unconfirmed reports of military elements firing on civilians. This would be a development beyond most previous assessments.

Although the political and military components of the situation are difficult to forecast at this time, there are some general observations we feel are likely to describe the next hours and days:

- The situation will likely remain unclear for hours – perhaps a day or two. Expect conflicting claims of control.
- The potential for violence on the streets is high. Violence is most likely to initially be between pro- and anti-government forces, followed by pro- and anti-government civilians, and potentially followed by random violence (general rioting).
- Flashpoints for violence will likely include government facilities, military bases, police stations, transit hubs, city centrals, and sports venues.
- There is no indication at this time that there is, or will be, any targeting of

visitors, tourists and other expatriates. However, anyone in a flashpoint area when violence breaks out is very much at risk.

- Communications systems are likely to operate sporadically, if at all, in the cities where fighting is underway.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FAITH-BASED WORKERS**

1. Shelter-in-place for the present. You are safer in any sheltered location than traveling.
2. Prepare for three to five days of sheltering (budget water, food and other supplies for a five-day stay).
3. If you are able to do so, communicate with your organization and/or your family to tell them you are safe and what your plans are. If you are only able to reach one (organization or family), be sure to instruct them to contact the other with this information.
4. Do not try to travel to an embassy or consulate unless your home government issues explicit instructions to do so. Again, travel is likely more dangerous than holding fast, and at this point embassies and consulates do not have capacity to evacuate expatriates.
5. If you have contingency plans for this eventuality, review them and be prepared to act on them if the situation changes.
6. As soon as you can, notify your organization of your location, condition, and your plans should you need to move from your present location.

*CCI stands ready to support Christian agencies in the response to these situations. Contact us:*

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