



Hundreds of state archivists replaced

Umut Erdem - ANKARA

A total of 524 librarians, who used to work as experts at the State Archives, have been assigned to other posts at 300 public institutions.

The appointments followed the restructuring of the Directorate of State Archives.

Under the new structure, the State Archives will operate under the Turkish Presidency.

"There is no logical explanation for those appointments given the fact that millions of documents from the Ottoman era are waiting to be classified," said Ali Fuat Kartal, the chair of the Association of Librarians.

"Archives that serve as the nation's memory had been neglected for a long time in Turkey. But with the establishment of the General Directorate of State Archives back in 1984 and the employment of experts at this institution, we finally have a system in regard to state archives. Up to

45 million documents have been classified by experts and librarians so far," Kartal said.

According to Kartal, librarians welcomed the decision to bring the State Archives under the roof of the presidency at first.

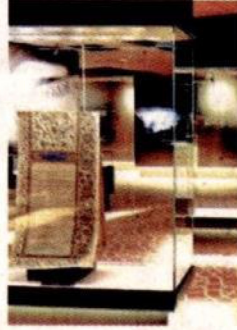
"But it is difficult to explain why those experts were deemed redundant and ap-

pointed to other irrelevant state institutions, especially at a time when there are still millions of documents in the Ottoman archives that need to be classified," Kartal added.

Meanwhile, **Alpay Antmen**, a deputy from the main opposition

Republican People's Party (CHP) has submitted a question to parliament regarding the appointments.

Antmen asked why an employee who worked at the Directorate of Ottoman Archives was appointed to the Social Security Institution, and a Middle East expert was assigned to a post at the General Directorate of Land Registry.



The State Archives include millions of Ottoman era documents.