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# Corruption, the government, the Cemaat: A survey

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A survey conducted by the MetroPOLL Strategic and Social Research Center, titled “January 2014 - Turkey’s Pulse Research” has arrived. Professor Özer Sencar, Professor İhsan Dağı, Professor Doğu Ergil and Vahap Coşkun, Ph.D. led the survey.

I will leave it for you to comment. Here are the results:

Which one best describes the incident that started with the Dec. 17 graft operation?

42.2 percent: It is a corruption and bribery investigation.

24 percent: It is a coup initiative against the government.

24.9 percent: It is both a graft investigation and a coup plot against the government.

8.9 percent: No idea/No answer.

Do you agree that the graft operation of Dec. 17 is justified?

60.5 percent: Yes, I do.

26.5 percent: No, I don’t.

13 percent: No idea/No answer.

Do you think the claims are right that some Cabinet ministers, their close associates and relatives are involved in corruption?

70.1 percent: Yes, I do.

16.8 percent: No, I don’t.

3.1 percent: No idea/No answer.

Do you think the government is trying to cover up the corruption claims?

59.7 percent: Yes, I do.

29.6 percent: No, I don't.

10.7 percent: No idea/No answer.

Do you think the graft operations are being obstructed?

57.9 percent: Yes, I do.

31.7 percent: No, I don't.

10.5 percent: No idea/No answer.

Do you think the government exerted pressure on the security forces in the Dec. 17 corruption investigations?

61.6 percent: Yes, I do.

27.0 percent: No, I don't.

11.4 percent: No idea/No answer.

Do you think the press is freely informing the public on corruption charges?

25.0 percent: Yes, I do.

63.8 percent: No, I don't.

11.1 percent: No idea/No answer.

Which side is right in the clash between the government and the Gülen movement (Cemaat)?

45.1 percent: Both are wrong.

28.5 percent: The government is right.

6.3 percent: The Cemaat is right.

5.6 percent: Both are right

14.5 percent: No idea/no answer.

Do you believe the Cemaat has set up a parallel structure within the state?

57.3 percent: Yes, I do.

22.9 percent: No, I don't.

18.7 percent: No idea/No answer.

Do you believe the judiciary is independent?

64.8 percent: No I don't.

24.7 percent: Yes, I do.

10.6 percent: No idea/No answer.

### **Electoral projections and comments**

I talked to Professor Özer Sencar, the person heading the poll. These were his observations:

- The Dec. 17 process harms both the Cemaat and the government.

- The public perception about the Cemaat is changing negatively.

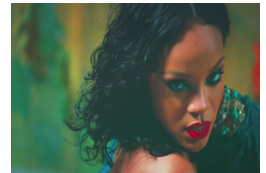
- The votes of the AKP dropped to 36 percent during the Gezi protests.
  - But the strategy endorsed by the prime minister during Gezi succeeded. Within a short time, the AKP's votes started to increase, reaching 50 percent.
  - The AKP's votes decreased to 35/36 percent over the course of Dec. 17.
  - But in contrast to the Gezi protests, the strategy endorsed by the prime minister since Dec. 17 has not led to a rise in the AKP's votes.
  - If there was a general election this Sunday; the votes that the AKP could get would be 36 percent without the undecided, and 42 percent when the undecided are taken into account.
  - (Former President Süleyman) Demirel used to say that one day was a long time in politics. This was valid for Demirel's time. Now, not just one day but even one hour is a long time in politics.
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