

1,593 Turkish workers die on job in first 11 months of 2015

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A total of 1,593 workers have died in workplace accidents in Turkey between January and November of this year, according to a report released by the İstanbul Council for Worker's Health and Work Safety (İSİG) on Wednesday.

In its report, İSİG used the term "workplace murders," a term commonly used to describe such accidents in Turkey to shed light on the negligence often involved in such incidents.

During November, 131 workers died on the job, including five women, six children and 29 elderly people. Three Syrian refugees were among those who died in addition to a Kyrgyz immigrant. Bursa and İstanbul were the locations with most work-related deaths last month, followed by Samsun, Denizli and İzmir.



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The highest number of workplace accidents occurred in the construction, transportation and agricultural sectors last month, as more than half of all workers who died in November were employed in these sectors. Vehicular accidents and being trapped or crushed by an object were the two most common ways in which workers died on the job last month.

"Between 1,500 and 2,000 workers are killed in work[place] murders each year. According to ILO [International Labour Organization] statistics, the number of those who die because of occupational illness is five to six times greater than job-accident victims, yet they are not even identified due to a lack of a [reliable] data system," İSİG maintained in a previous monthly report.

A total of 1,886 workers died on the job in 2014 in a year marred by deadly workplace accidents, including the worst jobsite disaster in the history of the Turkish republic, which occurred when 301 miners lost their lives following an underground explosion in the Soma mine in Manisa province on May 31.