**Is this the end of an Erdogan era?**

There are no words that can describe the pain of people in Turkey as well as Syria. Words fail about this tragic incident that is expected to affect approximately 13 million people who live in the region and have direct and indirect contact with the region. However, there is a lot to be said. There are so many terrible incidents that cause the pain increase, and I think it would be unconscionable or immoral to stay silent and accept everything. This incident is being experienced so severely as a result of both political and societal collapse.

What Turkey is experiencing now is not a natural but a political catastrophe. Moreover, this incident has once again demonstrated the institutional and societal collapse in Turkey unfortunately and the upcoming elections can solve the problems.

This is a political catastrophe and I think there is no doubt about it. For many years, the warnings of scientists have been ignored by the government in power. This is not unexpected for an authoritarian structure that closes its mind to others' opinions and never listens to those who are not part of it. But when human life is at stake, this is unacceptable.

Is it only the institutional structure that has collapsed? The political power's ability to construct discourse has also collapsed. The minister of economy can easily lie and say everything is under control, while calling those who lost their lives martyrs. There is no jihad. There is no holy cause. In short, the lives lost were caused by the failure of the political will to fulfill its requirements due to very different interests.

Moreover, I think the disaster has once again exposed Turkey’s flawed foreign policy. No doubt that Russia helped Türkiye in the end, but the first and most generous support came from the United States, Israel and many other Western countries with which Türkiye has always been at odds.

The truth of the matter is that this catastrophe will cause a great social trauma, that's for sure. To prevent this, whatever happens, it must create a political trauma. Because it is the political institution itself that causes the natural phenomenon to turn into a disaster. If there will be no restoration in terms of the state and society in some way, I don't even want to think about what will happen to us in the next disasters.

**Erdogan’s trajedy**

Before the earthquake, the agenda in Türkiye were the upcoming elections, whether Erdoğan would run again and the opposition bloc would somehow come up with a common candidate, but now the agenda has changed rapidly. The leader of the social-democratic CHP party, Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu will face President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on 14 May. Kılıçdaroğlu’s campaign will likely focus on promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law after years of increasingly centralised power under Erdoğan. And due to a perceived slow government response to devastating earthquakes last month, a currency crisis and rampant inflation, political scientists believe the opposition candidate may have a real chance. In other words, Kiliçdaroglu has a strong position. If we enter a normal, regular election period where the political parties will campaign and the leaders will campaign and then put themselves to the judgment of the electorate, I really think that Kemal Kilçdaroglu has a chance to win and maybe we are in the last days of Erdogan era.