

TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

Throughout the week, prosecutors ordered the detention of at least 96 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.

17 June: Turkish authorities have [detained](#) 56 people in recent nationwide operations targeting alleged members of the faith-based Gülen movement, including the fathers of [teenage girls](#) on trial in the widely criticized “Detained Minor Girls Case” accusing them of organizing educational activities, having social connections with people who were dismissed from their public duties by decree-law (KHK).

21 June: Sueda Güngör, a young woman who publicly advocated for the release of her Alzheimer’s-stricken father imprisoned in Turkey, was [arrested](#) on June 21 along with 41 others over alleged 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

17 June: Two local union leaders from the DİSK-affiliated Genel-İş were [arrested](#) in İzmir for allegedly “insulting the president” during protests against the jailing of opposition mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

16 June: Turkish investigative journalist Metin Cihan, known for his exposés on government-linked activities including continued Turkish-Israeli trade during the Gaza conflict, has had both his X accounts—“metcihan” and “metincih”—[blocked](#) in Turkey on national security and public order grounds.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

17 June: Ultranationalist Victory Party leader Ümit Özdağ was [released](#) from İstanbul’s Silivri Prison on June 17 after receiving a two-year, four-month sentence for inciting hatred, having been arrested in January shortly after criticizing the government’s refugee and national security policies.

19 June: A Council of Europe GRECO delegation [urged](#) Turkey on Thursday to urgently implement long-standing anti-corruption reforms, warning that only 3 of 22 recommendations have been fulfilled in over nine years, with persistent concerns over judicial independence.

20 June: Lawyer Mehmet Pehlivan, who represents jailed opposition mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, was [arrested](#) on charges of membership in a criminal organization, prompting strong condemnation from the İstanbul Bar Association, which called the move a blatant violation of

constitutional rights and an attempt to criminalize legitimate legal defense.

KURDISH MINORITY

17 June: In Turkey's Manisa province, a high school student was [arrested](#) for allegedly spreading "terrorist propaganda" after writing the Kurdish slogan "Jin, jîyan, azadî" and criticizing government-appointed trustees on a wall.

PRISON CONDITIONS

17 June: Families of inmates at Gaziantep L-Type Prison [report](#) severe water cuts over the past three days amid extreme heat and overcrowding.

17 June: Delal Tekdemir, co-mayor of Doğubayazıt, who was being held in İstanbul Bakırköy Women's Prison and was set to complete her sentence, [had](#) her release postponed by four months by the Prison Administration and Observation Board on the grounds of "lack of good behavior."

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

17 June: Despite suffering from paralysis, a brain tumor, chronic kidney disease, and multiple heart attacks, 73-year-old political prisoner Mehmet Emin Çam was again [deemed](#) fit to remain incarcerated by Turkey's Council of Forensic Medicine, prompting criticism of politically motivated medical assessments and inhumane prison conditions.

18 June: Journalist Perihan Sevda Erkılınç, jailed over May Day-related coverage, has been [denied](#) access to vital medications and proper gluten-free nutrition for her celiac disease in Bakırköy Women's Prison.