

TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

Throughout the week, prosecutors ordered the detention of at least 474 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.

15 July: On the ninth anniversary of Turkey's 2016 coup attempt, authorities [launched](#) sweeping operations targeting over 400 alleged Gülen movement members, detaining dozens, seizing two major retail chains.

20 July: Severely disabled former teacher Ali Aki was [arrested](#) in Osmaniye and charged in İstanbul for allegedly receiving aid from other emergency decree victims to cover his basic needs, despite a prior acquittal and serious health problems.

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

No news has emerged of [Yusuf Bilge Tunç](#), 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

20 July: On July 20, 2025, during a march in Ankara's Çankaya district marking the 10th anniversary of the Suruç

Massacre, police [detained](#) 40 people using physical violence and reverse handcuffing.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

16 July: Turkish prosecutors have [indicted](#) 21 people, including actor Cem Yiğit Üzümoğlu, for promoting an opposition-led boycott campaign following the arrest of İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, accusing them of inciting hatred and disrupting the economy.

20 July: A court in İzmir [sentenced](#) Mezopotamya agency journalist Delal Akyüz to six years and three months in prison for alleged PKK membership, despite defense claims of insufficient evidence.

20 July: Journalist İsmail Arı [revealed](#) he was again threatened via text messages targeting his family after reporting on judicial corruption involving a known criminal network, accusing Turkish authorities of inaction despite earlier complaints and warning that police and the Interior Ministry would be responsible if harm comes to him.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

16 July: İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu was [sentenced](#), in a separate case, to 1 year and 8 months in prison for insulting and threatening a public official, while being acquitted of targeting individuals involved in counterterrorism.

18 July: Turkish authorities [issued](#) detention warrants for 18 more people in a sweeping corruption probe against İstanbul's opposition-led municipality, bringing total arrests to 97 and drawing criticism for being politically motivated.

KURDISH MINORITY

15 July: In Istanbul's Bayrampaşa district, Turkish police reportedly [beat and detained](#) 10 Kurdish family members returning from a picnic for playing Kurdish music in their car, resulting in a pregnant woman being hospitalized after an emergency cesarean.

PRISON CONDITIONS

17 July: The release of seven inmates who had completed their prison sentences at Bolu F-Type Prison, was [postponed](#) for three months by the Prison Administration and Observation Board (CİGK), some for the seventh time.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

18 July: Former Harran University assistant professor Musa Günay was [subjected](#) to severe torture during a 2017 police interrogation in Şanlıurfa while already imprisoned, but his legal complaints were dismissed, as revealed by MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

18 July: A classified Turkish police memo [shows](#) efforts to bypass INTERPOL rules to seek a Red Notice against exiled journalist Levent Kenez, despite his asylum in Sweden and previous rejections over political motivations.