

# 14 May 2014: Turkey – Soma mine blast

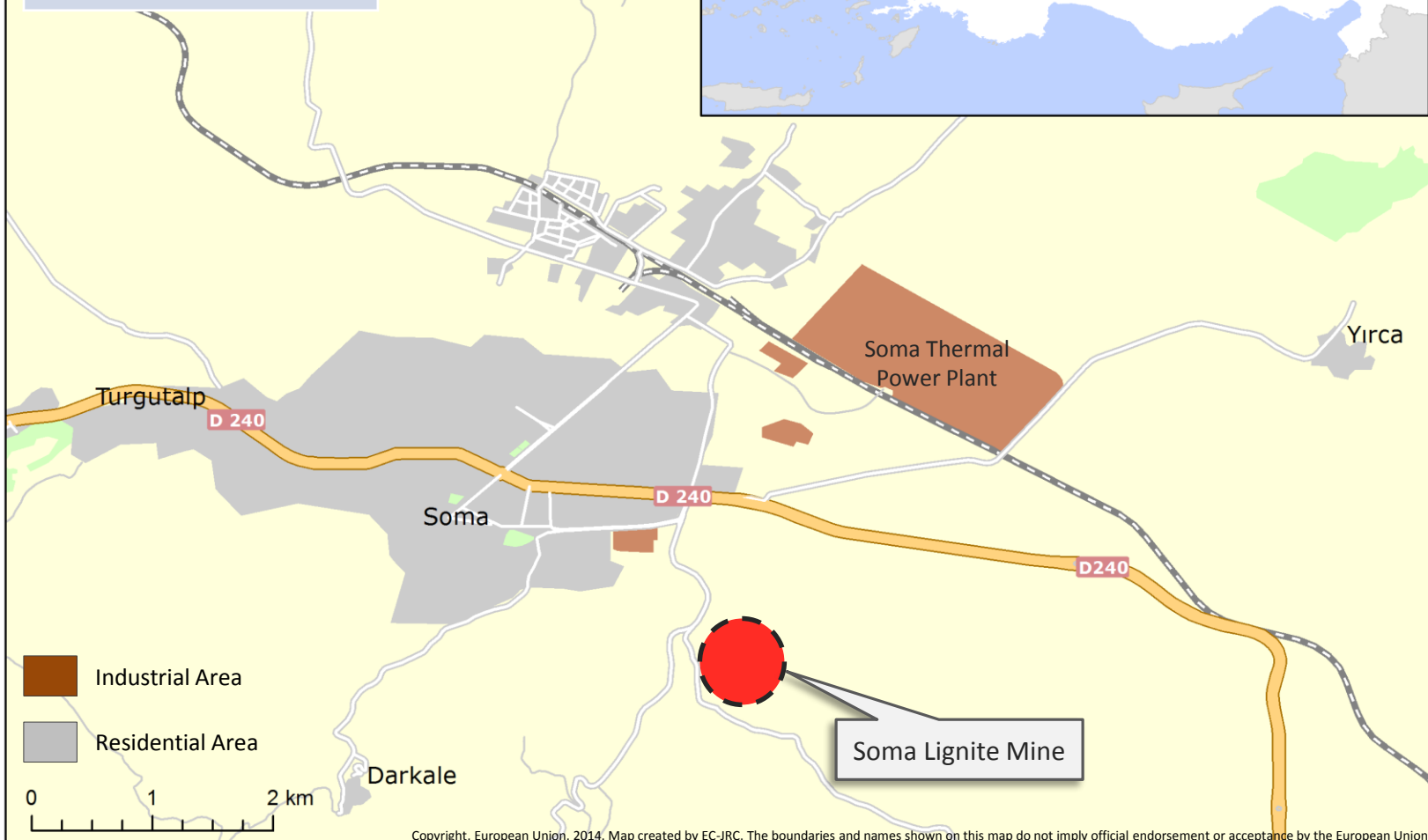
## Victim toll

as of 14 May, 13:30 UTC

238 killed

80 injured

Up to 200 missing



## SITUATION

- On the afternoon of 13 May, a coal mine power distributor exploded, setting off a fire two kilometers underground. The accident took place in a privately owned lignite mine in the city of Soma, Manisa province, some 250 km south-west of Istanbul. The fire quickly shut down electrical and ventilation systems, which combined with the depth of the explosion, have hampered relief efforts.
- According to the latest information in [international](#) and local media, 238 miners have lost their lives mostly due to carbon monoxide poisoning. Eighty people injured, according to the [statement](#) by the prime minister including four in serious condition. So far, 363 people have been evacuated to safety. A massive rescue operation is underway to assist the dozens of people (around 120, according to the prime minister) still trapped inside the mine at 2km below the surface, 4km from the mine entrance, according to the [BBC](#).
- The Ministry of Energy confirmed that 787 miners were underground at the time of the accident, due to the explosion occurring during shift change preparations when more people than usual were in the mine.
- The rescue effort involves a total of 2 326 personnel (including 476 search-and-rescue personnel from the Turkish Hardcoal Institution) and 206 vehicles, according to an official [press release](#).
- According to the information on the operating company's [website](#), the mine occupies around 5 000 underground workers, producing 250 000 tons of coal monthly.