

TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

Throughout the week, prosecutors ordered the detention of at least 20 people over alleged links to the Gülen movement. In October 2020, a UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) [opinion](#) said that widespread or systematic imprisonment of individuals with alleged links to the group may amount to crimes against humanity. Solidarity with OTHERS has compiled a detailed [database](#) to monitor the Gülen-linked mass detentions since a failed coup in July 2016.

11 July: LGBTI+ activist and Workers' Party of Turkey (TİP) member İris Mozalar was [detained](#) in İstanbul and subsequently arrested for social media posts defending refugees after attacks on Syrian refugees in Kayseri.

12 July: Turkish police have [detained](#) 11 students and five homemakers in recent raids in Bursa and İstanbul over suspected links to the Gülen movement.

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

No news has emerged of [Yusuf Bilge Tunc](#), a former public sector worker who was sacked from his job by a decree-law during the 2016-2018 state of emergency and who was reported missing as of August 6, 2019, in what appears to be one of the latest cases in a string of suspected [enforced disappearance](#) of government critics since 2016.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

11 July: The police in Ankara forcibly broke up a protest staged by an education workers labor union, [detaining](#) 15 teachers.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

8 July: A total of 515 journalists [faced](#) prosecution in Turkey in the first six months of 2024, with 36 of them receiving prison sentences or substantial fines.

9 July: İstanbul 6th Criminal Judgeship of Peace decided to [block access](#) to the news on the allegation that AKP Bursa MP and former Industry and Technology Minister Mustafa Varank, his relative businessman İslam Cevahir, DHMI General Director and THY Board Member Hüseyin Keskin and Simit Sarayı boss Abdullah Kavukcu made a pilgrimage on a private jet owned by Abdullah Kavukcu.

10 July: Journalist Tolga Şardan [appeared](#) in court on Tuesday facing charges of spreading misleading information and degrading state institutions after his T24 article on a judicial report by the intelligence agency, potentially facing up to five years in prison.

11 July: The news and columns about Simit Sarayı, which received a significant amount of state funding due to its pro-government stance, were [blocked from access](#) by the İstanbul 3rd Criminal Judgeship of Peace.

11 July: News reports on the 168,000 Turkish lira dinner between Metin Kıratlı, the Presidential Chief of Administrative Affairs, and Serkan Korkutata, the AKP's Ankara deputy provincial chairman, were [blocked](#) from access by the Ankara 1st Criminal Judgeship of Peace.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

9 July: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) on Monday [notified](#) Ankara of 1,000 applications in its docket for convictions of Gülen movement membership over the use of the ByLock smartphone application, following a landmark ruling in September 2023 that found the use of

the application to not constitute a reliable piece of evidence or a criminal offense.

9 July: A 16-year-old girl who was detained on May 7 together with 13 other minors in connection with an ongoing investigation into the Gülen movement is now [facing](#) accusations of terrorism.

11 July: Journalist Hayko Bağdat, a Turkish-Armenian journalist based in Germany, has been given a 14-month suspended [sentence](#) for insulting President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

KURDISH MINORITY

9 July: S. A. (15, m) was [subjected](#) to physical violence by the gendarmerie during a house raid in Eskişehir village of Mardin's Nusaybin district.

OTHER MINORITIES

11 July: The Freedom of Belief Initiative's 2023 report, "[Hate Crimes](#) in Turkey Based on Religion, Belief, or Non-Belief," highlights 47 hate crimes primarily targeting Christians, followed by Jews, Alevis, Muslims, Ezidis, and atheists, based on media monitoring and community notifications, aiming to prevent such crimes and eliminate impunity.

PRISON CONDITIONS

9 July: Numerous inmates at Ankara Sincan 1 Nolu High-Security Prison were [poisoned](#) by the breakfast provided and were sent to the emergency room, with allegations also stating that at least 850 inmates at Sincan Open Prison were poisoned by the meals served.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

8 July: In Konya, Aleppo Restaurant run by Syrian refugees was [stoned](#) and rendered unusable by anti-refugees.

9 July: A life raft carrying migrants [crashed](#) into rocks off Turkey's Aegean coastal town of Çeşme, killing seven people on board.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

10 July: The family of Mehmet Darga, a 65-year-old inmate suffering from diabetes and hypertension who has

undergone two angioplasty procedures while [in prison](#), is calling on Turkish authorities to grant him release for medical reasons.

11 July: Yaşar Bayar, a prisoner in Giresun Espiye L Type Prison, was not [taken](#) to the prison infirmary and was not referred to a hospital despite of loss of vision and back pains.