

TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

Throughout the week, prosecutors ordered the detention of at least 49 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.

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

13 September: In Kocaeli's Gebze district, a motorcyclist named Kerem Uzun was fatally [shot](#) by the police after allegedly failing to comply with a stop warning. He died in the hospital following the incident.

14 September: During a drainage project at Burdur Open Prison, a landslide [occurred](#), resulting in the death of an inmate named N.H., who was trapped under the collapsing soil.

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

10 September: Eight workers were [hospitalized](#) after police clashed with protesters outside a factory in Istanbul, where employees have been demonstrating for nearly two months.

14 September: Police [intervened](#) once again in a protest by Polonez factory workers in Istanbul's Çatalca district, who had been striking for 59 days after being dismissed for joining a union. 80 workers, including Tek-Gıda-İş union official Furkan Seyhan, were detained with their hands cuffed behind their backs.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

12 September: During a live broadcast reporting on the suspicious murder of Narin Güran, a young girl, Halk TV reporter Ferit Demir was [interrupted](#) by security guards who demanded he stop the transmission due to the upcoming arrival of ministers.

12 September: A total of 645 news articles and social media posts regarding Presidential Communications Director Fahrettin Altun were [blocked](#) and ordered to be removed by Istanbul's 3rd Criminal Court of Peace.

13 September: Bursa's 2nd Criminal Court of Peace [issued](#) a ruling blocking access to the domain etha53.com of the Etkin News Agency (ETHA) on the grounds of protecting national security and public order.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

12 September: A high criminal court in central Turkey has in a retrial again [convicted](#) former teacher Yüksel Yalçınkaya of terrorism due to his links to the faith-based

Gülen movement, despite a landmark decision from the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) last year in his favor.

KURDISH MINORITY

10 September: Diyarbakır prosecutors have [filed](#) charges against journalist Nurcan Yalçın, seeking up to 10 years in prison on charges of financing terrorism.

11 September: PEN International has [called](#) on Turkish authorities to drop all charges against a Kurdish writer who faces more than seven years in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda due to his work.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

13 September: Four Kurdish people who participated in protests following the death of Jina Mahsa Amini in Iran are [facing](#) the threat of deportation from Turkey back to Iran, where they could be executed.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

11 September: İzzeddin Yenigün, suffering from intestinal and kidney disorders, was [sent](#) back to prison despite his deteriorating condition and his temporary release last year for medical reasons.

13 September: Abdülmelik Okyay, a 71-year-old Kurdish politician imprisoned for social media posts, [died](#) of a heart attack while incarcerated after his parole was delayed.

13 September: The report [alleges](#) that police officers sexually harassed women during detention by forcing them to remove their clothes and photographing them at the police station.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

12 September: Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan has [called](#) on North Macedonia's newly elected government to join its fight against the faith-based Gülen movement.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

10 September: More than 1.4 million women in Turkey reported being [subjected](#) to domestic violence between January 2013 and July 2024.

13 September: The İstanbul Trans Pride Committee has [announced](#) that a transgender man was fired from a McDonalds restaurant in İstanbul's İstiklal Avenue without proper explanation. The employee was told that "you are not suitable."