

# TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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## ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

Throughout the week, prosecutors ordered the detention of at least 8 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.

22 July: Turkish MP Mustafa Yeneroğlu has [drawn](#) attention to the plight of three female former air force cadets serving life sentences since 2016 despite no proven coup involvement, calling their imprisonment a deep injustice.

26 July: Turkish authorities [arrested](#) 24 people and placed 26 under judicial supervision for allegedly rebuilding the Gülen movement, amid a broader crackdown that has seen over 126,000 convictions since 2016.

## 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

23 July: A Turkish court [ordered](#) the continued pretrial detention of 13 young protesters arrested during a mass

rally supporting jailed İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, as prosecutors indicted 35 people, including a journalist, for defying police orders and allegedly insulting the president.

23 July: At least 16 protesters were [detained](#) in İstanbul for allegedly insulting President Erdoğan during a pro-Palestinian demonstration against the IDEF 2025 arms fair, which activists criticized for hosting companies supplying weapons to Israel.

26 July: 10 members of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TİP), including party council member Arzum Yalçın, were briefly [detained](#) on charges of "insulting the president" over slogans chanted during a CHP rally in İstanbul.

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

22 July: Journalists Genççağa Karafazlı and Şenol Öksüz were briefly [detained](#) over a report alleging that Rize's education director renovated his office with a private toilet and lounge using public funds.

24 July: Turkey's media watchdog RTÜK [imposed](#) a five-day broadcasting ban and hefty fines on opposition-linked TELE1 over coup-related remarks.

## FREEDOM OF RELIGION

22 July: Turkish authorities [sealed](#) the Ankara headquarters and three offices of the anti-government Furkan Foundation over alleged unlicensed activities, prompting clashes and protests as leader Alparslan Kuytul condemned the move as politically motivated repression of dissenting religious voices.

## JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

22 July: The European Court of Human Rights [ruled](#) that Turkey violated the rights of 239 individuals by convicting them for acts that did not constitute crimes (*violation of the principle of 'no punishment without law'*), in unfair trials based on flawed evidence—issuing the judgment as a follow-up to the landmark [Yalçınkaya decision](#).

## TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

23 July: Human rights groups in Turkey have [demanded](#) the immediate release of seriously ill inmate Fatma Tokmak, warning that denying her critical medical care despite court rulings and a European Court of Human Rights judgment amounts to *institutionalized cruelty* and endangers her life, as she suffers from advanced cardiac disease, hypertension, asthma, and has yet to receive surgery despite undergoing five angiographies.

26 July: Nine-months pregnant Merve Zayım, sentenced to 6 years and 3 months over alleged Gülen links, was [arrested](#) in Edirne on July 3 despite being due to give birth within days, sparking outrage over the risk of her giving birth in prison.