

ANNEX

(incidents between June 2020 – November 2025)



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OTHERS

January 2026
BELGIUM

Solidarity With OTHERS

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For transparency purposes, Solidarity With OTHERS is listed in the **EU Transparency Register**. You can verify our registration [here](#).

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Below is all the reported human rights issues related to Kurdish population (including journalists, politicians or regular citizens) from June 2020 until November 2025.

TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR

Turkey Rights Monitor is an ongoing human rights monitoring initiative by **Solidarity With OTHERS** that, over more than five years since June 2020, has systematically documented and published Weekly Bulletins on human rights violations in Turkey, providing timely, verifiable reports of abuses, legal persecution, detentions, censorship, and discrimination.

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2020

Issue 1¹

23-29 June 2020

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

June 23: Two people from the youth branch of the Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) were briefly detained in Mardin for putting up political banners demanding education in native Kurdish.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 22: Jinnews reporter Beritan Canözer was handed down a prison sentence of 1 year, 10 months, and 15 days for "spreading terrorist propaganda" in her social media posts.

KURDISH MINORITY

June 22: Gendarmerie forces carried out early morning raids into the house of Hatice Taş, former mayor of İkkiköprü town in the Batman province who was previously ousted by the interior ministry. Taş and six others were detained as part of the same investigation, according to media reports. Since the local elections last year, Turkey's interior ministry has removed from office more than 40 elected Kurdish mayors in the southeast, replacing them with pro-government trustees. Many of the mayors later faced criminal charges of alleged links to the PKK.

June 22: A government-appointed trustee who replaced the ousted Kurdish mayor of the city of Batman removed bilingual (Turkish and Kurdish) pedestrian crossing signs in the city, replacing them with monolingual signs in Turkish.

¹ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/1-EN.pdf>

June 23: Previously ousted mayor of Suruç, Hatice Çevik, was released from prison where she was held since November 2019. Çevik is standing trial for alleged membership in a terrorist organization.

June 23: Former co-mayor of Karayazı district in Erzurum, Dinçer Polat, who was detained on June 14, was arrested by the court.

June 24: A Turkish court handed down prison sentences of up to 10 years to 68 Kurdish politicians and activists, including a former elected mayor, on account of their alleged links to the PKK.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 26: Several rights groups said that Kurdish politician Sevil Rojbin Çetin was detained at her home in Diyarbakır and that during the detention the police had two dogs attack her, causing serious injury.

Issue 2²

30 June – 6 July 2020

2020

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

July 5: A pro-Kurdish news outlet reported that Fatma Elarslan, a 13-year-old girl, who was found dead in the southeastern province of Şırnak after being missing for 20 days during a local curfew in February-March 2020, was registered by local prosecutors as being “killed in clashes with security forces,” based on anonymous witness statements denouncing her as a “member of a terrorist organization.”

KURDISH MINORITY

June 29: Belarussian news reports indicated that the Supreme Court of Belarus ruled to extradite Hicri Mamas, a Kurdish political activist, to Turkey where he is accused of “threatening the unity and territorial integrity of the state.”

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

² <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/2-EN.pdf>

June 29: An Ankara criminal court ruled to keep behind bars Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ, former co-chairs of the Kurdish-oriented Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) who have been imprisoned since November 2016. Turkey previously defied an ECtHR order for Demirtaş's release.

Issue 3³

7-13 July 2020

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 7: Academics Şebnem Korur Fincancı and Gençay Gürsoy were acquitted from terrorism-related charges over a peace petition they signed in 2016 calling for a peaceful solution to the conflict in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish southeast and condemning Turkish security forces' excessive use of force.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 6: The police detained nine local Kurdish politicians in the southeastern city of Batman, including the city's former co-mayor Ömer Kulplu who was removed from office by the interior ministry and replaced with a government-appointed trustee. The nine people were released within the same day.

July 7: A court ruled to arrest Sevil Rojbin Çetin, a local Kurdish politician from the ranks of HDP who was reportedly exposed to torture for three-and-a-half hours during her detention by the police on June 26.

July 8: Local Kurdish politicians Bekir Karageçit, Hıdır Oktay and İhsak Gündüz were detained in house raids in Şanlıurfa.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 7: Media reports indicated that Tacettin Kardaş who was detained on June 30 for his social media posts was subjected to torture and ill-treatment during his questioning by the police in the Kurdish-majority province of Diyarbakır.

³ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/3-EN.pdf>

Issue 4⁴

14-20 July 2020

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

July 14: A press briefing organized by the pro-Kurdish HDP in Ankara was blocked by the police who briefly detained HDP member Veli Saçılık.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 13: The police detained Betül Yaşar, the co-mayor of the Diyadin municipality in the eastern province of Ağrı, along with three others. A government-appointed trustee replaced Yaşar.

July 14: A government-appointed trustee in the Kurdish-majority province of Van instructed municipal employees to attend coup attempt commemorations on July 15. The failed putsch was a turning point for the crackdown on Kurdish politics after which more than 46 elected Kurdish mayors were removed from office by the Interior Ministry and replaced with pro-government appointees.

July 14: The police detained 33 people in Gaziantep and a number of others in Diyarbakır, including local Kurdish politicians and local journalists working for pro-Kurdish news outlets.

July 15: A Diyarbakır court upheld former Diyarbakır Mayor Adnan Selçuk Mızraklı's prison sentence for alleged links to terrorism. Mızraklı was the elected mayor of Turkey's largest Kurdish-majority city until he was ousted by the Interior Ministry in August 2019.

July 17: A military officer who allegedly assaulted a 17 year-old girl in the province of Batman was released by a court a day after his police detention.

⁴ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/4-EN.pdf>

Issue 5⁵

21-27 July 2020

KURDISH MINORITY

July 21: A court handed down prison sentences to Şehzade Kurt and Azim Yacan, the former co-mayors of a district in the Van province on terrorism-related charges. The co-mayors were previously removed from office by the Interior Ministry. They were charged with providing supplies to the militants of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), despite testimonies by municipal employees who said that the aid was distributed to refugees in the area.

July 22: The lawyer of jailed Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtaş filed an appeal with Turkey's Constitutional Court after lower courts refused to implement a European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) decision ordering his release.

July 22: Sema Aişeoğlu, a Kurdish city council member in Urfa, was detained by the police as part of a terrorism related investigation.

July 22: Vedat Dağ, a local Kurdish politician in Diyarbakır, was detained by the police.

July 23: A Diyarbakır court ruled to arrest Mehmet Demir, former co-mayor of the Batman province who was previously removed from office by the Interior Ministry, on terrorism-related charges.

July 23: A mob in the central province of Yozgat reportedly attacked a group of Kurdish workers from the southeastern Mardin. **MILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD**

July 22: Human Rights Watch said that a Turkish airstrike on an armed group in the Kurdistan region of Iraq in late June 2020 disregarded civilian lives.

⁵ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/5-EN.pdf>

Issue 6⁶

28 July – 3 August 2020

KURDISH MINORITY

August 1: Turkey's Higher Education Board (YÖK) prohibited students studying Kurdish language and literature at Turkish universities from writing their dissertations in Kurdish.

MILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD

July 27: A local militia group in northern Syria claimed that bombing by Turkish-backed forces in Manbij killed six civilians. July 27: Turkish airstrike against Kurdish militants in northern Iraq killed two civilians.

PRISON CONDITIONS

July 29: The lawyers of Abdullah Öcalan, the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), filed an application to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) after Turkey's Constitutional Court refused to lift the ban on contact with their client.

2020**Issue 7⁷**

4-10 August 2020

KURDISH MINORITY

August 7: Police detained 16 people in Adana, including members of the Kurdish-oriented HDP. The detainees were also put under a 24-hour ban from contacting their lawyers.

⁶ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/6-EN.pdf>

⁷ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/7-EN.pdf>

Issue 8⁸

11-17 August 2020

KURDISH MINORITY

August 11: A total of 14 women were killed by men, two inmates died in prison, and three law enforcement officers were found dead under suspicious circumstances in the Kurdish-majority southeast during the first six months of 2020, according to a report by the Human Rights Association's (İHD) Diyarbakır branch.

August 15: The police detained two co-chairs of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) in the provinces of Aydın and Muş.

August 15: The police in Şırnak detained 14 people including HDP executives.

MILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD

August 14: Turkish forces in northeastern Syria reportedly cut off water from the Kurdish-held city of Hasakah.

August 14: A Turkey-backed armed group in Syria's Afrin arrested a Christian Kurdish man, according to Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW). The man was reportedly accused of apostasy by the rebel faction.

Issue 9⁹

18-24 August 2020

KURDISH MINORITY

August 18: A report released by the pro-Kurdish HDP said the Turkish government has removed 51 out of 63 of its elected mayors over the last year, replacing them with pro-government trustees.

⁸ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/8-EN.pdf>

⁹ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/9-EN.pdf>

August 19: Two HDP city councilors were detained in house raids in Siirt.

August 22: An expert report published regarding the death of Kemal Kurkut, a young Kurdish man who was shot dead by the police in Diyarbakır in 2017, said that Kurkut's killing was 'inexcusable' as there was no evidence that Kurkut was a member of a terrorist organization and that he was not a threat at the scene of the shooting.

Issue 10¹⁰

25-31 August 2020

KURDISH MINORITY

August 24: Fatma Kavmaz, a local HDP politician in Diyarbakır was detained and arrested the next day (Aug. 25) for alleged "membership in a terrorist group."

August 25: A report claimed that two out of Turkey's top three cell phone carriers, Türk Telekom and Vodafone, do not offer services in any Kurdish dialects despite having millions of Kurdish-speaking clients.

August 26: A court in Muş ruled to arrest local Kurdish politician Abdulbari Yiğit.

August 27: Three members of the pro-Kurdish HDP claimed to have been briefly abducted by people who introduced themselves as intelligence operatives. The HDP members alleged that the abductors took them to a remote location where they were tortured and coerced to become informants. August 30: One of pro-Kurdish HDP's district headquarters in Ankara was attacked by two people. One of the alleged perpetrators were reportedly detained by the police afterwards.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

August 26: Gerger Firat, a local journalist based in Adıyaman, was arrested and sent to prison after his prison sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court of Appeals (Yargıtay).

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¹⁰ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/10-EN.pdf>

Issue 11¹¹

1-7 September 2020

KURDISH MINORITY

August 31: Burhanettin Şahin, former elected mayor of the Karayazı district in Erzurum who was removed by the interior ministry and replaced with a government appointed trustee was detained. Şahin was arrested later on September 3. He was one of the scores of pro-Kurdish HDP mayors ousted from office by the interior ministry since last year's local elections.

September 4: Sixteen Kurdish seasonal farm workers were assaulted by a farm owner and a group of villagers in the northwestern province of Sakarya in what appears to be a racist attack.

MILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD

September 5: A new report by Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Parliament said that Turkey's military incursions into the country since 1992 have uprooted residents of over 500 Kurdish villages.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 2: Kurdish Journalist Rawin Sterk, who has been imprisoned since March, was released after his first hearing about his reporting of the migrant crisis at the border with Greece.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 2: Jailed journalist Gazel Bulut revealed in a letter to an MP that she has not been allowed to see her four-year-old daughter for the past six months due to Covid-19 measures related to contact visits in prison.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 4: Media reports indicated that three people; Hamdullah Esen, Tayip Temel and Mehmet Sait Yardımcı; who were detained in house raids in Urfa for alleged

¹¹ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/11-EN.pdf>

membership in terrorist groups, were subjected to torture and ill-treatment while in custody at the Urfa police department. The victims reportedly had blood stains and bruises on their bodies during their meeting with their lawyer.

Issue 12¹²

8-14 September 2020

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 8: Journalist Özgür Boğatekin was summoned by a prosecutor to give a statement about a Facebook post where he criticized a racist attack against Kurdish seasonal workers in Sakarya.

September 8: İstanbul prosecutors indicted musician Ferhat Tunç over the artwork of one of his albums, which features three leftist activists from the 1970s.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 10: A court in the Van province sentenced former HDP provincial co-chair Yadişen Karabulak to 7 years, 6 months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

September 11: A court sentenced pro-Kurdish HDP MP Remziye Tosun to 10 years in prison for alleged "membership in a terrorist organization."

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

September 10: Gendarmerie forces violently dispersed a protest in Mardin's Artuklu district against a local electricity distribution company, detaining nearly 20 people.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 11: A monthly rights report released by opposition MP and human rights defender Sezgin Tanrikulu said that at least 143 people, including five children, were subjected to torture in August 2020.

¹² <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/12-EN.pdf>

Issue 13¹³

15-21 September 2020

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 15: A ruling by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) said Turkey violated the right to liberty and security as well as freedom of expression of the Sweden-based writer Ragıp Zarakolu. In 2019, the High Court of Sweden rejected Turkey's request for Zarakolu's extradition.

September 15: Germany rejected Turkey's request for mutual judicial assistance to take the testimony of musician Ferhat Tunç, who is tried by an İstanbul court for allegedly insulting the president. The court overseeing Tunç's case issued a warrant against the musician.

September 16: A prosecutor in Muş charged journalist İdris Sayılğan with terror propaganda over his Facebook posts. The journalist has already served 1,137 days behind bars.

September 17: English PEN appointed imprisoned journalist Nedim Türfent as an honorary member.

September 19: Kurdish politician Sebahat Tuncel was sentenced to 11 months in prison for insulting the president, over her remarks calling the president "an enemy of women and Kurds."

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

September 15: Jailed Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtaş in an interview to Financial Times said the ineptness of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) in preventing the Turkish government from abusing the country's judiciary had left him and thousands of others languishing in jail.

KURDISH MINORITY

¹³ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/13-EN.pdf>

September 14: An armed attack targeting Kurdish workers in Afyon claimed the life of Özkan T. while two others were wounded as a result of the incident.

September 14: Kurdish politicians, including HDP MP Murat Sarısaç, were prevented by the police from attending the funeral for Özkan T. who was killed in a racist attack in Afyon.

September 14: A military conscript, Doğan Çetin, alleged that he was battered by two soldiers in the unit for saying he wished there was education in Kurdish.

September 17: Diyarbakır prosecutors prepared a Red Notice request against Osman Baydemir, a former MP for the pro-Kurdish HDP and the former mayor of Diyarbakır. The Chief Prosecutor's Office also asked the Justice Ministry to demand Baydemir's extradition from the UK where he reportedly lives.

September 17: Former HDP MP Leyla Güven was briefly detained by the police after joining a protest held by the Saturday Mothers.

September 17: The trustee appointed by Ankara to replace the Kurdish mayor of the eastern city of Van substituted local place name signs in Kurdish with signs in Turkish.

2020

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 20: Turkish soldiers tortured two Kurdish villagers they had detained, throwing them from a helicopter after battering them, according to eyewitness claims. A medical report stated one of the villagers suffered injuries consistent with a fall from a height.

Issue 14¹⁴

22-28 September 2020

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

September 21: The police blocked a meeting held by the pro-Kurdish HDP in the Batman province to support the international Istanbul Convention on combating gender-based

¹⁴ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/14-EN.pdf>

violence, from which the government has been implying Turkey's potential withdrawal. The police briefly detained six activists.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 25: Singer Hozan Cesim (Cesim Başboğa) alleged that he was summoned to a gendarmerie command post in Bitlis where he was threatened by individuals who introduced themselves as intelligence operatives, not to sing songs in Kurdish and not to attend meetings held by the pro-Kurdish HDP.

September 26: Media watchdog RTÜK imposed a five day broadcast ban against Halk TV broadcaster over remarks on a program criticizing the government's military interventions outside the country.

September 26: A Hatay court ruled to ban access to the pro-Kurdish Yeni Yaşam newspaper's website.

September 27: Kemal Subaşı, a man distributing the Kurdish-language Xwebûn newspaper was briefly detained by the police in Urfa on the grounds that the newspaper was "banned."

September 27: Musician Veysi Ermiş was briefly detained in İstanbul over his social media posts featuring videos where he sang songs in Kurdish.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

September 24: The trial of the murder of a 12-year-old girl shot dead in October 2015 in Diyarbakır during a curfew was put on hold after the Interior Ministry refused to grant permission for the prosecution of the police officer allegedly involved in the incident.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 21: Columnist and leftist politician Yusuf Karataş was sentenced to 10 years, 6 months in prison on terror charges over his involvement with the pro Kurdish Democratic Society Congress (DTK).

September 21: The police blocked a meeting held by the pro-Kurdish HDP in the Batman province to support the international İstanbul Convention on combating gender-based violence, from which the government has been implying Turkey's potential withdrawal. The police briefly detained six activists.

September 22: Local HDP politician Filiz Işık was detained in Mardin on terror charges. Işık was subsequently arrested by a court on Sept. 24.

2020

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September 22: The Turkey-based Human Rights Association (İHD) released a special report on hate crimes and racist attacks in Turkey, detailing 280 racist attacks that have occurred over the past 10 years, targeting in particular Kurds and Syrian refugees.

September 24: Jailed Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtaş was indicted over his court defense in January 2020 in which he criticized the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor. Demirtaş now faces up to 3 years in prison.

September 24: Ali Boçnak, a 76-year-old sick inmate, lost his life behind bars after prosecutors refused to release him. Boçnak was serving a prison sentence for his alleged membership in the Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK).

September 24: The trial of the murder of a 12-year-old girl shot dead in October 2015 in Diyarbakır during a curfew was put on hold after the Interior Ministry refused to grant permission for the prosecution of the police officer allegedly involved in the incident.

September 25: Ankara prosecutors ordered the detention of 82 prominent pro-Kurdish politicians over their alleged role in the wave of protests in Kurdish majority cities in 2014.

September 25: Singer Hozan Cesim (Cesim Başboğa) alleged that he was summoned to a gendarmerie command post in Bitlis where he was threatened by individuals who introduced themselves as intelligence operatives, not to sing songs in Kurdish and not to attend meetings held by the pro-Kurdish HDP.

September 26: A Hatay court ruled to ban access to the pro-Kurdish Yeni Yaşam newspaper's website.

September 27: Kemal Subaşı, a man distributing the Kurdish-language Xwebûn newspaper was briefly detained by the police in Urfa on the grounds that the newspaper was "banned."

September 27: Musician Veysi Ermiş was briefly detained in İstanbul over his social media posts featuring videos where he sang songs in Kurdish.

MISTREATMENT OF CITIZENS ABROAD

September 24: An operative working for Turkey's intelligence service (MİT) admitted to being ordered to kill Kurdish-Austrian politician Berivan Aslan.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

September 21: The police blocked a meeting held by the pro-Kurdish HDP in the Batman province to support the international İstanbul Convention on combating gender-based violence, from which the government has been implying Turkey's potential withdrawal. The police briefly detained six activists.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 24: Ali Boçnak, a 76-year-old sick inmate, lost his life behind bars after prosecutors refused to release him. Boçnak was serving a prison sentence for his alleged membership in the Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK).

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

September 22: The Turkey-based Human Rights Association (İHD) released a special report on hate crimes and racist attacks in Turkey, detailing 280 racist attacks that have occurred over the past 10 years, targeting in particular Kurds and Syrian refugees.

Issue 15¹⁵

29 September – 5 October 2020

2020

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 30: The Information and Communication Technologies Authority (BTK) blocked access to Sendika.org and Yeni Demokrasi news websites as well as the pro-Kurdish Mesopotamia news agency.

October 2: Van prosecutors imposed confidentiality order on the allegations that two Kurdish villagers were thrown off military helicopters and banned broadcasting or publishing news about the issue.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

October 1: A Bursa prosecutor demanded the conviction on terror charges of jailed lawyer Levent Pişkin who is standing trial for having visited jailed Kurdish political leader Selahattin Demirtaş.

¹⁵ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/15-EN.pdf>

KURDISH MINORITY

September 29: The police in Mersin detained local pro-Kurdish HDP politicians Gülbahar Şöfer and Barış Karabıyık in house raids.

September 30: Servet Turgut, a 55-year-old Kurdish villager who was allegedly thrown from a military helicopter, died after 20 days in intensive care. Van prosecutors imposed confidentiality order on the file and banned broadcasting or publishing news about the issue.

September 30: The police in Diyarbakır detained Gülistan Ensarioğlu, the co-mayor of the Eğil district from the pro-Kurdish HDP.

September 30: Kurdish musician Hozan Canê was released after spending two years behind bars. The musician was sentenced to 6 years, 3 months on terror charges. She was released after a court reviewing her case found the prison sentence disproportionate. Hozan Canê is also a citizen of Germany and the German government had made diplomatic efforts about her case.

September 30: The Information and Communication Technologies Authority (BTK) blocked access to the pro Kurdish Mesopotamia news agency.

October 1: Şevin Alaca, the co-mayor of the Kars province, was detained after the other co-mayor, Ayhan Bilgen, was detained last week along with 81 other pro Kurdish politicians. A trustee was appointed by the interior ministry to replace the co-mayors.

October 1: A Bursa prosecutor demanded the conviction on terror charges of jailed lawyer Levent Pişkin who is standing trial for having visited jailed Kurdish political leader Selahattin Demirtaş.

October 2: An Ankara court ruled to arrest 17 Kurdish politicians, out of the 82 who were detained last week.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 30: Servet Turgut, a 55-year-old Kurdish villager who was allegedly thrown from a military helicopter, died after 20 days in intensive care. Van prosecutors imposed confidentiality order on the file and banned broadcasting or publishing news about the issue.

2020

Issue 16¹⁶

6-12 October 2020

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

October 6: The governor's office in Batman imposed a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 6: Journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi and Nazan Sala were detained after they reported on two Kurdish villagers who were allegedly tortured and thrown from a military helicopter.

October 6: A Balıkesir court ruled to block access to the Rûdaw news website, a pro-Kurdish outlet based in the Iraqi Kurdistan.

October 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to the Germany-based Nupel.net news website.

October 7: Journalist Fatih Pinar was acquitted of terrorism-related charges. Pinar faced trial for sharing a photo with the hashtag #NewrozPirozBe, which means "Happy Newroz" in Kurdish.

October 8: Zeynep Durgut, a reporter for the Mezopotamya news agency was briefly detained by gendarmerie forces while covering news.

October 8: A Diyarbakır prosecutor demanded a prison sentence of up to 15 years for journalist Ayşegül Doğan, who faces terrorism-related charges over her interviews and her participation in meetings.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

October 6: The police detained Atilla Özbey and Emin Yıldız, executives of the Human Rights Association (İHD) in Ağrı, over press statements and assemblies that they attended. The two were released on probation on October 8.

KURDISH MINORITY

¹⁶ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/16-EN.pdf>

October 5: Three Swedish politicians were reportedly prevented by Turkish authorities from paying a visit to jailed Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtaş.

October 6: Journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi and Nazan Sala were detained after they reported on two Kurdish villagers who were allegedly tortured and thrown from a military helicopter.

October 6: The police detained a number of HDP politicians in house raids carried out in Van, Diyarbakır, Urfa, Şırnak and Siirt.

October 6: A Balıkesir court ruled to block access to the Rûdaw news website, a pro-Kurdish outlet based in the Iraqi Kurdistan.

October 8: Şevin Alaca, the former co-mayor of the Kars province who was detained on October 1 as part of a large-scale crackdown on pro-Kurdish politicians, was arrested by a court.

October 8: Hayri Bökü, a district co-chair of the pro Kurdish HDP in Manisa, was detained over a speech he made at a protest rally.

October 9: Media reports said that the Turkish authorities have been restricting Internet access of the Kurdish-majority town of Nusaybin for a year, citing security reasons.

2020

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 6: Journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi and Nazan Sala were detained after they reported on two Kurdish villagers who were allegedly tortured and thrown from a military helicopter.

Issue 17¹⁷

13-19 October 2020

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

¹⁷ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/17-EN.pdf>

October 12: Two of the four journalists who were arrested on last week after reporting on two Kurdish villagers allegedly tortured and thrown from a military helicopter were subjected to ill-treatment in prison, according to their lawyer.

October 13: A district governor in İstanbul banned the performance of a Kurdish-language rendition of an Italian play at the state-owned Istanbul City Theatre, citing alleged terrorism propaganda.

October 13: A quarterly media monitoring report released by Bianet said that at least four journalists were detained and 89 journalists stood trial between July and September 2020.

October 18 Some 2,500 academics worldwide signed a petition calling on Turkey to release Cihan Erdal, a researcher at Carleton University in Canada and an LGBT activist who was detained in İstanbul in September as part of a prosecution against widespread Kurdish protests in 2014.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

October 13: The lawyers of Abdullah Öcalan, the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) were prevented from seeing their client, on account of a 6-month lawyer ban imposed against Öcalan.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 12: Two of the four journalists who were arrested on last week after reporting on two Kurdish villagers allegedly tortured and thrown from a military helicopter were subjected to ill-treatment in prison, according to their lawyer.

October 12: Kurdish political activists Hazal Taş and Ferit Yıldız were detained by the police in Antalya.

October 13: A district governor in İstanbul banned the performance of a Kurdish-language rendition of an Italian play at the state-owned Istanbul City Theatre, citing alleged terrorism propaganda.

October 13: Mithat Tanrıtanır, a HDP executive in İstanbul, alleged that he was briefly abducted on Oct. 7 by people who introduced themselves as police officers, and taken to a remote location where he was coerced into becoming an informant for the authorities.

2020

2020

October 13: Provincial HDP executives Değer Yorgun and Osman Metindir were detained as part of a terrorism-related investigation in Antalya. The two were released on probation on Oct. 16.

October 14: A Şanlıurfa court ruled to arrest local HDP politician İsmail Kaplan for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda. Kaplan was initially detained on Oct 6.

October 14: A criminal investigation report submitted to the parliament demanded the lifting of the parliamentary immunities of five HDP MPs.

October 14: A court ruled to arrest six people, including a HDP provincial executive in Malatya, on terrorism-related charges, as part of an investigation into the Democratic Society Congress (DTK).

October 16: An Ankara court remanded in custody Kurdish politicians Gültan Kışanak and Gülser Yıldırım as part of a prosecution over the widespread protests in Kurdish-majority cities back in 2014.

October 18: Some 2,500 academics worldwide signed a petition calling on Turkey to release Cihan Erdal, a researcher at Carleton University in Canada and an LGBT activist who was detained in İstanbul in September as part of a prosecution against widespread Kurdish protests in 2014.

Issue 18¹⁸

20–26 October 2020

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

October 20: The family members of a man named Bahtiyar Fırat alleged that he was abducted by the National Intelligence Organization (MİT).

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

October 20: The Governor's Office in Van issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days, citing public health and public order reasons.

¹⁸ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/18-EN.pdf>

October 23: The Governor's Office in Siirt issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 19: An Ankara prosecutor demanded up to 4 years in prison for Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ, for allegedly insulting the president.

October 19: A Şanlıurfa court ruled to block access to news articles about a local ruling party member who reportedly continued to take part in party meetings after resigning due to a scandal.

October 21: Authorities excluded journalists from the first hearing of the trial regarding the 2015 murder of prominent Kurdish human rights lawyer Tahir Elçi. The court overseeing the trial rejected to hear a petition by Tahir Elçi's wife.

October 23: A freedom of expression report released by Opposition MP and human rights defender Sezgin Tanrıkulu said that 29 journalists, publishers and writers were convicted while a total of 57 journalists faced investigations in the first nine months of 2020.

2020

October 23: A Van court ruled to block access to the pro-Kurdish Jinnews, Etkin Haber and Politez Haber websites as well as the online edition of the Yeni Demokrasi newspaper.

October 23: A Van court ruled to block access to news reports about prosecutors in charge of the investigation into the torture of two Kurdish villagers who were repeatedly thrown from a military helicopter.

October 24: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted Hülya Oruç, the wife of imprisoned journalist Aziz Oruç, over her social media posts raising allegations about negligence in prisons amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Oruç now faces charges of "provoking hatred and enmity among public."

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

October 21: Authorities excluded journalists from the first hearing of the trial regarding the 2015 murder of prominent Kurdish human rights lawyer Tahir Elçi. The court overseeing the trial rejected to hear a petition by Tahir Elçi's wife.

KURDISH MINORITY

2020

October 19: Former Mardin co-mayor Ahmet Türk was released on probation. The Kurdish politician was among dozens who were arrested in early October as part of an investigation into a 2014 wave of protests in the Kurdish-majority cities.

October 21: The police in Maraş detained local HDP executives Bahir Horoz, Hacı Uzun and Dursun Bahça, along with three other party members.

October 22: Two provincial and two district co-chairs of the HDP were detained in Diyarbakır by the counterterrorism police.

October 23: Erdal Çakar, a local HDP politician in Muş, was briefly detained.

October 23: An Antalya court sentenced former HDP executive Nihat Akkaya to 10 months in prison for alleged terrorist propaganda.

October 23: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Zuhale Tekiner, a former deputy district co-mayor, to over 9 years in prison for terrorism-related charges.

October 23: A Van court ruled to block access to the pro-Kurdish Jinnews website. The judgment marked the 11th access block imposed on the website since its foundation in September 2017.

October 24: Abdullah Ekelik and Gönül Öztürk, HDP district co-chairs in Ağrı, were detained on terrorism related charges.

Issue 19¹⁹

27 October – 2 November 2020

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 26: The Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) released a report which said that over the first eight months of 2020, 38 journalists were detained, 17 journalists were arrested, 24 people were detained for “insulting the president,” and the courts ruled to block access to 53 news reports, 75 websites and five social media accounts.

¹⁹ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/19-EN.pdf>

October 26: The police in Van briefly detained Özgür Değer Deniz, the head of a local chamber of medical doctors, over his social media posts.

October 27: Prison authorities in Kocaeli partially censored an article penned by imprisoned Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ.

October 29: İstanbul prosecutors indicted Germany based journalist Burhan Ekinci for alleged terrorist propaganda over his reporting of the Kobani clashes in northern Syria in 2014.

October 29: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted journalist Nurcan Yalçın, seeking up to 15 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

October 30: A Van court ruled to block access to the websites of JinNews, Etkin News Agency (ETHA) and the Yeni Demokrasi newspaper.

October 31: The police in Diyarbakır detained Kurdish author and translator Fahriye Adsay.

KURDISH MINORITY

2020

October 26: The Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) released a report which said that over the first eight months of 2020, the Turkish government ousted 14 elected Kurdish mayors from office, replacing them with pro-government trustees.

October 26: A woman in Diyarbakır alleged that the police tortured her and her two children (aged 7 and 16) with a dog for two hours during a raid into their house.

October 27: Kurdish politician and former MP İbrahim Binici and HDP member Mesut Bağcı were detained as part of an investigation into a series of protests in Kurdish-majority cities in 2014.

October 27: Prison authorities in Kocaeli partially censored an article penned by imprisoned Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ.

October 28: The police in Mardin detained HDP district councilwoman Samiya Demir, upon orders from Mardin prosecutors.

October 28: The police in İstanbul detained three HDP members in house raids.

October 29: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted journalist Nurcan Yalçın, seeking up to 15 years in prison on terrorism-related charges. The indictment mentioned as evidence,

among others, Yalçın's membership in Rosa Women's Association, a Kurdish women's rights group.

October 30: A Van court ruled to block access to the websites of JinNews, Etkin News Agency (ETHA) and the Yeni Demokrasi newspaper. The outlets are known for their pro-Kurdish stance and their advocacy for human rights issues in the Kurdish-majority regions.

PRISON CONDITIONS

October 27: Prison authorities in Kocaeli partially censored an article penned by imprisoned Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ.

October 28: The Diyarbakır branch of the Human Rights Association (İHD) released a statement about their visit to a prison facility in Elazığ, reporting widespread lack of respect for Covid-19 social distancing requirements.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 26: A woman in Diyarbakır alleged that the police tortured her and her two children (aged 7 and 16) with a dog for two hours during a raid into their house.

2020

Issue 20²⁰

3-9 November 2020

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 3: An İstanbul appeals court overturned the acquittal of Reporters Without Borders (RSF) Turkey representative Erol Önderoğlu, writer Ahmet Nesin and prominent human rights defender Şebnem Korur Fincancı, who stood trial for spreading terrorist propaganda over their solidarity with the Özgür Gündem newspaper, which was shut down by authorities in 2016. Önderoğlu, Nesin and Fincancı are now to be retried.

²⁰ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/20-EN.pdf>

Fincancı was recently targeted by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan who accused her of being a "terrorist."

November 3: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted journalist Hakkı Boltan, who was detained on Sept. 30., for alleged membership in a terrorist organization, seeking up to 15 years in prison.

November 4: A Balıkesir court sentenced documentary film-maker Kutbettin Cebe to 2 years, 4 months in prison over a documentary he made on the Kurdish militant groups' fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in northern Syria. Cebe stood trial for allegedly "disseminating terrorist propaganda."

November 4: Edirne prosecutors launched a probe into Çetin Doğan, a military conscript who was previously assaulted by two other soldiers for advocating for Kurdish-language education, for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

November 2: Rojda Barış, a women's rights activist who was detained and arrested in June 2020 as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political movement, was sentenced to 6 years, 3 months in prison for alleged membership in a terrorist organization.

2020

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

November 5: A Gaziantep appeals court ruled in favor of a lower court decision to hand down a lenient sentence to a police officer who caused the death of two siblings aged six and seven after hitting their house with an armored vehicle in Şırnak. The officer involved was sentenced to 2 years, 1 month in prison for recklessly causing the death of one or more people, which was commuted to a monetary fine, while his chief was acquitted.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 2: A Mardin court handed down prison sentences of more than six years to local HDP politicians Ali Sincar, Leyla Bozkurt, Şehmuz Sun, Alaatin Semir Zuğurlu and Sedat Ay for alleged membership in a terrorist organization.

November 2: Rojda Barış, a women's rights activist who was detained and arrested in June 2020 as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political movement, was sentenced to 6 years, 3 months in prison for alleged membership in a terrorist organization.

2020

November 2: A new report by journalist and MP Ahmet Şık revealed that Kurdish villagers Osman Şiban and Servet Turgut were tortured by a mob of soldiers and not, as initially reported, thrown from a military helicopter. Turgut had died on Sept. 30 as a result of his injuries.

November 3: Şerali Dereli, a farmer in Hakkari, was reportedly shot dead on Oct. 29 by soldiers. Family members claimed that Dereli was unarmed and taking his horses to a barn located at some 50 meters from their house. Local prosecutors subsequently summoned five soldiers for questioning, imposing travel bans to three.

November 3: A Kurdish MP was among the 65 people who on a boat arrived in the Greek town of Katakolo to flee government persecution, although the reports did not reveal whether it was a former or a current MP.

November 3: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted journalist Hakkı Boltan, who was detained on Sept. 30. as part of an investigation into a Kurdish political group, for alleged membership in a terrorist organization, seeking up to 15 years in prison.

November 3: İbrahim Binici, Mesut Bağcık and Ayşe Yağcı, HDP politicians in Urfa who were detained on Oct. 27 as part of an investigation into the 2014 protests in predominantly Kurdish cities, were arrested after appearing before a court.

November 3: Academic Adem Yıldırım was fired from the Adıyaman University over a translation he made for the Kampfplatz magazine for an interview with a Kurdish politician from northeastern Syria. The university administration cited Yıldırım's alleged ties to "terrorism" as grounds for his removal.

November 4: The police in Osmaniye detained six local members of the HDP, including provincial co-chairs Kadriye Töre and Ali Coşkun.

November 4: Edirne prosecutors launched a probe into Çetin Doğan, a military conscript who was previously assaulted by two other soldiers for advocating for Kurdish-language education, for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda.

November 5: A Gaziantep appeals court ruled in favor of a lower court decision to hand down a lenient sentence to a police officer who caused the death of two siblings aged six and seven after hitting their house with an armored vehicle in Şırnak. The officer involved was sentenced to 2 years, 1 month in prison for recklessly causing the death of one or more people, which was commuted to a monetary fine, while his chief was acquitted.

November 6: The police detained 26 teachers in Diyarbakır over their alleged links to the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), an umbrella group of the Kurdish political movement.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

November 3: A Greek news website reported the arrival of 65 asylum seekers fleeing Turkey, including former police officers, militants of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), academics, a member of the Turkish parliament and a journalist.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 2: A new report by journalist and MP Ahmet Şık revealed that Kurdish villagers Osman Şiban and Servet Turgut were tortured by a mob of soldiers and not, as initially reported, thrown from a military helicopter. Turgut had died on Sept. 30 as a result of his injuries.

November 5: A special report released by the Human Rights Association (İHD) said that during the first 10 months of 2020 government agents used abduction and torture against a total of 160 people to coerce them into becoming informants for the authorities.

November 6: A report by opposition MP and human rights defender Sezgin Tanrıkulu said that 339 incidents of torture took place in October, 200 of which in prisons.

2020

Issue 21²¹

10-16 November 2020

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

November 12: A Diyarbakır court sentenced activist Narin Gezgör to 7 years, 6 months in prison on terrorism charges, and prosecutors demanded up to 15 years for Sevim Coşkun, as part of an investigation into the Rosa Women's Association.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

²¹ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/21-EN.pdf>

November 9: An Ağrı court ruled to release on probation journalist Aziz Oruç, who was arrested in December on terrorism charges.

November 10: The police in Ankara briefly detained Hamdullah Bayram, an employee of the Yeni Yaşam newspaper.

November 10: The police in Şırnak detained journalist Cihan Ölmez as part of an investigation by Diyarbakır prosecutors into the Kurdish political movements.

November 13: Bitlis prosecutors cited a storybook by imprisoned Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş as a terrorism evidence. The book was found in the house of Necmettin İşlek, who is standing trial for alleged membership in a terrorist organization.

November 13: The Governor's Office in Şanlıurfa banned a Kurdish-language theater play.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 9: The police in Şırnak detained five people including Berivan Kutlu, former co-mayor of the Cizre district, and Güler Tunç, HDP district co-chair.

November 9: A Mardin court ruled to arrest Hasip Aktaş and Ahmet İnci, two former mayors who were detained on Oct. 30 as part of an investigation into the Democratic Society Congress (DTK).

November 9: A court ruled to arrest Ali Coşkun and Kadriye Töre, local HDP executives in Osmaniye who were detained on Nov. 4 on terrorism charges.

November 10: The police in Şırnak detained journalist Cihan Ölmez as part of an investigation by Diyarbakır prosecutors into the Kurdish political movements.

November 10: The police in Erzurum detained local HDP executives Necmettin Aydın and Adem Gözüngü. The politicians were arrested by a court on Nov. 12.

November 10: The police in Bingöl detained local HDP member Murat Aydın. The detainee was released on Nov. 11.

November 12: A Diyarbakır court sentenced activist Narin Gezgör to 7 years, 6 months in prison on terrorism charges, and prosecutors demanded up to 15 years for Sevim Coşkun, as part of an investigation into the Rosa Women's Association.

November 13: Bitlis prosecutors cited a storybook by imprisoned Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş as a terrorism evidence. The book was found in the house of Necmettin İşlek, who is standing trial for alleged membership in a terrorist organization.

November 13: The Governor's Office in Şanlıurfa banned a Kurdish-language theater play.

Issue 22²²

17-23 November 2020

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

November 16: The Governor's Office in Hakkari issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 18: Tunceli prosecutors launched an investigation into 15 women who held a protest against sexual harassment. The women are investigated for resisting the police who intervened against the protest as well as violating the local governor's office's ban on outdoor gatherings.

November 20: The Governor's Office in Van issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban has been uninterruptedly in effect since November 2016.

November 21: The police in İstanbul attacked a press briefing held by the HDP, briefly detaining 22 people including HDP İstanbul executives.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 19: An Ankara court ruled to arrest author Nezir Çakan who was detained on Nov. 12 as part of an investigation into a wave of protests in 2014 in predominantly Kurdish cities.

November 19: Mardin prosecutors indicted journalists Ahmet Kanbal, Mehmet Şah Oruç, Rojda Aydın, Halime Parlak and Nurcan Yalçın over their coverage of protests at the Mardin Municipality after the Interior Ministry ousted the city's elected mayor.

November 20: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to Jinnews website, citing national security reasons.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

²² <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/22-En.pdf>

November 17: Human Rights Defender and physician Serdar Küni was sentenced to 4 years, 2 months in prison for allegedly treating members of a terrorist organization during a curfew in southeastern Turkey.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

November 18: A Bursa court ruled to acquit Levent Pişkin, the lawyer of imprisoned Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş. Pişkin stood trial and was briefly detained on terrorism charges for his professional activities as Demirtaş's lawyer.

November 19: Human Rights Watch and Article 19 released a joint statement, slamming the politically motivated prosecution of Kurdish opposition politicians.

November 20: The police in southeastern Turkey briefly detained 19 lawyers in early morning raids, as part of an investigation into the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), an umbrella group of the Kurdish political movement.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 16: A Diyarbakır court ruled to arrest Cemal Özdemir, the former mayor of the Sur district who was removed from office by the Interior Ministry and detained on Nov. 13, on terrorism-related charges.

November 16: Münevver Ceylan, a HDP member in a district city council in Muş, was removed from her position by the Interior Ministry.

November 17: Human Rights Defender and physician Serdar Küni was sentenced to 4 years, 2 months in prison for allegedly treating members of a terrorist organization during a curfew in southeastern Turkey.

November 17: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit a police officer who shot dead a young man named Kemal Kurkut during Newroz celebrations in 2017.

November 18: The police in İstanbul detained six members of the HDP.

November 18: Diyarbakır prosecutors demanded between nine to 41 years in prison for Kurdish politicians Sebahat Tuncel, Gültan Kışanak and Leyla Güven on terrorism charges.

November 18: A Bursa court ruled to acquit Levent Pişkin, the lawyer of imprisoned Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş. Pişkin stood trial and was briefly detained on terrorism charges for his professional activities as Demirtaş's lawyer.

2020

November 19: Romanian authorities tried to deport three Kurdish asylum seekers from Turkey, including journalist Nuri Akman prosecuted in Turkey on terrorism charges. Their deportation was reportedly postponed at the last minute for unknown reasons.

November 19: An Ankara court ruled to arrest author Nezir Çakan who was detained on Nov. 12 as part of an investigation into a wave of protests in 2014 in predominantly Kurdish cities.

November 19: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local HDP politician Eşref Mamedoğlu to a total of 9 years, 7 months, 15 days in prison on terrorism-related charges.

November 19: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local HDP executive Edip Binbir to 7 years, 6 months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

November 19: Mardin prosecutors indicted journalists Ahmet Kanbal, Mehmet Şah Oruç, Rojda Aydın, Halime Parlak and Nurcan Yalçın over their coverage of protests at the Mardin Municipality after the Interior Ministry ousted the city's elected mayor.

November 19: Human Rights Watch and Article 19 released a joint statement, slamming the politically motivated prosecution of Kurdish opposition politicians.

November 20: The police in southeastern Turkey briefly detained 19 lawyers in early morning raids, as part of an investigation into the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), an umbrella group of the Kurdish political movement.

November 20: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to Jinnews website, citing national security reasons.

November 20: Reports said that a prison administration in Diyarbakır charged inmates translation fees for letters in Kurdish, which is not required for letters in other languages.

November 21: The police in İstanbul attacked a press briefing held by the HDP, briefly detaining 22 people including HDP İstanbul executives.

November 22: The police in Diyarbakır detained local Kurdish politician İhsan Çapan.

MILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD

November 17: Turkey's military reportedly fired mortar shells at predominantly Kurdish settlements around Tel Abyad and Shahba in northern Syria.

MISTREATMENT OF CITIZENS ABROAD

November 18: Belgian prosecutors launched an investigation into an alleged email threat made against Flemish-Kurdish politician Zuhale Demir. The threat came after Demir's recent criticism of Turkey's Diyanet which runs a vast network of mosques in Europe.

November 19: Romanian authorities tried to deport three Kurdish asylum seekers from Turkey, including journalist Nuri Akman prosecuted in Turkey on terrorism charges. Their deportation was reportedly postponed at the last minute for unknown reasons.

PRISON CONDITIONS

November 19: The Human Rights Association (İHD) announced that 49 prisoners died in 2020 thus far.

November 20: Reports said that a prison administration in Diyarbakır charged inmates translation fees for letters in Kurdish, which is not required for letters in other languages.

Issue 23²³

24-30 November 2020

2020

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

November 23: İstanbul prosecutors indicted 46 people who were detained during the police attack against the 700th sit-in of "Saturday Mothers" in August 2018. The Saturday Mothers is Turkey's longest-running peaceful protest movement that comprises family members of those who disappeared in police custody in the 1980s and 90s.

November 23: The police in İstanbul blocked a demonstration held by the HDP, detaining 22 people.

November 24: The Governor's Office in Mardin issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days. The office also imposed brief curfews in two districts.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

²³ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/23-EN.pdf>

2020

November 23: An İstanbul court sentenced former labor union executive Rahmetullah Öral to 3 years, 4 months in prison for "spreading terrorist propaganda," over his social media commentary.

November 23: Former MP Galip Ensarioğlu testified as a suspect to Diyarbakır prosecutors for offering his condolences to the family of a YPG militant killed by ISIS in Iraq.

November 24: The police in Van detained journalist Dindar Karataş on terrorism-related charges. Karataş was arrested on Nov. 26.

November 24: The police in Van raided the bureau of Mesopotamia news agency. The pro-Kurdish agency, which is known for hard-hitting reporting of human rights abuses in the predominantly Kurdish southeast, suffered its second police raid in the last two months.

November 26: The police in İstanbul detained 19 people in an operation, including an İstanbul district mayor as well as journalists Davut Uçar and Kesire Önel, over alleged ties to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

November 27: The police in Ankara detained journalist Hakan Yalçın, a reporter for the pro-Kurdish Mezopotamya Agency, over alleged ties to terrorism.

November 27: An Adıyaman court ruled to acquit journalist Hacı Boğatekin of terrorism-related charges.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

November 23: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that Turkey's judiciary violated the rights of pro-Kurdish politician Hasan Bakır by convicting him of terrorism based on anonymous witness testimonies as evidence. The recourse to anonymous testimonies is widespread in Turkish courts, particularly in terrorism related trials.

November 26: The police in Bursa detained lawyers Cahit Kırkazak, İbrahim Korhan and Mehmet Deniz over their meetings with their imprisoned clients. The lawyers also represent jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 23: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that Turkey's judiciary violated the rights of pro-Kurdish politician Hasan Bakır by convicting him of terrorism

based on anonymous witness testimonies as evidence. The recourse to anonymous testimonies is widespread in Turkish courts, particularly in terrorism related trials.

November 23: Former MP Galip Ensarioğlu testified as a suspect to Diyarbakır prosecutors for offering his condolences to the family of a YPG militant killed by ISIS in Iraq.

November 24: The police detained Dr. Şeyhmus Gökalp, a member of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB), as part of an investigation into the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), a pro-Kurdish political network.

November 24: The police in Van detained journalist Dindar Karataş on terrorism-related charges. Karataş was arrested on Nov. 26.

November 25: President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in a speech referred to jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş as a terrorist.

November 26: The police in İstanbul detained 19 people in an operation, including an İstanbul district mayor as well as journalists Davut Uçar and Kesire Önel, over alleged ties to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

2020

November 23: The police in İstanbul blocked a demonstration held by the HDP, detaining 22 people.

November 26: A Diyarbakır court sentenced HDP MP Kemal Bülbül to 6 years, 3 months on terrorism charges.

November 26: The police in Bursa detained lawyers Cahit Kırkazak, İbrahim Korhan and Mehmet Deniz over their meetings with their imprisoned clients. The lawyers also represent jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş.

November 26: Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu announced that the Turkish government has ousted 151 mayors from office since 2014, mostly on accusations of having ties to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

November 27: The police in Ankara detained journalist Hakan Yalçın over alleged ties to terrorism.

November 27: The police in Van detained four people in raids, including HDP provincial co-chair Ökkeş Kava.

November 27: Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu during a parliamentary committee meeting said Kurdish villagers Servet Turgut and Osman Şiban, who were allegedly

tortured by Turkish security forces in September, had been aiding members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The villagers were found by their families in a hospital with serious injuries two days after they were detained as part of an operation conducted by Turkish security forces in Van. Turgut succumbed to his injuries on Sept. 30. Authorities denied the torture allegation while four journalists who reported the incidents were arrested and an access block was imposed on the news reports about the allegation.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 27: Interior Minister Süleyman Soyulu during a parliamentary committee meeting said Kurdish villagers Servet Turgut and Osman Şiban, who were allegedly tortured by Turkish security forces in September, had been aiding members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The villagers were found by their families in a hospital with serious injuries two days after they were detained as part of an operation conducted by Turkish security forces in Van. Turgut succumbed to his injuries on Sept. 30. Authorities denied the torture allegation while four journalists who reported the incidents were arrested and an access block was imposed on the news reports about the allegation.

2020

Issue 24²⁴

1-7 December 2020

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

November 30: Bahtiyar Fırat, a Kurdish man who went missing upon arrival in İstanbul in October turned up in custody in an İstanbul police station after 45 days of disappearance. Family members reported seeing marks of torture on Fırat during their meeting.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

²⁴ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/24-EN.pdf>

December 4: A Bitlis court sentenced Kurdish writer Gulgeş Deryaspi to 6 years, 3 months in prison for alleged membership in a terrorist organization, over her participation in protest marches and demonstrations.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 1: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Velat Öztekin to 1 year, 6 months, 22 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda. Öztekin is a former employee of the now-closed Kurdish-language Azadiya Welat newspaper.

December 2: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Dicle Müftüoğlu to 1 year, 3 months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda, over a report featuring the picture of a Kurdish militant in Syria.

December 2: An İstanbul court ruled to sentence university students Roza Kahya and Pelin Şahin to 1 year in prison and 10 months in prison respectively on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, for hanging a banner in the university campus protesting Turkey's military incursion into northwestern Syria.

December 4: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to the new URL of the Jinnews website.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 30: Guards in a Kocaeli prison raided the wards of Kurdish politicians after they launched a hunger strike to protest prison conditions, confiscating their books, notes and pens.

December 1: The police in Şırnak detained 20 local Kurdish politician, including Berivan Kutlu, the former district co-mayor of Cizre who was ousted by the Interior Ministry and local HDP executive Sekvan Kılınç.

December 1: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Velat Öztekin to 1 year, 6 months, 22 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda. Öztekin is a former employee of the now-closed Kurdish language Azadiya Welat newspaper.

December 1: The police in Diyarbakır detained local HDP officials Emine Kaya, Resul Sadak and Suna Güneş.

December 1: The police in Denizli briefly detained five local HDP politicians and activists.

2020

December 2: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Dicle Müftüoğlu to 1 year, 3 months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda, over a report featuring the picture of a Kurdish militant in Syria.

December 2: An İstanbul court ruled to arrest Şişli deputy mayor Cihan Yavuz who was detained on Oct. 26 as part of an investigation into Kurdish political groups.

December 2: The Interior Ministry removed from office three members of the Şırnak city council who were detained on Dec. 1.

December 3: A fine amounting to TL 140.000 (€ 15.000) was imposed on 45 HDP politicians and supporters for violating social distancing rules during a demonstration held to protest the arrest of local HDP politicians in Osmaniye.

December 4: A Bitlis court sentenced Kurdish writer Gulgeş Deryaspi to 6 years, 3 months in prison for alleged membership in a terrorist organization, over her participation in protest marches and demonstrations.

December 4: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to the new URL of the Jinnews website.

2020

PRISON CONDITIONS

November 30: Guards in a Kocaeli prison raided the wards of Kurdish politicians after they launched a hunger strike to protest prison conditions, confiscating their books, notes and pens.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

December 4: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison tortured prisoner Mehmet Sıdk Meşe and threatened him with death not to reveal the torture.

Issue 25²⁵

8-14 December 2020

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

²⁵ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/25-EN.pdf>

December 7: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Ayşegül Doğan to six years, three months on terrorism charges for attending meetings of the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Congress (DTK) and conducting interviews with DTK members.

December 7: The police in Van violently blocked a protest held by HDP about the sexual harassment allegations in Batman, using excessive force against local journalists covering the event.

December 8: The police in İstanbul blocked a protest held by the HDP, detaining one party member.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 7: The police detained 27 people over social media posts about the alleged sexual abuse of a 15-year old girl in a southeastern province by 27 men, including public officials.

December 7: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Ayşegül Doğan to six years, three months on terrorism charges for attending meetings of the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Congress (DTK) and conducting interviews with DTK members.

December 7: A Batman court ruled to block access to several news stories about allegations of sexual harassment of a 15-year-old girl in the city, including by public officials.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 7: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Ayşegül Doğan to six years, three months on terrorism charges for attending meetings of the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Congress (DTK) and conducting interviews with DTK members.

December 7: The police in Mersin detained local HDP executive Ali Bilen.

December 7: The police in Van violently blocked a protest held by HDP about the sexual harassment allegations in Batman, using excessive force against local journalists covering the event.

December 8: Meryem Adıbelli, a HDP politician in Gaziantep, was detained and arrested as part of an investigation into the Kobani protests of 2014.

December 8: A court sentenced HDP Erzurum provincial executive Ömer Cemal Yazıcıoğlu to 11 months, 20 days in prison on terrorism-related charges.

2020

December 8: The police in İstanbul blocked a protest held by the HDP, detaining one party member.

December 9: The police in Şırnak detained HDP youth council member Ercan Oğuz on terrorism charges. Oğuz was arrested by a court on Dec. 10.

December 10: The Constitutional Court rejected a request for the release of Abdullah Turan, who is paralyzed from the neck down, despite a medical report deeming him physically unfit to remain in prison. Turan was arrested for alleged membership in the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

December 10: The Interior Ministry removed from office Hamide Turan, a HDP city council member in Ağrı.

December 12: Devlet Bahçeli, the leader of the nationalist MHP and a governing partner of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, called on the judiciary to shut down the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP).

December 12: The Interior Ministry removed from office Cemile Altan, a HDP city council member in Siirt, citing her terrorism-related investigation by a court.

2020

Issue 26²⁶

15-21 December 2020

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

December 15: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 16: The police in Şanlıurfa detained Emine Şenyaşar and Ferit Şenyaşar while staging a sit-in protest. The two were released on Dec. 18.

December 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

²⁶ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/26-EN.pdf>

December 17: The police in İstanbul blocked a panel discussion organized by the HDP, detaining four people.

December 17: The police in Şanlıurfa detained four members of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TİP) while distributing government-critical flyers.

December 18: The police in İstanbul violently blocked a press briefing by the HDP, battering politicians Sezai Temelli and Ferhat Encü and detaining a number of people.

December 20: The police in Batman detained four people for participating in protests in Kurdish-majority cities in 2014.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 14: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former local district co-mayor Rojda Nazlier to nine years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

December 15: The police in Şanlıurfa detained local HDP executive Ömer Karadağ on terrorism-related charges. On Dec. 18, Karadağ was arrested after appearing before a court.

December 15: Two people were physically assaulted in Manisa for speaking in Kurdish on the phone. December 15: The police in Şanlıurfa briefly detained local HDP politician Hülya Biçen.

December 16: A group of HDP members and journalists were physically attacked by a mob near the HDP provincial headquarters in Diyarbakır.

December 16: Devlet Bahçeli, the leader of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) once again called for the closure of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), using genocidal language.

December 17: The police in İstanbul blocked a panel discussion organized by the HDP, detaining four people. December 18: The police in İstanbul violently blocked a press briefing by the HDP, battering politicians Sezai Temelli and Ferhat Encü and detaining a number of people.

December 20: The police in Batman detained four people for participating in protests in Kurdish-majority cities in 2014. MILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD

December 20: The Syrian government claimed that Turkey and Turkey-backed militant factions were cutting water supply to Kurdish-held areas in northeast Syria. Turkey denied the allegation.

2020

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

December 16: Prison guards in Diyarbakır allegedly battered inmate Tarık Kar for refusing a strip-search. Kar went on a hunger strike to protest physical violence by guards and denial of medication that he needs to take regularly.

Issue 27²⁷

22-28 December 2020

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 21: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to the pro-Kurdish JinNews website. The decision constituted the 27th such ban on the website.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

December 24: Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu verbally targeted opposition MP and prominent human rights defender Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu for raising the allegations of undue strip-searches in prisons. Soylu accused Gergerlioğlu of being a "terrorist." Gergerlioğlu also filed criminal complaints against a local police chief for failure to take action on the allegations.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

December 22: The Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş's detention since 2016 was politically motivated, ordering his release. President Erdoğan accused the court of trying to replace the country's judiciary and Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu called the judgment "meaningless." On Dec. 26, an Ankara court refused an application for the implementation of the ECtHR judgment.

KURDISH MINORITY

²⁷ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/27-EN.pdf>

2020

December 21: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former HDP MP Leyla Güven to 22 years, three months on terrorism charges. Güven was ousted from the parliament in June. She was sent to prison on Dec. 22.

December 21: The police in İstanbul detained ESP politician Uğur Ok on terrorism charges. Ok was arrested on Dec. 25 after appearing before a court.

December 22: The Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş's detention since 2016 was politically motivated, ordering his release. President Erdoğan accused the court of trying to replace the country's judiciary and Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu called the judgment "meaningless." On Dec. 26, an Ankara court refused an application for the implementation of the ECtHR judgment. December 22: The police in İstanbul attacked a demonstration organized to protest the arrest of HDP politician Leyla Güven, using excessive violence against wheelchair-bound HDP MP Musa Piroğlu, and detaining 14 people.

December 22: The police in Balıkesir carried out house raids to detain four local HDP members.

December 23: A Diyarbakır court handed down prison sentences of six and eight years to Rosa Women's Association members Gülistan Nazlier and Sevim Coşkun on terrorism charges.

December 23: The police in Diyarbakır carried out a violent house raid to detain four local HDP politicians.

December 23: A study showed that 70 percent of Kurdish youths in Turkey encounter discrimination in their daily lives.

December 23: Authorities launched an investigation into a military conscript who in a video circulating on social media was seen singing in Kurdish.

December 24: The police in Ağrı detained local HDP executive Cemal Akar and HDP member Ceren Barış.

December 25: The police in Tunceli detained journalist Gülistan Azak for an investigation launched in 2018. Azak works for the pro-Kurdish JinNews website.

December 25: Sakarya prosecutors decided for a non-prosecution about the apparently racist attack on a group of Kurdish seasonal workers in the city.

2021

Issue 28²⁸

29 December 2020 – 4 January 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

December 31: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 1: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 29: Darmstadt prosecutors in Germany rejected Turkey's request to take exiled musician Ferhat Tunç's statement for an ongoing trial in an Istanbul court where Tunç is charged with spreading terrorist propaganda over his social media commentary.

December 29: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Mazlum Dolan to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 31: Ankara prosecutors drafted a new indictment about street protests in the predominantly Kurdish Southeast in 2014 that claimed the lives of 37 people. The indictment seeks punishment for 108 suspects, including politician Selahattin Demirtaş who is already imprisoned on terrorism-related charges.

January 1: Renowned Kurdish poet, writer and journalist Yılmaz Odabaşı was briefly detained on charges related to a dispute he had with a government supporter who harassed him in front of his house. Odabaşı was released on Jan. 2. The detention came immediately after he criticized the ongoing government crackdown on the faith-based Gülen movement.

²⁸ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/28-EN.pdf>

Issue 29²⁹

4-10 January 2021

KURDISH MINORITY

January 5: The police in İstanbul detained journalist Mehmet Aslan in a house raid. Aslan, a reporter for the pro-Kurdish Mezopotamya Agency, was arrested on terrorism-related charges on Jan. 8.

January 5: Kars prosecutors issued an indictment against Şevin Alaca, former co-mayor of Kars who was previously removed from office by the Interior Ministry, seeking up to 15 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

January 7: An Ankara court accepted an indictment naming 108 people including jailed Kurdish politicians Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ in connection to street protests in the country's Southeast in 2014.

January 7: The Interior Ministry removed from office two district council members in Gaziantep, Hurşit Besle and Adnan Erol, citing ongoing terrorism-related investigations into them.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 9: Security forces in Hakkari reportedly raided a house to detain Ekber Hudai and İbrahim Firat for alleged cross-border cigarette smuggling, physically abusing the two in order to coerce them to admit to the accusations.

January 9: Opposition MP Sezgin Tanrikulu published a monthly report which found that 240 incidents of torture and ill-treatment occurred in December, 143 of them in prisons.

Issue 30³⁰

²⁹ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/29-EN.pdf>

³⁰ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/30-EN.pdf>

11-17 January 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

January 12: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 14: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Mehmet Emin Aktar, former head of the Diyarbakır Bar Association, to six years, three months on terrorism-related charges, over his attendance in demonstrations organized by the Democratic Society Congress (DTK).

January 14: The Batman Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 15: A Bitlis court sentenced 24 people, including local politicians, to one year, three months in prison each for attending an unauthorized demonstration in January 2016.

January 15: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 16: An annual human rights report published by opposition MP Sezgin Tanrikulu found that the police intervened in 753 demonstrations, public press statements and assemblies in 2020, detaining at least 2,123 people, including two children, and arresting 44 among those who attended the events. A total of 294 people were convicted in cases related to those activities.

January 13: An İstanbul court filed a lawsuit against journalist Melis Alphan for posting a photo from Newroz celebrations in Turkey's Kurdish-majority Southeast in 2015. Alphan now faces up to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

January 13: The police in Urfa detained nine people in house raids, on the charge of "spreading terrorist propaganda on social media."

KURDISH MINORITY

January 13: A court in Şırnak ruled to arrest local HDP politician Resul Sadak on terrorism-related charges.

2021

2021

January 13: Ankara prosecutors started drafting summaries of proceedings for nine HDP lawmakers, including HDP Co-chair Pervin Buldan, accusing them of "instigating" street protests in Turkey's Southeast in 2014 that claimed the lives of 37 people.

January 13: An İstanbul court filed a lawsuit against journalist Melis Alphan for posting a photo from Newroz celebrations in Turkey's Kurdish-majority Southeast in 2015. Alphan now faces up to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

January 14: The police in 12 provinces detained 48 people, including HDP politician Sıtkı Güngör and journalist Pınar Gayıp, upon detention warrants issued by İzmir prosecutors.

January 14: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Mehmet Emin Aktar, former head of the Diyarbakır Bar Association, to six years, three months on terrorism-related charges, over his attendance in demonstrations organized by the Democratic Society Congress (DTK).

January 14: The police in Şırnak reportedly forced an underage in custody to read out the Turkish national anthem for a day.

January 15: A Bitlis court sentenced 24 people, including local politicians, to one year, three months in prison each for attending an unauthorized demonstration in January 2016.

January 16: An annual human rights report published by opposition MP Sezgin Tanrıkulu found that 226 political party and municipality chairs and members, the majority of them from the pro-Kurdish HDP, were arrested, while 52 elected officials were removed from their posts and replaced with government-appointed trustees in 2020. The report also underlined that an Ankara court on Dec. 26 rejected a call by the European Court of Human Rights for the immediate release of Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş, who has been behind bars on politically motivated charges since November 2016.

PRISON CONDITIONS

January 13: A law firm announced that Abdullah Öcalan, the jailed leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), and other prisoners held at the İmralı High-Security Type-F Prison have not been able to communicate with the outside world since April 2020.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 12: The guards in a Gümüşhane prison physically assaulted three prisoners.

January 12: The gendarmerie forces in Diyarbakır physically assaulted two people while detaining them during a house raid.

January 14: The police in Şırnak reportedly forced an underage in custody to read out the Turkish national anthem for a day.

Issue 31³¹

18-24 January 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

January 18: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban has been uninterruptedly sustained since November 2016 in the province, through consecutive extensions introduced by the Governor's Office.

January 21: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Zeynel Abidin Bulut to 10 months in prison on the charge of spreading terrorist propaganda, over his attendance in a commemoration of a deceased journalist.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 19: İstanbul prosecutors issued a detention warrant for journalist Cengiz Çandar on the charge of praising crime and criminals over a 2017 tweet decrying the death of a woman killed while fighting ISIS among Kurdish militants in northern Syria.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

January 21: The European Parliament adopted a resolution calling on Turkey to implement a European Court of Human Rights decision ordering the immediate release of jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 18: Ankara prosecutors are reportedly drafting summaries of proceedings against nine HDP deputies to lift their parliamentary immunity over the protests in Kurdish-majority cities in 2014.

January 20: A Diyarbakır court issued an arrest warrant for HDP deputy Hatice Kocaman who stands trial on terrorism charges, facing up to 15 years in prison.

³¹ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/31-EN.pdf>

January 21: The police in İstanbul blocked a public press statement held by the HDP about hunger strikes in Turkey's prisons, briefly detaining eight people.

January 21: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Zeynel Abidin Bulut to 10 months in prison on the charge of spreading terrorist propaganda, over his attendance in a commemoration of a deceased journalist.

January 21: The European Parliament adopted a resolution calling on Turkey to implement a European Court of Human Rights decision ordering the immediate release of jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş.

January 24: The police in İstanbul raided HDP district headquarters, briefly detaining two HDP district executives.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 19: Prison guards in Gaziantep physically assaulted inmate Ömer Levent after he refused to go through a strip-search.

Issue 32³²

25-31 January 2021

2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

January 25: The police in Şanlıurfa briefly detained three people for hanging a banner on a building about the hunger strikes in prisons.

January 26: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

January 27: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

January 29: The police in Batman blocked a march organized by pro-Kurdish political groups, detaining 26 people.

³² <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/32-EN.pdf>

January 29: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 25: The police in Diyarbakır summoned for a questioning 59-year-old illiterate woman Şükran Akboğa due to a social media message she allegedly posted.

January 28: The police in Batman detained seven local HDP politicians in house raids over their social media messages.

January 29: A Van court sentenced local journalist Nahide Aslan to one year, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

January 25: Murat Uçum, a senior legal adviser to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, said in an interview that the judgments delivered by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) are not "binding on the merits." Turkey has famously defied ECtHR orders for the release of Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş and civil society leader Osman Kavala.

2021

KURDISH MINORITY

January 25: The police in İstanbul detained local HDP executives Ercan Sağlam and Dilan Kılıç. Sağlam was arrested by a court later while Kılıç was released later in the day.

January 28: The police in Batman detained seven local HDP politicians in house raids over their social media messages.

January 29: The police in Batman blocked a march organized by pro-Kurdish political groups, detaining 26 people.

PRISON CONDITIONS

January 28: Miktad Doğan, a 30-year-old inmate in pretrial detention suffering from a serious liver disease, said he was belatedly taken to the hospital and made to stay in a filthy quarantine cell upon return to prison, in a letter to the Turkish Parliament's Human Rights Committee.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

January 27: A Diyarbakır court ruled to arrest Ayşe Gökkan, a spokesperson for a women's rights group.

Issue 33³³

1-7 February 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

February 4: The police in İstanbul blocked a pro-Kurdish demonstration, detaining 68 people, four of whom minors, including journalist Rojin Altay. The minors as well as Altay were released the next day.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 1: A Muş court sentenced journalist İdris Sayılğan to four years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

February 3: An İstanbul court began the retrial of Erol Önderoğlu, the Turkey representative of Reporters Without Borders (RSF). Önderoğlu is facing up to almost 15 years in prison for joining a campaign to support a newspaper that was shut down in 2016 for allegedly having links to outlawed Kurdish militants. Forensic scientist and prominent human rights defender Şebnem Korur-Fincancı and exiled journalist Ahmet Nesin are also standing trial in the case.

February 3: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to the website of Gazete Alınteri.

February 3: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit Hülya Oruç, the wife of imprisoned journalist Aziz Oruç, of charges of "provoking hatred and enmity among public." Oruç faced the charges over her social media commentary.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 1: A Muş court sentenced journalist İdris Sayılğan to four years in prison on terrorism-related charges. Sayılğan stood trial over his work for the pro Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency.

³³ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/33-EN.pdf>

2021

February 1: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) asked Turkey to provide its defense for the pre trial detention of Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş in connection to street protests in the country's Southeast in 2014.

February 2: The police in İstanbul reportedly coerced local HDP members Sinan Alabakır and Gülay Alabukan to become an informant for the state during their questioning. The two were detained a week before.

February 3: The police in six provinces detained nine members and executives of the HDP as part of an operation ordered by Ankara prosecutors. Two of the detainees were arrested after appearing before a court while seven were released to house arrest.

February 3: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local politician Garip Kandemir to six months, three years in prison on terrorism-related charges. February 4: The police in Ankara unlawfully detained in car and threatened Ronda Bat and Sultan Taş, two women who are members of the HDP youth council.

February 4: The police in İstanbul blocked a pro-Kurdish demonstration, detaining 68 people, four of whom minors, including journalist Rojin Altay. The minors as well as Altay were released the next day.

February 7: The police in İstanbul detained local HDP youth member Muhammed Ünal over his social media messages. Ünal was arrested after appearing before a court.

MILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD

February 3: Human Rights Watch condemned the illegal transfer to Turkey of more than 60 Syrians arrested by Turkey and its local proxies in Syria's northeast in 2019, on account of their alleged links to Kurdish militia in the region that Turkey views as "terrorists."

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 2: The guards at a Malatya prison assaulted prisoners who refused to undergo strip-searches.

February 5: The guards at a Kahramanmaraş prison reportedly assaulted inmates Sedat Karak, Veysi Altan, Servan Sertkaya, Orhan Doru and İhsan Oran.

Issue 34³⁴

8-14 February 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

February 9: An İstanbul court ruled to release on parole 61 people, including local pro-Kurdish politicians, who were detained last week for holding a demonstration in the Kadıköy district.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA**2021**

³⁴ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/34-EN.pdf>

February 11: An Ankara court ruled to acquit jailed Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ of the charge of insulting the president over a written statement that she released when she was the co-chair of the HDP. Yüksekdağ continues to stand trial on terrorism-related charges, along with former co-chair Selahattin Demirtaş.

February 11: The police in Konya detained seven people including local HDP politician Süleyman İnan over their social media posts. The detainees were released the next day.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

February 10: A Diyarbakır court ruled to release Şeyhmus Gökalp, physician and member of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) who was arrested in late November 2020. Gökalp was released upon the first hearing of his trial where he is facing up to 15 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 9: The police in Bitlis detained local HDP city council member Ekrem Yalçın. Yalçın was released on probation on Feb. 12.

February 9: An İstanbul court ruled to release on parole 61 people, including local pro-Kurdish politicians, who were detained last week for holding a demonstration in the Kadıköy district.

February 10: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former HDP district executive Arzu Karaman to nine years in prison on terrorism charges.

February 11: The European Court of Human Rights delivered its verdict in the case of 10 politicians from the now-closed pro-Kurdish People's Democracy Party (HADEP), 14 years after the case was brought before it, ruling that Turkey had violated the plaintiffs' right to freedom of assembly and association.

February 11: The police in Konya detained seven people including local HDP politician Süleyman İnan over their social media posts. The detainees were released the next day.

February 12: The police in Kocaeli detained 13 people including local HDP members in house raids.

February 13: The police in Şırnak detained local HDP member Mustafa Dal. February 14: The police in Adın detained nine people including local HDP members and executives.

February 14: The police in Yalova detained eight local HDP executives.

February 14: The police in Mersin detained local HDP executive Songül Eriş.

February 14: The police in Batman detained eight people including local HDP executives. Three of the detainees were released the same day.

February 14: HDP released a statement announcing that between Feb. 12 and Feb. 14 authorities detained at least 143 party members and executives across the country.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 12: Speaker of the Turkish Parliament Mustafa Şentop returned a letter of a torture victim that was submitted to the parliament by pro-Kurdish HDP MP lawmaker Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu, claiming that it contained "vulgar and hurtful words." The letter contained the details of the victim's brutal treatment during his detention in 1990.

Issue 35³⁵

15-21 February 2021

2021

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

February 15: The police detained 718 people including HDP politicians on terrorism charges. The wave of detentions came a day after the government announced the killing of 13 Turkish nationals held hostage in northern Iraq by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

February 20: Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 15: An İstanbul court handed down suspended prison sentences to four journalists and human rights activists who stood trial on charges of terrorism for guest-editing the now-defunct Özgür Gündem newspaper and campaigning against efforts to censor it in 2016.

³⁵ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/35-EN.pdf>

February 15: Ankara prosecutors launched investigations into HDP lawmakers Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu and Hüda Kaya over their remarks criticizing a botched military operation in northern Iraq.

February 16: A prosecutor indicted journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi, Nazan Sala and Zeynep Durgut, seeking imprisonment on terrorism related charges, over their coverage on the alleged torture of two Kurdish villagers at the hands of the soldiers in the eastern province of Van.

February 18: A Şanlıurfa court ruled to arrest a man named Müslüm Abbas on the charge of spreading terrorist propaganda.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

February 15: An İstanbul court handed down a suspended prison sentence of six years, three months to human rights activist Eren Keskin who stood trial on charges of terrorism for guest-editing the now-defunct Özgür Gündem newspaper and campaigning against efforts to censor it in 2016.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 15: The police detained 718 people including HDP politicians on terrorism charges. The wave of detentions came a day after the government announced the killing of 13 Turkish nationals held hostage in northern Iraq by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Most of the detainees were released on probation during the week.

February 15: An İstanbul court handed down suspended prison sentences to four journalists and human rights activists who stood trial on charges of terrorism for guest-editing Özgür Gündem, a now defunct newspaper that had focused on Kurdish issues.

February 15: A Kars court ruled to arrest three people out of the six local HDP executives and associates who were detained on Feb. 12. The remaining three were released on probation.

February 15: Ankara prosecutors launched investigations into HDP lawmakers Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu and Hüda Kaya over their remarks criticizing a botched military operation in northern Iraq.

February 16: A Kars court ruled to arrest three people, including local HDP executive Sevda Subaşı who were detained on Feb. 12.

February 16: A prosecutor indicted journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi, Nazan Sala and Zeynep Durgut, seeking imprisonment on terrorism related charges, over their coverage on the alleged torture of two Kurdish villagers at the hands of the soldiers in the eastern province of Van.

February 16: Several courts blocked access to 10 news websites between February 2 and 16, including pro Kurdish websites, citing national security and public order reasons.

February 16: A Kocaeli court ruled to release on probation 13 local HDP members who were detained on Feb. 12.

February 17: A Yalova court ruled to arrest five of the eight local HDP officials who were detained on Feb. 14 on terrorism-related charges, while releasing the remaining three on probation.

February 18: The authorities in Aydın released on probation 13 people, including local HDP executives, who were detained on Feb. 14. The police reportedly conducted a strip-search on the detainees.

February 18: A Mardin court ruled to arrest former HDP district co-chair Mehmet Selim Kılıç on terrorism-related charges.

February 19: The Supreme Court of Appeals upheld a prison sentence of two years, six months handed down to HDP MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda, over a social media message in August 2016.

February 19: Ankara prosecutors prepared summaries of proceedings for nine HDP lawmakers, seeking to lift their parliamentary immunities, for allegedly organizing a wave of protests in predominantly Kurdish cities in October 2014.

February 19: Dilek Hatipoğlu, the former mayor of Hakkari who was removed from office by the Interior Ministry in 2015, attended the latest hearing of her trial with a black eye. She said she had been beaten by prison guards and subjected to strip-searches.

February 20: A Bitlis court ruled to arrest HDP city council member Ekrem Yalçın on terrorism-related charges. Previously, Yalçın was detained on Feb. 9 and released on probation three days later.

MISTREATMENT OF CITIZENS ABROAD

2021

February 19: İsmail Hakkı Pekin, a former intelligence official at the Turkish General Staff, inadvertently revealed while speaking on a TV program the possible role of the National Intelligence Organization (MİT) in the killing of three Kurdish women in Paris in 2013.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 16: A prosecutor indicted journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi, Nazan Sala and Zeynep Durgut, seeking imprisonment on terrorism related charges, over their coverage on the alleged torture of two Kurdish villagers at the hands of the soldiers in the eastern province of Van.

February 18: The police in Aydın conducted a strip search on four local HDP executives in custody.

February 19: Dilek Hatipoğlu, the former mayor of Hakkari who was removed from office by the Interior Ministry in 2015, attended the latest hearing of her trial with a black eye. She said she had been beaten by prison guards and subjected to strip-searches.

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22-28 February 2021

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FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 22: A Kayseri court ruled to block access to the website of the Mezopotamya news agency.

February 22: An Ardahan court ruled to block access to the website of the pro-Kurdish Nerina Azad news website.

February 24: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit journalist Hakkı Boltan who was facing terrorism-related charges as part of a trial against the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Congress (DTK).

³⁶ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 36 | February 22-28, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/36-EN.pdf>

February 24: Van prosecutors launched an investigation into HDP MPs Berdan Öz, Sezai Temelli, Muazzez Orhan Işık, Tayip Temel and Murat Sarısaç over their speeches and social media commentary.

February 28: A Diyarbakır court charged a local man with terrorist propaganda over a social media post about former US president's 2019 letter to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 22: Prosecutors launched an investigation into pro-Kurdish lawmaker Dirayet Dilan Taşdemir for allegedly travelling to a Kurdish-controlled region of Iraq where 13 hostages were killed in a failed rescue operation.

February 22: A Manisa court ruled to arrest three out of seven local HDP youth detained on Feb. 15 while releasing on probation the remaining four.

February 22: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Democratic Society Congress (DTK) member Jıyan Taş to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

February 22: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former district co-mayor Filiz Buluttekin to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

February 22: A Kayseri court ruled to block access to the website of the Mezopotamya news agency, which is known for its reporting on rights violations in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish southeast.

February 22: An Ardahan court ruled to block access to the website of the pro-Kurdish Nerina Azad news website.

February 22: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former district co-mayor Filiz Buluttekin to seven years, six months on terrorism-related charges.

February 24: Van prosecutors launched an investigation into HDP MPs Berdan Öz, Sezai Temelli, Muazzez Orhan Işık, Tayip Temel and Murat Sarısaç over their speeches and social media commentary.

February 24: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit journalist Hakkı Boltan who was facing terrorism-related charges as part of a trial against the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Congress (DTK).

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February 26: A Diyarbakır court sentenced provincial HDP executive Mehmet Sayit Demir to six years, eight months on charges of terrorism and violation of the law on demonstrations and marches.

February 27: The police in Diyarbakır detained 14 people, including HDP members. The reason for the detentions was not disclosed on account of confidentiality orders.

February 28: The police in Mardin detained five local HDP members. Four of the detainees were released after appearing before a court the same day.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 23: The Constitutional Court ruled in favor of Kurdish politician İbrahim Halil Baran who submitted an individual application to the court in 2017 that he was tortured by police in detention in Şanlıurfa.

February 27: Gendarmerie in Şanlıurfa physically assaulted a woman during a detention operation.

2021

Issue 37³⁷

1-7 March 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

March 1: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 1: The Şırnak Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 3: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. Through consecutive extensions the ban has been kept uninterrupted in effect since 2016.

³⁷ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 37 | March 1-7, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/37-EN.pdf>

March 5: The Batman Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 7: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 3: An Osmaniye court ruled to block access to the Mezopotamya news agency. The decision constituted the second access block imposed on the news agency, known for its focus on human rights violations in the Kurdish-majority regions.

March 4: Batman prosecutors launched an investigation into the provincial HDP administration over its social media commentary for allegedly provoking hatred and enmity among public.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

March 2: Forensic Architecture, a London-based multidisciplinary research group, said that their findings contradicted with Turkish prosecutors' indictment concerning the killing of prominent human rights lawyer Tahir Elçi. The researchers said Elçi was killed not by the militants of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) as alleged by the indictment but rather by the police officers present at the scene.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 2: The Supreme Court of Appeals launched an investigation into the HDP, asking for documents from Ankara prosecutors related to ongoing investigations into HDP lawmakers and officials. The development came after calls by government official Cahit Özkan and nationalist government ally Devlet Bahçeli for the pro Kurdish party's closure.

March 2: The police in Erzurum detained Halit Uğun, a local HDP district co-chair. Uğun was released on probation March 3, after appearing before a court.

March 2: The police in Ağrı detained local HDP executives Gönül Öztürk and Hamide Turan over a Women's Day demonstration held in the city. The two were released the same day after a questioning.

March 2: The police in Mersin and Diyarbakır detained eight people, including members of the HDP, as part of a Mersin-based investigation.

March 2: An Antalya court sentenced former Diyarbakır district co-mayor Fatma Arşimet to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

March 2: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local HDP executive Hatun Yıldız to six years, three months on terrorism-related charges.

March 2: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency.

March 3: A regional appeals court in Van overturned an acquittal decision for former Yüksekova district co-mayor İrfan Sarı and sentenced Sarı to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

March 3: The Turkish Medical Association (TBB) warned against inequality between regions in Covid-19 vaccination, citing the lower rates in the predominantly eastern and southeastern provinces.

March 3: An Osmaniye court ruled to block access to the Mezopotamya news agency. The decision constituted the second access block imposed on the news agency, known for its focus on human rights violations in the Kurdish-majority regions.

March 4: Batman prosecutors launched an investigation into the provincial HDP administration over its social media commentary for allegedly provoking hatred and enmity among public.

March 5: The police in Mardin briefly detained local HDP youth member Berfin Can.

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MISTREATMENT OF CITIZENS ABROAD

March 4: A German prosecutor denied a Turkish court's request for judicial assistance in the case of exiled singer Ferhat Tunç, who is facing terrorism-related charges in over his social media messages criticizing Turkey's military invasion of Syria's Afrin province.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 1: Caize Yarıcı, a HDP executive in Aydın, filed a complaint against local police for an unlawful strip search conducted at a police station after she and other HDP members were detained in mid-February.

March 3: Prison guards in Batman reportedly assaulted inmates.

March 4: Prison guards at a Kahramanmaraş prison physically assaulted inmates.

March 6: Kurbanî Özcan, a prisoner who was subjected to strip-searches during a prison transfer as well as physical and psychological violence, reportedly attempted to commit suicide.

Issue 38³⁸

8-14 March 2021

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

March 8: A Diyarbakır court found the Interior Ministry culpable in the killing of a 12-year-old girl by unexploded military ammunition in 2009 and ordered that a fine of \$37,000 be paid to the family by the ministry.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 9: An İstanbul court sentenced six journalists and civil society activists each to one year, six months, 22 days in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, over their social media commentary about Turkey's military invasion of the Syrian province of Afrin.

March 10: The police in İstanbul detained local HDP member Mehmet Masyan over his social media messages.

March 11: The police in Siirt briefly detained journalist Zekeriya Güzipek. The journalist was released the same day after his questioning.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 10: A Muş court sentenced local HDP politician Ülkü Karaaslan to two years, three months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda.

March 10: An Erzurum court sentenced local HDP politician Dinçer Polat to three years, 45 days in prison on terrorism-related charges.

March 10: The police in İstanbul detained local HDP member Mehmet Masyan over his social media messages.

March 11: The police in Şanlıurfa detained four people, including HDP district executive Hatice Göktepe, on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda. The detainees were released the next day after appearing before a court.

³⁸ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 38 | March 8-14, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/38-EN.pdf>

March 11: The police in Malatya detained local left-wing Kurdish politician Halil Göktaş.

March 11: A mobile app developed by the national police to help women against domestic violence drew criticism from rights groups and the Kurdish politicians for failing to include Kurdish among its six supported languages.

March 11: Sevim Dağdelen, a Kurdish-German politician from the German Left Party, said she has been receiving death threats from Turkish ultranationalist groups.

MISTREATMENT OF CITIZENS ABROAD

March 11: Sevim Dağdelen, a Kurdish-German politician from the German Left Party, said she has been receiving death threats from Turkish ultranationalist groups.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 8: Police officers at a traffic checkpoint in Adıyaman reportedly assaulted Mehmet Mithat Arıkçı and Mehpare Sahan.

Issue 39³⁹

15-21 March 2021

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ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

March 16: Sezer Tatar, a HDP member in Van, was reportedly forced into a vehicle by individuals who introduced themselves as police officers. He was coerced into becoming an informant for authorities and physically assaulted before he was released the same day.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

March 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

³⁹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 39 | March 15-21, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/39-EN.pdf>

March 18: The police in Ankara detained nine activists who were protesting the expulsion of HDP MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu from the parliament. The detainees were released later in the same day.

March 20: The police in İstanbul detained 14 people while celebrating the Kurdish festival of Newroz.

March 20: The police in Malatya briefly detained a man and his two children during the Newroz celebrations. The detainees were released the same day.

March 21: The police in Diyarbakır detained 63 people, including six minors, for wearing yellow-red-green scarves while on their way to the Newroz celebrations. Of the detainees, 39 were released within the day.

March 21: The police in Adana detained eight people, including three minors, during the Newroz celebrations.

March 21: The police in İstanbul detained 11 people during the Newroz celebrations.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 15: The police in Şanlıurfa briefly detained Emine Şenyaşar, who had been staging a sit-in protest in front of the provincial courthouse after losing his spouse and two children due to a brawl between her family members and a local ruling party deputy. Şenyaşar was released a few hours later.

March 16: The parliament expelled HDP MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu due to a prison sentence he was handed down for a tweet in which he shared a news report by the T24 news website. Gergerlioğlu refused to leave the parliament building in protest until he was forcibly removed by the police and briefly detained on March 21.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 15: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local HDP executive Murat Öndeş to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

March 17: A prosecutor for the Supreme Court of Appeals asked the Constitutional Court to shut down the pro-Kurdish HDP, parliament's third-largest group. The prosecutor's indictment equated the party with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which is listed as a terror group in Turkey and internationally, and demanded a political ban for more than 600 party officials, including its current co-chairs and jailed former leaders Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ.

March 17: A Muş court sentenced former HDP mayor Adnan Topçu to eight years, one month, 15 days in prison on various terrorism-related charges.

March 19: The police in several provinces detained at least 36 members of the HDP over alleged terrorism links.

March 19: The ministry of education prepared an introductory schoolbook on the Kurdish-majority province of Diyarbakır, which made no reference to the local Kurdish identity and claimed that the language spoken in the province was Azeri Turkish.

March 20: The police in İstanbul detained 14 people while celebrating the Kurdish festival of Newroz. March 20: The police in Malatya briefly detained a man and his two children during the Newroz celebrations. The detainees were released the same day.

March 21: The police in Diyarbakır detained 63 people, including six minors, for wearing yellow-red-green scarves while on their way to the Newroz celebrations. Of the detainees, 39 were released within the day.

March 21: The police in Adana detained eight people, including three minors, during the Newroz celebrations.

March 21: The police in İstanbul detained 11 people during the Newroz celebrations.

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MISTREATMENT OF CITIZENS ABROAD

March 15: Belgian authorities suspected that Turkey's former ambassador to Paris, İsmail Hakkı Musa, was implicated in the assassination of three alleged members of the PKK in Paris in 2013.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 21: The police in Diyarbakır physically and verbally abused in custody the people who were detained while on their way to the Newroz celebration.

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22-28 March 2021

⁴⁰ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/40-EN.pdf>

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

March 25: An İstanbul court held the first trial of the 46 members of the Saturday Mothers, a group comprising families of victims of state-enforced disappearances who have been gathering every Saturday in İstanbul for a silent protest since 1995. The indictment by İstanbul prosecutors said that the protest had been banned because it posed a threat to national security, public order and public norms.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

March 22: The police in Konya detained 11

March 23: The police in Diyarbakır detained 21 people for attending Newroz celebrations in the city. The authorities also issued detention warrants for 15 others.

March 26: A Şanlıurfa court sentenced 19 people to five months in prison each over their attendance in a commemoration event for the victims of a bomb attack in 2015.

March 26: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

March 26: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 22: A court sentenced jailed Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtaş to three-and-a-half years in prison on the charge of insulting the president.

March 23: Diyarbakır prosecutors launched an investigation into HDP co-chair Mithat Sancar on the charge of spreading terrorist propaganda over his speech during the Newroz celebrations.

March 24: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Perihan Kaya to 15 months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda.

March 25: The police in İstanbul detained journalist, writer and documentarian Ruhi Karadağ for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda in one of his books. Karadağ was released the next day, with an international travel ban.

March 25: The police in Şanlıurfa detained Emine Şenyaşar and Ferit Şenyaşar while staging a sit-in protest in front of the city's courthouse over their loss of a family member in an armed conflict implicating ruling party politicians.

March 25: The police in Malatya briefly detained local socialist politician Hasan Bali over his social media messages. Bali was released on probation later in the same day.

March 26: The police in Gaziantep detained leftist activist Nail Ulutaş over his social media posts. Ulutaş was released the next day, with an international travel ban.

March 26: The police in Nevşehir detained local HDP member Nilgün Salmaner on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda on social media. Salmaner was released to house arrest later in the same day.

March 26: A Mardin court ruled to arrest writer Adil Başaran who was detained as part of an investigation into the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Congress (DTK) last week.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 22: The police in Konya detained 11 people for attending Newroz celebrations in the city.

March 22: An İstanbul court ruled to arrest one of the 11 pro-Kurdish politicians detained on March 19 while releasing the rest.

March 22: A court sentenced jailed Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtaş to three-and-a-half years in prison on the charge of insulting the president. Demirtaş has been held behind bars since November 2016 on various terrorism-related charges.

March 22: The Interior Ministry removed from office Mehmet Kaysı, a HDP city council member in Siirt, on the grounds that he was being investigated for suspected ties to terrorism.

March 23: The police in Diyarbakır detained 21 people for attending Newroz celebrations in the city. The authorities also issued detention warrants for 15 others.

March 23: Diyarbakır prosecutors launched an investigation into HDP co-chair Mithat Sancar on the charge of spreading terrorist propaganda over his speech during the Newroz celebrations.

March 24: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Perihan Kaya to 15 months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda. Kaya was formerly a reporter for the pro-Kurdish Jin News agency.

March 25: The Constitutional Court ruled in favor of eight out of 11 former HDP politicians who submitted individual applications to the court in 2017 claiming that their detention and arrest in late 2016 and early 2017 were unlawful.

March 25: The guards at a Bayburt prison reportedly mistreated inmates for holding Newroz celebrations. The prisoners are also facing an investigation for shouting slogans during the celebrations.

March 25: The soldiers raided a village in Bingöl during Newroz celebrations, physically and verbally assaulting a group of villagers, including a 11-year-old. Three people who filmed the raid were later detained and released after deletion of video footage from their phones.

March 26: Reports revealed that the police in Şırnak mistreated for four days local Kurdish politician Azad Polat who was detained on March 18.

March 26: The police in Nevşehir detained local HDP member Nilgün Salmaner on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda on social media. Salmaner was released to house arrest later in the same day.

March 26: A Mardin court ruled to arrest writer Adil Başaran who was detained as part of an investigation into the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Congress (DTK) last week.

MILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD

March 23: A Şanlıurfa court sentenced Dozgin Temo, a member of the Syrian-Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), to life in prison, two years after she was captured by the Turkish military in northern Syria.

MISTREATMENT OF CITIZENS ABROAD

March 25: Photos have emerged showing a member of an alleged Turkish hit team posing for a photo with the Turkish ambassador to France at the embassy building in Paris. The members of the hit team were exposed as they were allegedly preparing for attacks on two Kurdish politicians based in Belgium.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 25: The guards at a Diyarbakır prison physically assaulted inmates and placed in one-person cells those who reacted.

March 25: The guards at a Bayburt prison reportedly mistreated inmates for holding Newroz celebrations. The prisoners are also facing an investigation for shouting slogans during the celebrations.

March 25: The soldiers raided a village in Bingöl during Newroz celebrations, physically and verbally assaulting a group of villagers, including a 11-year-old. Three people who

filmed the raid were later detained and released after deletion of video footage from their phones.

March 26: Reports revealed that the police in Şırnak mistreated for four days local Kurdish politician Azad Polat who was detained on March 18.

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29 March – 4 April 2021

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

March 29: The Human Rights Association (İHD) called for the release from prison of Fatma Güler, a 75-year-old Kurdish woman suffering from stomach cancer, asthma, high blood pressure and liver problems.

March 30: A Kurdish man, Serdal Yıldırım, a paralyzed inmate, was placed in solitary confinement in an İstanbul prison, despite medical reports finding him unfit to care for himself.

March 31: A Kurdish man, Eyvaz Akıncı, a 76-year-old man suffering from stage three lung cancer, was arrested and sent to prison after his terrorism-related sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court of Appeals.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

March 30: The police in Şanlıurfa briefly detained Emine Şenyaşar and her son Ferit Şenyaşar while staging a sit in protest in front of a courthouse.

April 1: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

April 2: The Muş governor's office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

⁴¹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 41 | March 29-April 4, 2021* [Report]. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/41-EN.pdf>

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 2: The police in Ankara detained HDP MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu, a leading rights advocate who was expelled from the parliament in March, over a prison sentence handed down on terrorism-related charges due to a social media post. Before being taken to prison, Gergerlioğlu was briefly hospitalized as a result of the violent police raid into his home.

April 2: A Van court ruled to release from pre-trial detention journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi and Nazan Sala after the first hearing of the case in which they stand trial on terrorism charges for reporting on an incident of torture implicating soldiers. The journalists were arrested in October 2020.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

March 31: The Constitutional Court rejected rights defender Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu's expulsion from the parliament. Gergerlioğlu announced that he will take the case to the European Court of Human Rights.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 29: Reports revealed that İbrahim Ergün, a 24 year-old Kurd who had fled Turkey, was found hanging from the ceiling at the Corinth migrant camp in Greece. Ergül was reportedly driven to suicide by the camp's poor conditions as well as a recent deportation decision delivered by the Greek authorities.

March 30: The police in Antalya detained two local HDP members.

March 30: A Diyarbakır court acquitted former district co mayor Ahmet Kaya of terrorism charges.

March 31: The Constitutional Court returned an indictment seeking closure of the HDP to the chief public prosecutor's office at the top appeals court for review on the grounds that there were deficiencies in the indictment. April 1: Reports on the media said that the guards at a Diyarbakır prison battered inmates for speaking in Kurdish among themselves.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

March 29: Reports revealed that İbrahim Ergün, a 24 year-old Kurd who had fled Turkey, was found hanging from the ceiling at the Corinth migrant camp in Greece. Ergül was

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reportedly driven to suicide by the camp's poor conditions as well as a recent deportation decision delivered by the Greek authorities.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 1: Reports on the media said that the guards at a Diyarbakır prison battered inmates for speaking in Kurdish among themselves.

Issue 42⁴²

5-11 April 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

April 6: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

April 10: A monthly report by opposition MP Sezgin Tanrikulu said that the police intervened in at least 25 demonstrations in March, detaining at least 324 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 5: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a news report involving video footage of an alleged act of bribery during an expropriation.

April 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to three websites used by the Jin news agency to publish news. The news agency was previously banned on terrorism charges.

April 8: Van prosecutors drafted a new indictment against journalist Oktay Candemir, charging him with spreading terrorist propaganda.

April 8: A Kars court acquitted journalist Selda Manduz of terrorism charges.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

April 6: A report by the Diyarbakır Bar Association said that at least 69 lawyers faced investigations and prosecutions over their professional activities in 2020.

⁴² Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 42 | April 5-11, 2021* [Report]. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/42-EN.pdf>

KURDISH MINORITY

April 5: The police in Diyarbakır detained 26 members of the Rosa Women's Association on terrorism-related charges. Six of the detainees were arrested by a court on April 9 and one was placed under house arrest.

April 5: The police in Diyarbakır detained journalist Beritan Canözer from the Jinnews agency.

April 5: The police in Tunceli detained three local HDP members.

April 6: A Kars court sentenced former co-mayor Şevin Alaca to six years, 10 months, 15 days in prison on terrorism-related charges. Alaca was released pending appeal.

April 6: The police in Adıyaman raided the provincial HDP office, briefly detaining executives Bekir Gündüz and Hasari Oğuz.

April 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to three websites used by the Jin news agency to publish news. The news agency was previously banned on terrorism charges.

April 7: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local HDP member Halide Türkoğlu to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

April 7: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local DBP member İsmail Bardakçı to six years, three months in prison on terrorism related charges.

April 8: The police in Tunceli detained local HDP executive Aydın Köse.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 6: The police in Diyarbakır inflicted violence on İbrahim Halil Ercan during a house raid to detain him.

April 9: The police in Şanlıurfa physically assaulted two people due to an argument in traffic.

April 10: The guards at a Diyarbakır prison battered an inmate.

April 10: A monthly report by opposition MP Sezgin Tanrıkulu said that 371 incidents of torture took place in March.

Issue 43⁴³

12-18 April 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

April 15: The authorities in Mardin briefly detained a person for attending a protest against an urban renewal project.

April 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

April 17: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 13: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted journalist Cihan Ölmez for alleged terrorism propaganda, over social media commentary about the curfews imposed in the predominantly Kurdish province of Şırnak in 2015 and 2016.

April 14: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the Mezopotamya news agency.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 14: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local HDP executive Hülya Alökmen to 10 years, six months in prison on terrorism charges.

April 14: The police in Kocaeli detained former HDP provincial executive Kamuran Onay. The detainee was released to house arrest the next day.

April 14: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the Mezopotamya news agency.

April 15: A Van court sentenced former HDP district co mayor Yıldız Çetin to seven years, six months on terrorism charges.

⁴³ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 43 | April 12-18, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/43-EN.pdf>

April 16: Rahim Gören, a city council member in Ağrı, was removed from office by the Ministry of Interior. April 16: MP Hüda Kaya said that the remains of 261 alleged PKK members were buried in a mass grave next to a sewage line in an Istanbul cemetery and not returned to their families.

PRISON CONDITIONS

April 14: A prison administration in Van withheld a letter and an article sent to jailed journalist Nedim Türfent.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 15: The gendarmes in Diyarbakır physically assaulted a person over a slogan written on a wall.

Issue 44⁴⁴

19-25 April 2021

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FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

April 19: The police in Batman detained 13 people for attending Newroz celebrations. The detainees were released on probation on April 23.

April 20: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 20: Van prosecutors indicted freelance journalist Ruşen Takva, seeking a prison sentence of up to 18 years for attending the release of a press statement by the pro-Kurdish Democratic Regions Party (DBP)

April 20: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the Mezopotamya news agency, the 31th such ban on the pro-Kurdish outlet.

⁴⁴ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 44 | April 19-25, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/44-EN.pdf>

April 21: The Information Technologies and Communication Authority (BTK) banned access to JinNews, the 24th such ban imposed on the pro-Kurdish agency since its establishment in 2017.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 20: Van prosecutors indicted freelance journalist Ruşen Takva, seeking a prison sentence of up to 18 years for attending the release of a press statement by the pro-Kurdish Democratic Regions Party (DBP).

April 20: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the Mezopotamya news agency, the 31th such ban on the pro-Kurdish outlet.

April 21: The Information Technologies and Communication Authority (BTK) banned access to JinNews, the 24th such ban imposed on the pro-Kurdish agency since its establishment in 2017.

April 21: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to web pages used by Umut Gazetesi and Yeni Demokrasi news websites.

April 22: Statistics released by the Ministry of Health demonstrated that predominantly Kurdish provinces have the lowest Covid-19 vaccination rates in the country.

PRISON CONDITIONS

April 22: Opposition (HDP) MP Züleyha Gülüm claimed in a written parliamentary question to Justice Minister Abdülhamit Gül that prison parole boards discriminate against political prisoners who are eligible for parole.

Issue 45⁴⁵

26 April – 2 May 2021

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

⁴⁵ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 45 | April 26-May 2, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/45-EN.pdf>

April 26: The police in Ankara briefly detained two reporters for the Mezopotamya news agency who were following up on a HDP press briefing.

April 28: Diyarbakır prosecutors launched an investigation into the Diyarbakır bar association over a statement it released to commemorate the Armenian genocide.

April 30: The police in Hakkari detained a 14-year-old boy on charges of insulting the president on social media.

April 30: A Diyarbakır court blocked access to a web address used by the Jin news to publish news.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 26: The police in Diyarbakır detained 11 people, including politicians from HDP and DBP, on terrorism related charges.

April 26: An Ankara court began the trial of 108 Kurdish politicians for their alleged roles in deadly 2014 protests. The police blocked a press briefing held in front of the provincial HDP headquarters and briefly detained two reporters for the Mezopotamya news agency who were following it.

April 29: The Supreme Court of Appeals upheld a prison sentence of four years, eight months given to Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş and three years, six months handed down to Sırrı Süreyya Önder for disseminating terrorist propaganda, over a speeches they delivered during a Newroz celebration in İstanbul in March 2017.

April 29: The Supreme Court of Appeals upheld a prison sentence of seven years, six months handed down to former HDP MP İdris Baluken on terrorism-related charges.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 29: Security forces in Van shot and injured a local inhabitant who was looking for his lost sheep. The victim was also subjected to ill-treatment after being shot.

Issue 46⁴⁶

3-9 May 2021

⁴⁶ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/46-EN.pdf>

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to web addresses used by the JinNews and Mezopotamya news agencies.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 4: The European Court of Human Rights fined Turkey for violating the freedom of expression of HDP MP Filiz Kerestecioğlu by lifting her parliamentary immunity over her speech at a party meeting.

Issue 47⁴⁷

10-16 May 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

May 11: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

May 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 14: An İstanbul prosecutor indicted Turkish-German journalist Deniz Yücel, seeking up to two years in prison on insult charges over his articles about the Armenian genocide and the repression of Kurds in Turkey.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 13: Three attackers threw rocks at the HDP headquarters in Ankara.

May 14: A far-right mob in Mersin assaulted a Kurdish tourist family visiting from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, severely injuring the father of the family.

⁴⁷ TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 47 | May 10-16, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/47-EN.pdf>

May 15: The police in İstanbul forcibly removed a banner put up at a HDP district office about ongoing hunger strikes in prison, briefly detaining four people including HDP district manager Fatih Ergün.

Issue 48⁴⁸

17-23 May 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

May 18: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. Through consecutive extensions the ban has been held in effect since November 2016.

May 19: The police in Batman briefly detained musician Ethem Tüzer while staging a one-person demonstration to commemorate the musicians who committed suicide due to financial problems during the Covid-19 pandemic.

May 20: The police in Şanlıurfa detained Emine Şenyaşar and Ferit Şenyaşar while staging a sit-in protest to seek justice in the case of the killing of a family member by people close to the ruling party.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 18: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to the Kızıl Bayrak news website.

May 19: An İstanbul court ruled to release journalist Pınar Gayıp from house arrest. Gayıp had been held under house arrest for more than five months on charges related to a left-wing political party.

May 21: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Jinnews website which is under a previously imposed ban from access.

May 22: The police in Diyarbakır detained a person over social media messages about an attack on the Diyarbakır military airbase.

⁴⁸ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 48 | May 17-23, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/48-EN.pdf>

May 23: Van prosecutors indicted singers Fuat Ege and Rohat Aram, charging them with spreading terrorist propaganda, for singing a Kurdish song during Newroz celebrations in the city.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 18: The police in Mardin conducted house raids in three district, detaining 14 people including former and current HDP executives.

May 18: The European Court of Human Rights ordered Turkey to pay damages to the Diyarbakır-based Amedspor football club and its former player Deniz Naki. The court said that Naki's right to freedom of thought and expression and right to a fair trial were violated.

May 19: The Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD) reported that a prison in Van was arbitrarily denying parole to political prisoners who are eligible. In the interviews conducted by the prison administration to decide whether parole would be granted, inmates were asked personal questions about their political ideologies, including whether they would continue working for the HDP after their release.

May 21: Two Kurdish men were shot and seriously injured by Turkish security forces while trying to cross the border into Turkey from Iraq.

May 21: A court acquitted journalist Melis Alphan of terrorism charges. Alphan stood trial due to a photo she posted on social media during Newroz celebrations in Diyarbakır in 2015.

May 22: The police in Şırnak briefly detained former HDP district executive Bengin Karaviş.

May 23: The police in İstanbul detained six people, including a former HDP district executive.

May 23: The police in three provinces detained 20 people, including HDP members and executives, as part of an Adana-based investigation.

May 23: Van prosecutors indicted singers Fuat Ege and Rohat Aram, charging them with spreading terrorist propaganda, for singing a Kurdish song during Newroz celebrations in the city.

PRISON CONDITIONS

2021

May 22: A prison administration in Diyarbakır denied treatment to inmate Emine Erol, despite her severe illness due to Covid-19 which she contracted behind bars.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

May 19: Kurbanî Özcan, a Kurdish prisoner who requested his transfer out of prisons in Trabzon and Giresun due to torture, was transferred to a Diyarbakır prison where his ill-treatment continued and officers broke his fingers, according to the statements of his mother.

Issue 49⁴⁹

24-30 May 2021

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

May 27: Images on social media of Mehmet Emin Özkan, an ailing 83-year-old man incarcerated in a Diyarbakır prison being taken to a hospital in handcuffs caused outrage among human rights groups who demanded his release.

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

May 25: Lezgin Tekay, a reporter for the pro-Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency, was forced into a vehicle without a license plate by a group of people who introduced themselves as intelligence operatives and coerced into becoming an informant for the state.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

May 27: Gendarmes and village guards in Van fired shots as villagers protested the opening of a marble quarry. Four people were briefly detained after the intervention.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

⁴⁹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 49 | May 24-30, 2021* [Report]. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/49-EN.pdf>

May 25: Notorious mobster Sedat Peker in a YouTube video admitted that his public death threats to a group of academics who called for a peaceful settlement of the Kurdish problem was aimed at helping the government create a climate of fear.

May 26: A Hakkari court sentenced peace activist Fatma Turan to 10 months, 25 days in prison on charges of provoking hatred and enmity among public and praising crime and criminals, over a speech she made during a demonstration.

May 26: A Van court ruled to block access to news reports about allegations that a local social worker was beaten up by security guards after he refused to stand up in front of a district governor.

May 28: An Ankara court sentenced jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş to two-and-a-half years in prison over his remarks at an earlier court hearing that targeted a public prosecutor who indicted him.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 25: Lezgin Tekay, a reporter for the pro-Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency, was forced into a vehicle without a license plate by a group of people who introduced themselves as intelligence operatives and coerced into becoming an informant for the state.

May 25: The police in Antalya detained former Batman mayor Sabri Özdemir as part of a Diyarbakır-based investigation.

May 26: An Iğdır court sentenced former mayor Yaşar Akkuş to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism related charges. Akkuş was one of the dozens of HDP mayors who were removed from office by the Interior Ministry and replaced by pro-government trustees before standing trial for alleged links to terrorism.

May 26: An İstanbul court ruled to release journalist Mehmet Aslan who was arrested in January 2021 on terrorism-related charges. Aslan was imprisoned over his work for the pro-Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency.

May 28: An Ankara court sentenced jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş to two-and-a-half years in prison over his remarks at an earlier court hearing that targeted a public prosecutor who indicted him.

May 28: A Van court ruled to arrest HDP executive Fırat Keser on terrorism-related charges.

2021

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

May 26: A police officer in Diyarbakır reportedly broke a 55-year-old woman's teeth and arm while she protested the detention of her son on May 18.

Issue 50⁵⁰

31 May – 6 June 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

May 31: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

May 31: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 4: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 6: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 1: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a news report by the Mezopotamya news agency about a botched food distribution organized by the local governor's office.

June 3: The police in Batman detained three people for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda on social media. The detainees were released pending trial the next day.

KURDISH MINORITY

June 3: The police in İstanbul detained local HDP district executive Cahit Alkan.

June 4: The authorities detained and arrested HDP youth executive Esengül Kılıç.

⁵⁰ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 50 | May 31-June 6, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/50-EN.pdf>

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 4: The police in Batman physically assaulted and injured a person while detaining him.

June 4: The guards at a Diyarbakır prison physically and verbally assaulted inmate Kurbanî Özcan who was previously the victim of an incident of torture that resulted in the breaking of his fingers.

June 5: The guards at a Diyarbakır prison assaulted inmate Şükriye Gezgîn. Various rights groups reported that Gezgîn had visible marks of torture on her body.

Issue 51⁵¹

7-13 June 2021

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 9: A Diyarbakır prosecutor demanded a prison sentence of up to five years in prison for writer Nurcan Kaya, who is standing trial on terrorism-related charges due to her tweets in support of Kurdish militants in northern Syria.

KURDISH MINORITY

June 7: A prosecutor refiled an indictment that seeks to close down HDP, accusing the pro-Kurdish party of having links to terrorism and posing a threat to the "indivisible integrity of the state."

June 8: The police in Van detained local politicians Mustafa Avcı, Zehra Güçen, Dilşâ Kocakaya, Gazal Dilek and Tülay Demir. The detainees were released on probation on June 11.

June 9: The police in İstanbul detained 12 local HDP executives and members.

June 11: A Diyarbakır appeals court upheld a prison sentence of 22 years, three months handed down to former Kurdish lawmaker Leyla Güven on terrorism related charges.

⁵¹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 51 | June 7-13, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/51-EN.pdf>

June 11: The police in Hakkari detained local HDP politicians Sipan Turan, Sinem Seven, Zeynep Kaya and Sozdar Atilla on terrorism-related charges.

June 11: The police in Şırnak detained a local HDP member.

Issue 52⁵²

14-20 June 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

June 15: The Bitlis Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 17: The police in İstanbul detained two leftist activists for hanging a banner on a building about the attack on the HDP İzmir office.

June 17: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 19: The police in Batman blocked a demonstration about the attack on the HDP İzmir office, briefly detaining 16 people.

June 19: The Muş Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 20: The police in İstanbul briefly detained two activists for graffiti painting walls about the attack on the HDP İzmir office.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

⁵² Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 52 | June 14-20, 2021* [Report]. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/52-EN.pdf>

June 16: The police in Van detained journalist Lokman Gezgin on account of a previous prison sentence that he had received. Later in the same day Gezgin was sent to prison to serve his sentence.

June 17: An İstanbul administrative court rejected appeal against a district government decision to ban a Kurdish-language theater play on the grounds that the theater hall had links to terrorism.

KURDISH MINORITY

June 15: The Interior Ministry removed from office Necla Tamriş, a district co-mayor in Diyarbakır as well as district council members Bahar Karakaş Uluğ, Nursel Akbal, Ruken Bekalp, Emine Kaya and Sevican Yaşar.

June 15: An Ankara court ruled to release under judicial control former Kars mayor Ayhan Bilgen, along with three other defendants in a trial over a series of protests in predominantly Kurdish cities in 2014.

June 16: The police in İstanbul detained nine HDP youth members. Eight of the detainees were released on June 20 while one was arrested by a court.

June 16: The police in İstanbul detained local HDP executive Serhat Aktumar. June 16: The police in Adana detained local HDP member Muhammet Erkiş.

June 17: An gunman in İzmir attacked the HDP provincial office in what appears to be a racially motivated act of terrorism, killing party employee Deniz Poyraz. The HDP accused the police of failing to intervene swiftly.

June 17: An İstanbul administrative court rejected appeal against a district government decision to ban a Kurdish-language theater play on the grounds that the theater hall had links to terrorism.

June 18: A rapporteur at the Constitutional Court completed their examination of an indictment seeking the closure of the pro-Kurdish HDP and asked for its acceptance by the court.

June 20: The police in Ağrı detained local HDP member Coşkun Çetres.

PRISON CONDITIONS

June 18: Pro-Kurdish opposition party HDP asked the parliament to debate the situation of sick inmates in prisons, citing Justice Ministry data that 2,300 have died behind bars

since 2009. According to statistics published by the Human Rights Association (İHD), there are currently 1,605 sick prisoners in Turkish prisons.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 16: The guards at a Batman prison physically assaulted inmates for not standing up during a regular head count.

June 18: Plainclothes police officers in İstanbul detained two men name Erdoğan Turgut and Baran Kırgın while talking about the attack on the HDP İzmir office, and took them to a police station where they were battered.

June 18: The police in Şanlıurfa inflicted violence on Abdullah Basiyan during a house raid.

Issue 53⁵³

21-27 June 2021

2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

June 21: The police in Ağrı briefly detained local HDP executive Cemal Akar for making a speech at a demonstration to protest last week's attack on the party's İzmir office.

June 21: The Ağrı Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 24: The police in İstanbul detained 10 people, including members of the HDP, for having participated in demonstrations to protest last week's attack on the party's İzmir office.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 22: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to two web addresses used by the JinNews website.

⁵³ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/53-EN.pdf>

June 27: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the Etkin news agency.

KURDISH MINORITY

June 21: The police in Ağrı briefly detained local HDP executive Cemal Akar for making a speech at a demonstration to protest last week's attack on the party's İzmir office.

June 21: The Constitutional Court accepted the indictment seeking the closure of the HDP.

June 24: The police in İstanbul detained 10 people, including members of the HDP, for having participated in demonstrations to protest last week's attack on the party's İzmir office.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 24: The guards at a Şırnak prison physically assaulted an inmate during a body search.

2021

Issue 54⁵⁴

28 June – 4 July 2021

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

July 1: The family of Gülistan Doku, a young Kurdish woman who went missing on January 5, started a sit-in in front of a courthouse in Tunceli.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

June 29: The police in Van detained 10 people who participated in protests about the deadly attack on the HDP İzmir office.

June 30: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

⁵⁴ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 54 | June 28-July 4, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/54-EN.pdf>

July 1: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban has been uninterruptedly in effect since November 2016.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 29: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist İsmail Çoban to four years, six months in prison on terrorism related charges.

June 30: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Hakkı Boltan to two years, 17 days in prison on charges of insulting the president and a former prime minister.

June 30: Sinan Aygöl, a journalist based in Bitlis, turned himself in to serve a prison sentence handed down to him for reporting on an incident of child abuse. Aygöl was released on probation the next day.

July 1: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to web addresses used by the Etkin news agency, the Kızıl Bayrak newspaper, and the Umut newspaper to publish news.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

July 1: The Constitutional Court ruled that Turkey violated the rights of HDP MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu, a former lawmaker and a prominent human rights activist who was stripped of his parliamentary status in March and was subsequently jailed.

KURDISH MINORITY

June 29: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist İsmail Çoban to four years, six months in prison on terrorism related charges. Çoban was formerly an executive at the Kurdish-language Azadiya Welat newspaper.

June 29: The police in Van detained 10 people who participated in protests about the deadly attack on the HDP İzmir office.

July 2: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former district mayor Gülistan Ensarioğlu to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges. Ensarioğlu was previously removed from office by the Interior Ministry.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 4: The guards at a Diyarbakır prison physically assaulted inmate Kendal Barut for resisting a strip search during a transfer.

Issue 55⁵⁵

5-11 July 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

July 5: The police in Ankara violently intervened in a demonstration held to demand the release of prominent rights defender Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu, briefly detaining five people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 6: The Constitutional Court ruled that the interim closure of Özgür Gündem, a now-defunct newspaper that had focused on Kurdish issues, violated the constitutional rights of freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

July 8: The police in İstanbul blocked an open air Kurdish-language music event and confiscated the musicians' instruments.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

July 6: Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu, a leading rights advocate and former lawmaker who has been held behind bars since April 2, was released from prison following a decision by the Constitutional Court.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 5: The police in Bursa detained local HDP executive Köksal Söylemez.

July 6: The Constitutional Court ruled that the interim closure of Özgür Gündem, a now-defunct newspaper that had focused on Kurdish issues, violated the constitutional rights of freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

July 7: The European Parliament in a resolution condemned the Turkish government for its repressive policies targeting opposition parties, particularly the pro Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP).

⁵⁵ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 55 | July 5-11, 2021*.
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/55-EN.pdf>

July 8: The police in İstanbul blocked an open air Kurdish-language music event and confiscated the musicians' instruments.

July 10: Reports revealed that a Kurdish family living in Konya was assaulted by a far-right mob in what appears to be a racist hate crime. The incident left six members of the family seriously injured.

July 10: The police detained nine imams for preaching sermons in Kurdish.

July 10: The police in Batman briefly detained local HDP member Gülistan Yılmaz Diyar.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

July 8: Kurdish writer Meral Şimşek, who is facing terrorism-related charges in Turkey, was detained, tortured and pushed back by the Greek police after crossing the border on June 29.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 6: The guards in an Ağrı prison physically assaulted inmate Mizgin Kayıtbey. The victim was injured and taken to a hospital.

2021

Issue 56⁵⁶

12-18 July 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

July 12: The Muş Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 14: The police in Şanlıurfa briefly detained Emine Şenyaşar and Ferit Şenyaşar who were staging a sit-in in front of a local courthouse to protest the alleged lack of effective prosecution in the case of a family member who was killed by a local ruling party official.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

⁵⁶ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/56-EN.pdf>

July 16: Prominent rights advocate Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu returned to his parliamentary seat four months after he was stripped of his parliamentary status based on a conviction over a social media post in 2016.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 13: Gendarmes in Şanlıurfa briefly detained local HDP executive Müslüm Arslan.

July 14: The house of Sezer Öztürk, a HDP district employee in İstanbul, was vandalized with racist slurs spray painted on the walls.

Issue 57⁵⁷

19-25 July 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

July 19: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 19: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 19: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 19: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 18: The police in İstanbul briefly detained musician Hozan Arhat for singing in Kurdish during a wedding ceremony.

July 19: A mob in Afyon attacked a group of workers for speaking in Kurdish, wounding seven people.

⁵⁷ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/57-EN.pdf>

July 21: A Kurdish man was killed and two others were wounded in an allegedly racist attack in Konya.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 19: The police in Şırnak battered eight months pregnant woman Hatice Baykara during a house raid.

July 19: The guards in an Erzurum prison physically assaulted inmate Yaşar Gümüşlü.

July 22: The police in Van physically assaulted two people who were detained while protesting at a local courthouse.

Issue 58⁵⁸

26 July – 1 August 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

July 30: The police in Van, Mardin, İstanbul and Ankara intervened in several demonstrations organized to protest the racist attack against a Kurdish family in Konya, detaining a total of 23 people.

July 30: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban has been held in effect since June 2020.

August 1: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest organized by the HDP, detaining 15 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 27: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to web addresses used by the pro-Kurdish Kızıl Bayrak and Umut newspapers.

KURDISH MINORITY

2021

⁵⁸ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/58-EN.pdf>

2021

July 26: Gökhan Yavuzel, a Kurdish writer in Wales whose name is on a hit list targeting critics of the Turkish government living abroad, was attacked in a park near his house in Cardiff.

July 26: The German Federal Police warned Hasip Kaplan, a former HDP lawmaker, of a planned assassination targeting him based on a hit list that includes the names of 55 critics of the Turkish government living in exile.

July 27: An İstanbul court put on trial 17 HDP members for attending a demonstration against the construction of a nuclear power plant in southern Turkey.

July 27: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to web addresses used by the pro-Kurdish Kızıl Bayrak and Umut newspapers.

July 28: A Kurdish person and his/her five children suffered a racist attack by their neighbors in Ankara.

July 30: Armed assailants in Konya killed seven members of a Kurdish family in a racist attack.

August 1: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest organized by the HDP, detaining 15 people.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 28: The guards in a Şanlıurfa prison physically assaulted inmates Mürşit Aslan, Mahsum Temel, Mehmet Salih Eliş, Mahmut Parsak and Hamdullah Hozan. The authorities reportedly refused to hospitalize the victims.

Issue 59⁵⁹

2-8 August 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

August 2: The police in Diyarbakır detained four people who were protesting the racist attack on a Kurdish family in Konya that claimed the lives of seven people.

⁵⁹ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/59-EN.pdf>

2021

August 2: The police in Gaziantep detained seven people who were protesting the racist attack on a Kurdish family in Konya that claimed the lives of seven people.

August 2: The police in İstanbul detained activist Nursel Tanrıverdi who was staging a sit-in to protest her summary removal from her public sector job after a coup in 2016.

August 3: The police in Ankara intervened in a women's rights protest, briefly detaining 15 people.

August 3: The police in İstanbul blocked a workers' protest, briefly detaining five people.

August 4: A fact sheet released by the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey said that between the years 2015 and 2019 the authorities violated the freedom of association 5,498 times.

August 4: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

August 6: A Van court ruled to arrest three people who were detained for attending a protest on July 30, while releasing under judicial control seven others who were detained for the same reason.

August 6: The police in İstanbul attacked a group protesting femicides, detaining one person over the slogans that were shouted.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

August 2: Adıyaman prosecutors launched an investigation into journalist Özgür Boğatekin for allegedly provoking public hatred and enmity due to a social media post in which he criticized the authorities for failing to protect members of a Kurdish family that was killed on July 30 in a racist attack.

August 4: The authorities blocked access to several news articles and gender-based violence reports published by the Bianet news website.

August 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the Kızıl Bayrak news website, which is known for its reporting on Kurdish issues.

August 6: A regional appeals court in Diyarbakır overturned a prison sentence of one year, six months that was handed down to former HDP co-chair Figen Yüksekdağ on charges of insulting the president. The court ruled to acquit Yüksekdağ.

August 8: An Eskişehir court ruled to block access to the Nupel news website.

KURDISH MINORITY

August 2: A group of Kurdish seasonal workers in Antalya were subjected to a racist attack.

August 2: The police in İzmir detained two HDP youth members in house raids.

August 3: Abdurrahman Karabulut, the lawyer for a Kurdish family, seven of whose members were murdered on July 30 in a racist attack in Konya, said he has been receiving death threats for representing the family.

August 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the Kızıl Bayrak news website, which is known for its reporting on Kurdish issues.

August 6: İstanbul prosecutors indicted seven lawyers who represented jailed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) leader Abdullah Öcalan.

August 6: A regional appeals court in Diyarbakır overturned a prison sentence of one year, six months that was handed down to former HDP co-chair Figen Yüksekdağ on charges of insulting the president. The court ruled to acquit Yüksekdağ.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

August 2: Several relatives of a Kurdish family whose seven members were killed in a racist attack on July 30, said that they were physically assaulted by the police in Konya for wanting to see the house where the massacre took place.

August 5: Soldiers in Hakkari physically assaulted the members of a family during a house raid to detain them

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9-15 August 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

⁶⁰ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/60-EN.pdf>

August 11: The police in Şanlıurfa detained 18 farmers who were protesting a local energy distributor over power cuts.

August 12: The Şırnak Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

August 14: The police in Bitlis intervened in a protest, detaining 70 people.

August 15: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. A

ugust 15: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban has been in effect uninterruptedly since November 2016.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

August 9: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish JinNews website.

August 11: An Adana court sentenced journalist İbrahim Karakaş to nine years, nine months in prison on charges of membership in a terrorist organization. Karakaş denied the charges and said he was being prosecuted for his journalistic work at the pro-Kurdish newspaper Yeni Yaşam.

August 12: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency.

August 13: The police in Diyarbakır detained journalist Beritan Canözer who works for the pro-Kurdish JinNews.

August 15: An Ardahan court ruled to block access to the Twitter account of a popular user.

KURDISH MINORITY

August 9: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish JinNews website.

August 10: The police in Kars detained five members and executives of the HDP on terrorism-related charges.

August 11: An Adana court sentenced journalist İbrahim Karakaş to nine years, nine months in prison on charges of membership in a terrorist organization. Karakaş denied

the charges and said he was being prosecuted for his journalistic work at the pro-Kurdish newspaper Yeni Yaşam.

August 12: The police in several southern, southeastern and eastern provinces detained 59 people in connection with their social media posts allegedly containing terrorist propaganda.

August 12: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency.

August 13: A Van court sentenced journalist Hikmet Tunç to eight months, 22 days in prison for insulting the trustee appointed by the government to replace the elected mayor of a local district.

August 13: The police in Diyarbakır detained journalist Beritan Canözer who works for the pro-Kurdish JinNews.

August 13: The police in Mardin briefly detained local HDP youth member Çektar Ermiş.

August 15: The police in Batman detained three local HDP executives.

August 15: The police in Mardin detained seven people including local HDP executives.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

August 9: The police in Ağrı physically assaulted two people during a house raid.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

August 12: Turkish army fire killed an Iraqi Kurdish farmer in northern Iraq.

Issue 61⁶¹

16-22 August 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

⁶¹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 61 | August 16-22, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/61-EN.pdf>

August 17: The police in İstanbul detained 11 people including four minors for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda during their attendance at a festival organized by the HDP.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

August 16: JinNews reporter Beritan Canözer who was detained on Aug. 13 as part of a terrorism-related investigation, was released after three days in police custody.

August 18: The police in Ankara detained six people including HDP employees over their social media posts.

KURDISH MINORITY

August 16: JinNews reporter Beritan Canözer who was detained on Aug. 13 as part of a terrorism-related investigation, was released after three days in police custody.

August 17: A group of people in Antalya stopped a car and beat a man named Erhan Sevim because he was of Kurdish origin. The incident took place following pro government claims that the wildfires that hit the region were started by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

August 22: An Elazığ prison launched an investigation into inmate and former HDP lawmaker Leyla Güven for singing Kurdish music behind bars.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

August 18: A police officer in Şanlıurfa physically assaulted a man named Mustafa Bektaş who accidentally rang his doorbell and broke his leg.

August 19: Media reports revealed that eight inmates who were involuntarily transferred from a Şanlıurfa prison to other prisons on August 11 were subjected to torture and ill-treatment during the transfer.

August 20: The gendarmerie in Hakkari physically assaulted lawyer Harika Günay Karataş who was visiting a center to visit clients that were held in custody.

August 20: A group of police officers in Hakkari physically assaulted a delivery company employee over the complaint of a police officer's spouse.

Issue 62⁶²

23-29 August 2021

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

August 25: Celalettin Yalçın, a member of the HDP, was abducted and subjected to torture by individuals who introduced themselves as "the police" in İstanbul. He was left on a roadside in İstanbul the next day.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

August 23: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

August 23: A district governor in Mardin banned a campaign organized by a local medical chamber to promote vaccination against Covid-19, citing a 15-day ban on outdoor gatherings issued by the provincial governor's office.

August 29: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

August 24: İstanbul prosecutors indicted writer Yavuz Ekinci due to his social media messages in 2013 and 2014 about the Newroz celebrations in Diyarbakır and the ongoing clashes around the predominantly Kurdish Syrian town of Kobane.

August 25: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to web addresses used by pro-Kurdish JinNews and Etkin news agency.

KURDISH MINORITY

August 23: An İstanbul court ruled to arrest seven people out of the 25 who were detained on August 20 for allegedly sending money to imprisoned relatives, while releasing 18 others. The detainees had included members and executives of the HDP.

⁶² Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 62 | August 23-29, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/62-EN.pdf>

August 23: A court ruled to arrest Serhat Kadirhan, the former co-mayor of Şırnak who was detained on August 20.

August 25: Celalettin Yalçın, a member of the HDP, was abducted and subjected to torture by individuals who introduced themselves as "the police" in İstanbul. He was left on a roadside in İstanbul the next day.

August 27: An Elazığ prison decided to deprive nine inmates, including former pro-Kurdish lawmaker Leyla Güven, of visitation rights for a month for singing in Kurdish.

August 27: A Şırnak court accepted an indictment prepared against local HDP executive Sabuha Akdağ on the charge of provoking hatred and enmity among public, due to a press statement she released on violence against women.

PRISON CONDITIONS

August 27: An Elazığ prison decided to deprive nine inmates, including former pro-Kurdish lawmaker Leyla Güven, of visitation rights for a month for singing in Kurdish.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

August 25: Celalettin Yalçın, a member of the HDP, was abducted and subjected to torture by individuals who introduced themselves as "the police" in İstanbul. He was left on a roadside in İstanbul the next day.

August 26: A report jointly prepared by two Turkish human rights organizations revealed that inmates were subjected to strip-searches, insults and battery in Diyarbakır prisons.

August 27: The gendarmes in Diyarbakır tortured eight people during house raids to detain them.

Issue 63⁶³

30 August – 5 September 2021

⁶³ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 63 | August 30-September 5, 2021* [Report]. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/63-EN.pdf>

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

September 3: An armored police vehicle ran over and killed a 7-year-old boy in Şırnak named Mihraç Miroğlu. The officer driving the vehicle was only summoned for a testimony three days later and was released immediately afterwards.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

August 31: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 3: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 1: Mardin prosecutors launched an investigation into JinNews reporter Öznur Değer over her coverage of a racist attack against a Kurdish family in Konya that claimed the lives of seven people.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 1: Mardin prosecutors launched an investigation into JinNews reporter Öznur Değer over her coverage of a racist attack against a Kurdish family in Konya that claimed the lives of seven people.

2021

Issue 64⁶⁴

6-12 September 2021

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to two websites used by the pro-Kurdish JinNews, citing national security reasons.

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

⁶⁴ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 64 | September 6-12, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/64-EN.pdf>

September 10: A police accident report concerning a 7 year-old boy who was crushed to death by an armored police vehicle in Şırnak last week found the child to be the primarily negligent party.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION September 6: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 6: The Bitlis Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to two websites used by the pro-Kurdish JinNews, citing national security reasons.

September 9: Şanlıurfa prosecutors indicted Emine Şenyaşar, a woman who has been staging sit-in protests to demand justice for three members of her family who were murdered by people connected to the ruling party, seeking up to four years in prison on charges of "insulting a public officer."

KURDISH MINORITY

September 6: Former HDP MP Aysel Tuğluk was denied access to proper healthcare in prison, according to a written statement released by her lawyers.

September 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to two websites used by the pro-Kurdish JinNews, citing national security reasons.

September 6: İsmail Beşikçi Foundation released a report on the rights violations against musicians and stage actors performing in Kurdish, noting widespread criminalization of the Kurdish language and increasing restrictions on artistic activities in the last few years.

September 9: Osmaniye prosecutors indicted local HDP politician Müslüm Çağan and presenter Erdal Tecik, seeking punishment on terrorism-related charges over their participation in Newroz celebrations in 2018.

September 10: A school in Adana reportedly wrote nationalist slogans on its staircase, including one that said "Either speak Turkish or be silent."

September 11: Racist slurs were written on the door of a house belonging to a Kurdish family in Mersin.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 6: Former HDP MP Aysel Tuğluk was denied access to proper healthcare in prison, according to a written statement released by her lawyers.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 10: The Diyarbakır Bar Association filed criminal complaints about the physical and psychological abuse of underage inmates by guards at a Diyarbakır prison, based on interviews with minors held in juvenile detention centers.

Issue 65⁶⁵

13-19 September 2021

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

September 14: The European Court of Human Rights condemned Turkey for detaining Kurdish politician Tuncer Bakırhan, who was removed from his position as mayor of Siirt in November 2016 over alleged links to terrorism.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

September 13: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 15: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 16: The police in Diyarbakır detained at least seven people for attending protests against a local energy distributor.

September 19: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

⁶⁵ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 65 | September 13-19, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/65-EN.pdf>

September 13: The police in İstanbul detained Etkin news agency reporter Tunahan Turhan.

September 15: Batman prosecutors launched an investigation into 13 people, including provincial HDP co chairs Fatma Ablay and Ömer Kulpu, who danced to a Kurdish song during a rally in southeastern Turkey, on allegations of disseminating terrorist propaganda.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

September 17: The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe failed to start infringement proceedings against Turkey due to the country's non compliance with European Court of Human Rights orders for the release of Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş and businessman Osman Kavala.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 13: The police in İstanbul detained Etkin news agency reporter Tunahan Turhan.

September 13: A report released by the İstanbul Council of Forensic Medicine found that former HDP deputy Aysel Tuğluk, who has been behind bars since late 2016 on terrorism-related charges, is fit to remain in prison although her lawyers claim the politician is in poor health.

September 14: The European Court of Human Rights condemned Turkey for detaining Kurdish politician Tuncer Bakırhan, who was removed from his position as mayor of Siirt in November 2016 over alleged links to terrorism.

September 14: A Van court arrested local HDP executive Herdem Acar on terrorism-related charges.

September 15: Batman prosecutors launched an investigation into 13 people, including provincial HDP co chairs Fatma Ablay and Ömer Kulpu, who danced to a Kurdish song during a rally in southeastern Turkey, on allegations of disseminating terrorist propaganda.

September 16: An Elazığ judge rejected a request by imprisoned HDP politicians Leyla Güven and Hülya Alökmen to make their defense in Kurdish in their objection against a prison administration decision to restrict their external communications for singing in Kurdish behind bars.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 10. September 14: The police in Bingöl reportedly tortured two people during a house raid.

Issue 66⁶⁶

20-26 September 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

September 22: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Yelda Çiçek to one year, eight months in prison for following the protests held in the province against the government-appointed trustee who replaced the elected mayor.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 22: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Yelda Çiçek to one year, eight months in prison for following the protests held in the province against the government-appointed trustee who replaced the elected mayor.

September 23: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to three web addresses used by the pro-Kurdish Jinnews website.

September 24: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency.

September 24: A Batman court ruled to block access to news reports about allegations that the province's mayor awarded a public tender to the son of one of his close friends.

September 25: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Özgür Gelecek news website.

September 26: İdris Yayla, a Batman-based journalist, was threatened on the phone by unidentified individuals. The same day, two people fired shots in the air in front of the journalist's house.

⁶⁶ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 66 | September 20-26, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/66-EN.pdf>

KURDISH MINORITY

September 20: A group of local inhabitants in Düzce attacked Kurdish seasonal workers, injuring several people.

September 20: A prison administration in Elazığ refused to accept a dress sent for former opposition deputy Leyla Güven because it featured "the colors traditionally associated with the Kurdish people."

September 20: A group of assailants in Antalya attacked an intercity bus bound for the predominantly Kurdish province of Diyarbakır, leaving two people injured.

September 21: A Van court sentenced HDP official Firat Keser to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism related charges.

September 21: The police in Adana detained nine people, including a local HDP executive and two executives of an NGO established for solidarity with the relatives of prisoners.

September 22: A Diyarbakır court ruled to release former HDP MP Çağlar Demirel who was imprisoned in December 2016 on terrorism-related charges.

September 23: The police in Ankara detained HDP official Betül Ünsal on terrorism-related charges. Ünsal was arrested by a court the same day.

September 23: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to three web addresses used by the pro-Kurdish Jinnews website.

September 24: The parents of Deniz Poyraz, a 38-year old HDP employee who was killed in an armed attack on the HDP office in İzmir on June 17, filed a criminal complaint against the local police, whom they accuse of negligence.

September 24: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency. September 25: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Özgür Gelecek news website.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 20: A prison administration in Elazığ refused to accept a dress sent for former opposition deputy Leyla Güven because it featured "the colors traditionally associated with the Kurdish people."

September 22: A Diyarbakır prison launched a disciplinary investigation into inmate Ayşe Gökkan over her remarks in a petition she wrote to prosecutors about the rights violations she faced behind bars.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 23: The Constitutional Court ordered the state to pay compensation to the family of a person who in 1992 was tortured to death by soldiers in the predominantly Kurdish province of Diyarbakır.

Issue 67⁶⁷

27 September – 3 October 2021

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

September 29: The police in Batman shot Suat Şahin, a 21-year-old man, for allegedly resisting an ID check, leaving him in a critical condition.

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

September 29: Ezgi Orak, a member of the HDP, was forced into a civilian vehicle in Ankara by people who introduced themselves as police officers. A complaint filed with the police revealed that the license plate of the vehicle was not in the official inventory. Orak turned up in official police custody several hours later. She was released on October 3.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

September 29: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 29: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

⁶⁷ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 67 | September 27-October 3, 2021* [Report]. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/67-EN.pdf>

October 2: The Muş Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 27: A Diyarbakır court sentenced writer Nurcan Kaya to one year, three months in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, over a tweet she posted in 2014 about resistance in the Syrian town of Kobani against the occupation of the Islamic State.

September 30: İstanbul prosecutors indicted Gülsüm and Sami Elvan, the parents of Berkin Elvan, a teen who was struck in the head with a tear gas canister fired by a police officer during the anti-government Gezi Park protests in İstanbul in 2013. The parents are charged with insulting the president.

September 30: Diyarbakır prosecutors demanded a prison sentence of up to 22.5 years for Kurdish journalist Nurcan Yalçın, who is standing trial on terrorism-related charges.

September 30: The Constitutional Court ruled that a two-year prison sentence handed down to a bus driver in Diyarbakır for playing Kurdish-language music did not violate his freedom of expression.

September 30: Diyarbakır courts ruled to block access to nine web addresses used by the pro-Kurdish Jinnews, Kızıl Bayrak, Umut Gazetesi, Etkin and Mezopotamya news websites, citing national security reasons.

October 1: An Ankara court convicted actress Ezgi Mola on insult charges after she protested in a tweet in August 2020 the release of a former soldier accused of raping an 18-year-old Kurdish woman. The court ordered Mola to pay a fine of TL 5,200 (€500).

KURDISH MINORITY

September 28: HDP MP Gülistan Kılıç-Koçyiğit reported that a prison administration in Kırıkkale launched a disciplinary investigation into an inmate for using the Kurdish word for "comrades" in a phone call.

September 30: An Ankara court acquitted Adnan Selçuk Mızraklı, the former mayor of Diyarbakır, of charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda. Mızraklı was removed from office by the Interior Ministry in August 2019.

September 30: Diyarbakır prosecutors demanded a prison sentence of up to 22.5 years for Kurdish journalist Nurcan Yalçın, who is standing trial on terrorism-related charges.

September 30: The Constitutional Court ruled that a two-year prison sentence handed down to a bus driver in Diyarbakır for playing Kurdish-language music did not violate his freedom of expression.

September 30: Diyarbakır courts ruled to block access to nine web addresses used by the pro-Kurdish Jinnews, Kızıl Bayrak, Umut Gazetesi, Etkin and Mezopotamya news websites, citing national security reasons.

October 1: A Hakkari court sentenced former district mayor Remziye Yaşar to 17 years in prison on terrorism related charges. The court also sentenced 27 others, including pro-Kurdish party executives, to eight years, nine months in prison.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 28: HDP MP Gülistan Kılıç-Koçyiğit reported that a prison administration in Kırıkkale launched a disciplinary investigation into an inmate for using the Kurdish word for "comrades" in a phone call.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION AND VIOLATIONS

October 1: A Belgian court started the trial of the members of an alleged Turkish hit team who were claimed to be preparing for attacks on Kurdish leaders Remzi Kartal and Zübeyir Aydar.

2021

Issue 68⁶⁸

4-10 October 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

October 4: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

October 6: The police in Diyarbakır detained 13 people for allegedly preparing to organize a demonstration.

⁶⁸ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 68 | October 4-10, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/68-EN.pdf>

October 7: The police in İzmir and Manisa detained 12 people, including a local HDP executive and an executive of an NGO established for solidarity with relatives of prisoners.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 7: The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) launched an investigation into Fox TV over the remarks of Başak Demirtaş, the wife of jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş, who criticized the arbitrary Covid-19 restrictions in prisons which left her daughters unable to visit their father for 19 months.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 4: A Hakkari court sentenced Ahmet Öner, a local HDP member who had died four years ago, to eight years, nine months in prison on terrorism charges.

October 5: The security forces in Bitlis detained eight people, including local HDP executives Aziz Başboğa and İhsan Deniz.

October 5: A simultaneous translation service introduced by the parliament excluded the Kurdish language, the second most spoken language in the country.

October 7: The police in İzmir and Manisa detained 12 people, including a local HDP executive and an executive of an NGO established for solidarity with relatives of prisoners.

October 7: The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) launched an investigation into Fox TV over the remarks of Başak Demirtaş, the wife of jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş, who criticized the arbitrary Covid-19 restrictions in prisons which left her daughters unable to visit their father for 19 months.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 9: Reports said that the guards in a Şanlıurfa prison assaulted 80 inmates and that the prison administration did not offer treatment to those who were injured as a result.

2021

Issue 69⁶⁹

11-17 October 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

October 12: Şırnak prosecutors launched an investigation into an event held to commemorate a 7 year-old child who was killed by an armored police vehicle. A local politician and a musician were summoned by the police for questioning.

October 13: A publishing house was forced to discontinue its Kurdish-language literary events in Mardin following police obstruction under the pretext of Covid-19.

October 13: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

October 14: A district governor's office in Şırnak banned an event planned by the HDP to commemorate the party's foundation anniversary, citing the Covid-19 pandemic. Reports revealed that the same office had granted permission to a two-day-long event organized by the ruling party in October.

October 15: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

October 16: The police in İstanbul blocked a protest march organized by HDP members. Ten people were briefly detained.

October 16: A district governor's office in İstanbul banned a concert organized by a pro-Kurdish cultural organization, citing national security reasons.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 12: A Van court ruled to acquit journalist Ruşen Takva of terrorism charges. Takva faced up to 19 years in prison for covering an event held by pro-Kurdish political parties.

October 12: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit Kurdish journalist Roza Metina of terrorism charges.

⁶⁹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 69 | October 11-17, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/69-EN.pdf>

October 14: A Malatya court sentenced Kurdish writer and poet Meral Şimşek to one year, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

October 14: A Mersin court sentenced Kurdish musician Dilan Demir to nine years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

October 14: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a URL used by the pro-Kurdish Özgür Gelecek news website.

October 15: A Bitlis court ordered journalist Sinan Aygöl to pay a monetary fine for disseminating terrorist propaganda, over an interview he published on a news website.

October 15: Voice of America News reported that in a single week, 18 journalists, most of whom work for pro Kurdish media outlets, stood trial at hearings across the country.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 12: A Van court ruled to acquit journalist Ruşen Takva of terrorism charges. Takva faced up to 19 years in prison for covering an event held by pro-Kurdish political parties.

October 14: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a URL used by the pro-Kurdish Özgür Gelecek news website.

October 15: A Van court sentenced HDP politician Aysel Tuğluk to one year, eight months in prison on terrorism charges.

October 15: A Bitlis court ordered journalist Sinan Aygöl to pay a monetary fine for disseminating terrorist propaganda, over an interview he published on a news website.

October 15: Voice of America News reported that in a single week, 18 journalists, most of whom work for pro Kurdish media outlets, stood trial at hearings across the country.

October 16: The police in İstanbul blocked a protest march organized by HDP members. Ten people were briefly detained.

October 16: A district governor's office in İstanbul banned a concert organized by a pro-Kurdish cultural organization, citing national security reasons.

October 16: The police in Diyarbakır detained a woman for carrying flag featuring the colors yellow, red and green while on her way to a demonstration.

October 12: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit Kurdish journalist Roza Metina of terrorism charges.

October 13: A publishing house was forced to discontinue its Kurdish-language literary events in Mardin following police obstruction under the pretext of Covid-19.

October 14: A Malatya court sentenced Kurdish writer and poet Meral Şimşek to one year, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

October 14: A Mersin court sentenced Kurdish musician Dilan Demir to nine years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

October 14: A district governor's office in Şırnak banned an event planned by the HDP to commemorate the party's foundation anniversary, citing the Covid-19 pandemic. Reports revealed that the same office had granted permission to a two-day-long event organized by the ruling party in October.

PRISON CONDITIONS

October 12: A Van prison blocked the delivery of a book sent to jailed journalist Nedim Tüfent. The prison administration also censored parts of a letter that Tüfent sent to his colleagues outside prison.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

October 14: Kurdish writer and poet Meral Şimşek, who in June 2021 was violently pushed back by the Greek border forces when she attempted to flee Turkey, was sentenced to imprisonment on terrorism-related charges.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 13: The guards in a Bayburt prison mistreated inmate Barış Tüter.

October 16: The police in Diyarbakır physically assaulted lawyer Elif İpek Tirenç Ulaş during an ID check.

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18-24 October 2021

⁷⁰ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/70-EN.pdf>

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

October 20: A Mardin court acquitted five journalists and three others who stood trial over their participation in demonstrations.

October 21: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

October 25: The police in Van intervened in a press briefing organized by local medical chambers, briefly detaining two people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 19: Van prosecutors launched an investigation into journalist Oktay Candemir due to a social media message. Candemir was summoned by the police for a questioning.

October 21: The police in İzmir detained 17 HDP members due to their social media messages.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 18: A Diyarbakır court sentenced HDP member Mehmet Eşref Mamedoğlu to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism charges.

October 19: An Edirne court sentenced German-Kurdish singer Saide İnaç to three years, one month and 15 days in prison on terrorism charges.

October 19: A Yozgat prison forbade inmates to speak in Kurdish on the phone and interrupted the calls of the inmates who spoke in Kurdish.

October 20: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former district mayor Ayşe Gökkan to 30 years in prison on terrorism charges.

October 21: The police in İzmir detained 17 HDP members due to their social media messages.

PRISON CONDITIONS

October 19: A Yozgat prison forbade inmates to speak in Kurdish on the phone and interrupted the calls of the inmates who spoke in Kurdish.

October 20: A prison administration in Şırnak hindered the treatment and hospitalization of inmates.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 19: Reports revealed that Adem Özbey, an inmate held in a prison in Van, was taken out of his ward for a questioning during which he was tortured. Another inmate from the same facility reported that Özbey was not taken to a hospital afterwards.

October 20: Seven inmates who were involuntarily transferred from a Diyarbakır prison to other provinces were subjected to strip-searches. Those who resisted were physically assaulted.

October 23: The police in Diyarbakır tortured two people during a house raid to detain them.

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25-31 October 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

October 26: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

October 28: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 26: Courts in Diyarbakır and Erzurum ruled to block access to four websites used by the pro-Kurdish Jinnews, Umut Gazetesi and Etkin news agency.

October 28: A Gaziantep appeals court overturned the 3-year prison sentence of Azadiya Welat reporter Çetin Kurşun, demanding a higher sentence on terrorism charges.

October 29: The police in Siirt detained Cemil Taşkesen for using the word "Kurdistan" in a video. Taşkesen is accused of spreading terrorist propaganda.

⁷¹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 71 | October 25-31, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/71-EN.pdf>

October 29: An appeals commission refused to reinstate four academics who were fired from their universities for signing a declaration that called for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Kurdish provinces.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

October 29: An appeals commission refused to reinstate four academics who were fired from their universities for signing a declaration that called for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Kurdish provinces.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 25: The guards in a Şırnak prison tried to force inmates to chant the national anthem and physically assaulted those who refused. Some inmates were injured as a result of the aggression.

October 26: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local politician Emine Ruken Akça to seven years, six months on terrorism charges.

October 28: A Batman court sentenced local HDP politicians Fatma Ablay and Ömer Kulpu to one year, eight months in prison on terrorism charges.

October 29: The police in Siirt detained Cemil Taşkesen for using the word "Kurdistan" in a video. Taşkesen is accused of spreading terrorist propaganda.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 25: The police in Mardin physically assaulted İbrahim Dinler (73) and Faize Dinler (72) during a house raid to detain them.

October 25: The guards in a Şırnak prison tried to force inmates to chant the national anthem and physically assaulted those who refused. Some inmates were injured as a result of the aggression.

October 26: The guards in a Şırnak prison physically assaulted 16 inmates.

October 27: The guards in a Van prison physically assaulted inmate Veysi Bayat.

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⁷² <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/72-EN.pdf>

1-7 November 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

November 2: İstanbul prosecutors indicted nine lawyers who made a public statement to protest an Interior Ministry decision to remove three Kurdish mayors from office in August 2019.

November 2: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 4: The police across several provinces blocked demonstrations organized by the HDP to mark the fifth anniversary of the imprisonment of former party co-chairs Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ. The intervention resulted in the brief detention of four people in Ağrı and two people in Van.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 2: Diyarbakır prosecutors demanded up to 15 years in prison for Kurdish author Azad Zal who is standing trial on terrorism charges.

November 3: A Yalova court sentenced Kurdish poet Yılmaz Odabaşı to 11 months, 20 days in prison on charges of insulting the president.

November 3: An appeals commission refused to reinstate two academics who were fired from their universities for signing a declaration that called for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Kurdish provinces.

November 4: An İstanbul court sentenced author Erdal Yıldırım to one year, six months, 22 days in prison on terrorism-related charges, over his social media posts about clashes in Syria between ISIS and Kurdish militants.

November 5: The police in Elazığ detained academic Hifzullah Kutum on terrorism charges, for writing "Long live Kurdistan" in a social media post. Kutum was also suspended from the university where he worked.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

November 3: The Inquiry Commission on State of Emergency Measures, an appeals commission set up to review individual complaints related to 2016-2018 post coup state of emergency measures, refused to reinstate two academics who were fired from their

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universities for signing a declaration that called for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Kurdish provinces.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 1: A court ruled to arrest HDP executive Sevim Akdağ who was detained on October 29.

November 2: Diyarbakır prosecutors demanded up to 15 years in prison for Kurdish author Azad Zal who is standing trial on terrorism charges.

November 2: The police in Adıyaman detained Mustafa Yüksel, an advisor to HDP deputy Kemal Bülbül.

November 3: Security forces in Adıyaman detained former HDP lawmaker Behçet Yıldırım on terrorism charges.

November 4: The police across several provinces blocked demonstrations organized by the HDP to mark the fifth anniversary of the imprisonment of former party co-chairs Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ. The intervention resulted in the brief detention of four people in Ağrı and two people in Van.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION AND VIOLATIONS

November 3: A new research highlighted that Turkey backed armed groups in northern Syria have been weaponizing water by building dams on a river that serves as a lifeline for communities living downstream in Kurdish-majority areas.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 6: The police in Diyarbakır mistreated a man named Behçet Bayhan during a house raid to detain him. The officers also verbally assaulted the other people who were in the house.

November 7: Soldiers in Mardin mistreated 73-year-old Abdurrahman Dinler during a house raid.

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8-14 November 2021

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

November 11: The lawyers of jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk reiterated their call for her release, citing her deteriorating health condition. The lawyers also disclosed that she is suffering from early-onset dementia.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

November 8: The police detained seven executives from pro-Kurdish labor unions, chambers of commerce and associations for solidarity with relatives of prisoners as part of a Diyarbakır-based investigation.

November 9: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 14: The police in Van briefly detained a vendor protesting high prices.

November 14: The Tunceli Governor's Office banned a commemoration event, citing the Covid-19 pandemic.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 10: Hifzullah Kutum, an academic who was detained and arrested on November 6 over a "Kurdistan" post on social media, was released from pre-trial detention.

November 11: An İstanbul court sentenced Kurdish singer Veysi Ermiş to one year, six months in prison on terrorism charges, over a song that contains the word "Kurdistan." The court deferred Ermiş's sentence.

November 11: The police in İstanbul detained Kurdish musician Mehmet Ali Basut (a.k.a. Brindar Ali) on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda and insulting the president. Basut was arrested and sent to prison after appearing before a court.

⁷³ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 73 | November 8-14, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/73-EN.pdf>

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

November 12: The Inquiry Commission on the State of Emergency Measures rejected the appeals of 37 more academics who were fired from their universities for signing a peace declaration about the conflict in the predominantly Kurdish southeast.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 8: The police in four provinces detained 12 pro-Kurdish political party executives as well as seven executives from pro-Kurdish labor unions, chambers of commerce and associations for solidarity with relatives of prisoners as part of a Diyarbakır-based investigation.

November 10: Hifzullah Kutum, an academic who was detained and arrested on November 6 over a "Kurdistan" post on social media, was released from pre-trial detention.

November 11: The police in İstanbul detained Kurdish musician Mehmet Ali Basut (a.k.a. Brindar Ali) on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda and insulting the president. Basut was arrested and sent to prison after appearing before a court.

November 11: An İstanbul court sentenced Kurdish singer Veysi Ermiş to one year, six months in prison on terrorism charges, over a song that contains the word "Kurdistan." The court deferred Ermiş's sentence.

November 11: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Başak Demirtaş, the wife of jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş, to two and a half years in prison for "obtaining a counterfactual health report."

November 12: An Adıyaman court ruled to arrest Behçet Yıldırım, a former HDP lawmaker who was detained on terrorism charges last week.

November 12: A Malatya court sentenced three members of the Democratic Society Congress (DTK) to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges.

November 13: The police in Antalya briefly detained local HDP executive İsmail İşli for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda on social media.

November 14: A district governor's office in İstanbul banned a Kurdish-language stand-up show without a reason.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

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November 14: A university student in Van announced that he was unofficially interrogated by people who introduced themselves as police officers and that he was coerced into becoming an informant for the authorities.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION AND VIOLATIONS

November 10: The Kurdish administration in northeastern Syria said that a Turkish drone strike in Qamishli killed three civilians.

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15-21 November 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

November 15: A Diyarbakır court ruled to arrest four out of seven pro-Kurdish NGO and labor union executives who were detained on November 8 while releasing three others.

November 16: An İzmir court handed down prison sentences to three people over their participation in 2014 protests against an ISIS assault on the Syrian Kurdish town of Kobane.

November 18: The Tunceli Governor's Office banned a planned awareness event about violence against women.

November 19: Tunceli prosecutors launched an investigation into individuals who distributed leaflets inviting people to a commemoration event.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 16: A district municipality in Ankara canceled singer Mem Ararat's concert after finding out that he was singing in Kurdish.

⁷⁴ Vande Lanotte, J. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 74 | November 15-21, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/74-EN.pdf>

November 17: An Erzurum court ruled to acquit Kurdish journalist Dindar Karataş of terrorism charges.

November 18: A Van court acquitted journalist Oktay Candemir of terrorism charges. Candemir stood trial over his social media messages.

November 19: The police in Şanlıurfa detained journalist Emrullah Acar on terrorism charges.

November 19: A Mardin court sentenced local politician Nazım Kök to 11 months, 20 days in prison on charges of insulting the president on social media.

November 19: Plainclothes police officers in Van raided the house of Jinnews reporter Hikmet Tunç on the grounds that there was a bomb call.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

November 19: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit physician and Turkish Medical Association (TTB) honorary board member Şeyhmus Gökalp of terrorism charges. Gökalp spent 80 days in pre-trial detention.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 15: A Diyarbakır court ruled to arrest four out of seven pro-Kurdish NGO and labor union executives who were detained on November 8 while releasing three others. The court also ordered the arrest of 10 pro Kurdish politicians who were detained last week.

November 16: A district municipality in Ankara canceled singer Mem Ararat's concert after finding out that he was singing in Kurdish.

November 17: The police in Tekirdağ detained six members and executives of the HDP as part of an investigation into a rally held in the province on November 7. The detainees were released the next day.

November 17: HDP MPs Serpil Kemalbay Pekgözegü and Murat Çepni claimed in a press conference that there is organized spoliation of evidence in the investigation into the deadly armed terror attack that claimed the life of HDP employee Deniz Poyraz in the party's İzmir office.

November 17: An Erzurum court ruled to acquit Kurdish journalist Dindar Karataş of terrorism charges.

November 18: The police in Edirne detained HDP politician Hüseyin Yuka who was pushed back by Greek border forces after attempting to cross the border to seek asylum.

November 18: An Osmaniye court acquitted local HDP politicians Kadriye Tören and Ali Coşkun who stood trial on terrorism charges.

November 18: An Ankara court sentenced inmate Necla Yıldız to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism charges for participating in a prison hunger strike to protest the isolation of jailed PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan.

November 19: The police in Şanlıurfa detained journalist Emrullah Acar, a reporter for the pro-Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency, on terrorism charges.

November 19: Plainclothes police officers in Van raided the house of Jinnews reporter Hikmet Tunç on the grounds that there was a bomb call.

OTHER MINORITIES

November 15: Hüseyin Besli, a former MP from the ruling party, targeted main opposition leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu's Alevi heritage in a newspaper column, saying Kurds and Alevis were "compulsive liars."

PRISON CONDITIONS

November 16: An Ağrı prison denied regular medication to sick inmate Rıdvan Yusufoğlu.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

November 17: The police in Şanlıurfa detained Syrian singer Omar Souleyman on terrorism charges. Souleyman was questioned about his alleged ties to Kurdish militants. He was released on November 19.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 15: The police in Mardin physically assaulted three people who were in custody.

November 20: The police in Diyarbakır heavily mistreated a person while detaining him on the street. Video footage of the incident showed the person being kicked while lying rear handcuffed on the ground by someone who is allegedly a plainclothes police officer.

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22-28 November 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

November 22: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Nurcan Yalçın to three years, seven months and 22 days in prison on terrorism charges due to her membership in a women's association.

November 24: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 27: Gendarmerie forces in Şırnak attacked a protest against a local energy distributing company, detaining one person.

November 28: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 22: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Nurcan Yalçın to three years, seven months and 22 days in prison on terrorism charges due to her membership in a women's association.

November 24: The police in Van detained Hacı Tunç, a shop owner who was seen referring to Turkey's southeast as "Kurdistan" in a video with an opposition politician.

November 24: The authorities released Mezopotamya news agency reporter Emrullah Acar after six days in detention over his phone conversation with a news source.

November 25: An Ankara court ruled to acquit journalist Fatih Gönül, who stood trial on terrorism charges over his work for a pro-Kurdish news agency that was shut down by a decree-law.

⁷⁵ TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 75 | November 22-28, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/75-EN.pdf>

November 26: A Hakkari court sentenced former HDP deputy Leyla Güven to five years in prison for disseminating terrorist propaganda due to her statements critical of a Turkish military operation in Syria's Afrin province.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 22: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Nurcan Yalçın to three years, seven months and 22 days in prison on terrorism charges due to her membership in a women's association.

November 24: The police in Van detained Hacı Tunç, a shop owner who was seen referring to Turkey's southeast as "Kurdistan" in a video with an opposition politician.

November 24: The authorities released Mezopotamya news agency reporter Emrullah Acar after six days in detention over his phone conversation with a news source.

November 25: The police in Van tortured HDP youth member Çetin Temel who was visiting a police station to give his regular signature as part of a judicial control measure.

November 25: An Ankara court ruled to acquit journalist Fatih Gönül, who stood trial on terrorism charges over his work for a pro-Kurdish news agency that was shut down by a decree-law.

November 26: A Hakkari court sentenced former HDP deputy Leyla Güven to five years in prison for disseminating terrorist propaganda due to her statements critical of a Turkish military operation in Syria's Afrin province.

November 26: The police in Batman, Kars, Kocaeli and Manisa detained 25 members and executives of the HDP on terrorism charges.

November 26: The police in Batman detained four members and executives of the HDP.

November 26: The police in Kars detained former HDP executive Ayhan Gezici.

PRISON CONDITIONS

November 25: A Batman prison subjected inmate Gülgeş Tatlı to strip-searches. She was also deprived of necessary medical treatment.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 24: Reports revealed that three people who were detained in Şırnak on November 17 on terrorism charges were subjected to torture and ill-treatment in custody.

November 25: The police in Van tortured HDP youth member Çetin Temel who was visiting a police station to give his regular signature as part of a judicial control measure.

November 27: Ağrı mayor Savcı Sayan and his security detail physically attacked workers at a construction site.

November 28: Police officers in Batman physically assaulted children and called them "traitors" during a raid into the house of journalist Dilbirin Turgut.

November 28: The guards in a Kahramanmaraş prison physically assaulted inmates.

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29 November – 5 December 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

December 11: The police in Şırnak detained Serhat Küçük, an executive for an association established for solidarity with people who have lost family members in the armed conflict in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish southeast.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 8: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Gülşen Koçuk to one year, 10 months, 15 days in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda on social media.

December 9: Reports revealed that Hüseyin Gökoğlu, a Kurdish politician whose house was violently raided by the police without a warrant last week, was detained for a questioning on accusations of insulting the president.

December 9: The police in Malatya detained two people on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda on social media.

December 11: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted former Kars mayor Ayhan Bilgen on charges of insulting the president.

⁷⁶ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 77 | December 6-12, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/76-EN.pdf>

KURDISH MINORITY

December 7: Prosecutors indicted Osman Şiban on terrorism-related charges. Last year, Şiban was allegedly thrown from a military helicopter after being detained by gendarmes and was severely injured.

December 7: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit former HDP deputy Levent Tüzel who has stood trial as part of an investigation into the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), the umbrella organization of the Kurdish political movement.

December 8: The police in Adana briefly detained former HDP deputy Mehmet Ali Aslan.

December 8: The police in Şırnak detained local HDP members and executives Abdullah Kaçmaz, Mehmet Miraç Dinç and Sümeyye Gök.

December 8: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Gülşen Koçuk to one year, 10 months, 15 days in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda on social media. Koçuk is a reporter for the pro-Kurdish Jinnews website.

December 9: Reports revealed that Hüseyin Gökoğlu, a Kurdish politician whose house was violently raided by the police without a warrant last week, was detained for a questioning on accusations of insulting the president.

December 10: The police in Van briefly detained newspaper distributor Özgür Ali Ağaoğlu without a detention warrant, confiscating some 200 copies of Yeni Yaşam and Xwebûn newspapers.

December 10: The police in Mersin detained 11 people for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda during Newroz celebrations.

December 11: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted former Kars mayor Ayhan Bilgen on charges of insulting the president.

December 11: The police in Şırnak raided a district headquarters of the HDP, detaining 26 people including the party's district executive Naim İned.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

December 6: Media reports revealed that a Diyarbakır prison has been keeping an inmate named Aziz Tufan in a one-person cell for more than two months.

December 9: Media reports indicated that a prisoner named Kadri Katar was mistreated during an involuntary prison transfer from Şırnak to Erzurum. The reports also said that

the prison authorities launched a disciplinary investigation into Katar and imposed a one-month ban on visitation rights.

December 9: The Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) and the Human Rights Association (İHD) reported that 415 people were tortured in prisons and detention centers in the first 11 months of 2021.

December 10: The police in Şırnak physically assaulted a person who reacted to an armored police vehicle being parked in front of his shop.

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6-12 December 2021

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13-19 December 2021

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ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

December 15: Halil Güneş, an inmate suffering from cancer, was found dead in a Diyarbakır prison. The authorities had denied release to Güneş, despite a medical board report.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

December 13: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Yüksel Almas, co-chair of an association established for solidarity with relatives of those who lost their lives in the armed conflict in the Kurdish-majority southeast, to 10 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

December 13: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

⁷⁷ This issue was inaccessible due to a technical failure.

⁷⁸ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 78 | December 13-19, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/78-EN.pdf>

December 14: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former NGO executive Yılmaz Kan to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political movement.

December 16: The police in Diyarbakır detained Emine Kaya, the co-chair of a pro-Kurdish association for solidarity with relatives of prisoners.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 13: A Diyarbakır prosecutor requested up to five years in prison for journalist Durken Süren who is standing trial on terrorism-related charges over her social media messages as well as her work for the pro Kurdish Azadiya Welat and Özgür Gündem newspapers.

December 14: A Diyarbakır prosecutor demanded life in prison for journalist Rojhat Doğru, a former reporter for Gale Kurdistan TV who is on trial for allegedly threatening the integrity of the state and having terrorist affiliation.

December 16: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit journalist Mehmet Aslan of terrorism charges. Aslan stood trial over his work for the pro-Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency.

December 17: The police detained 12 people, including HDP executives, as part of an investigation into alleged terrorist propaganda at a party meeting in İstanbul on December 12.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 13: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Yüksel Almas, co-chair of an association established for solidarity with relatives of those who lost their lives in the armed conflict in the Kurdish-majority southeast, to 10 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

December 13: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former district municipal council member Panayır Çelik to six years, three months on terrorism-related charges.

December 13: A Diyarbakır prosecutor requested up to five years in prison for journalist Durken Süren who is standing trial on terrorism-related charges over her social media messages as well as her work for the pro Kurdish Azadiya Welat and Özgür Gündem newspapers.

December 13: İstanbul prosecutors launched an investigation into the HDP due to alleged dissemination of terrorist propaganda at a party congress.

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December 14: A Diyarbakır prosecutor demanded life in prison for journalist Rojhat Doğru, a former reporter for Gale Kurdistan TV who is on trial for allegedly threatening the integrity of the state and having terrorist affiliation.

December 14: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former NGO executive Yılmaz Kan to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political movement.

December 15: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local Kurdish politician Celal Yoldaş to 10 years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

December 16: The police in Diyarbakır detained Emine Kaya, the co-chair of a pro-Kurdish association for solidarity with relatives of prisoners. Kaya was arrested by a court on December 19.

December 16: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit journalist Mehmet Aslan of terrorism charges. Aslan stood trial over his work for the pro-Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency.

December 17: The police detained 12 people, including HDP executives, as part of an investigation into alleged terrorist propaganda at a party meeting in İstanbul on December 12.

December 17: Reports revealed that the Şırnak police physically and verbally mistreated HDP members Botan Em and Rıdvan Türel who were detained on December 11.

December 17: Sümeyye Gök, a HDP member who was detained on December 8, was reportedly subjected to a strip-search and coerced into becoming an informant for the state while in custody.

December 18: The police in Mardin detained local Kurdish politician Celal Ata.

December 19: A 17-year-old Kurdish minor was physically assaulted by a group in Ankara in what appears to be a racist attack.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

December 17: Reports revealed that the Şırnak police physically and verbally mistreated HDP members Botan Em and Rıdvan Türel who were detained on December 11.

December 17: Sümeyye Gök, a HDP member who was detained on December 8, was reportedly subjected to a strip-search and coerced into becoming an informant for the state while in custody.

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20-26 December 2021

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

December 21: Aydın Çubukçu, a 62-year-old disabled inmate held in a Van prison, said in a letter that his requests for release were refused despite a hospital report confirming his health problems. Çubukçu also reported that the prison administration was not providing him with his necessary daily medication and his special diet prescribed by doctors.

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

December 24: The Constitutional Court ruled that the police violated the right to life of Aynur Kudin, a Kurdish woman who died from a brain hemorrhage after falling down a staircase while trying to avoid inhaling tear gas during Kobani protests in 2014.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

December 20: A court ruled to arrest Osman Aksoy and Mirza Kurt, two pro-Kurdish NGO members who were detained on December 19.

December 23: A Diyarbakır court sentenced two members of a pro-Kurdish charity association to two years, one month in prison on terrorism-related charges.

December 26: The police in Diyarbakır detained 16 people on terrorism charges during a youth meeting organized by the HDP.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 22: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency.

December 25: Ankara prosecutors launched an investigation into 26 HDP MPs over their remarks urging the Turkish government to recognize the Armenian genocide.

⁷⁹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 79 | December 20-26, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/79-EN.pdf>

KURDISH MINORITY

December 20: The police in Şırnak detained local HDP executive Zozan Aksu on terrorism charges. Aksu was arrested by a court on December 23.

December 20: A group of ultranationalists attacked stands at a book fair in Karabük where books authored by jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş were being sold.

December 21: A Tunceli court sentenced former co mayor Nurhayat Altun to 10 years in prison on terrorism charges.

December 21: A Kars court sentenced local HDP executive Cengiz Anlı to 12 years, 6 months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

December 22: The police in İzmir briefly detained local HDP executive Emin Orhan.

December 23: A Diyarbakır court sentenced two members of a pro-Kurdish charity association to two years, one month in prison on terrorism-related charges.

December 24: The Constitutional Court ruled that the police violated the right to life of Aynur Kudin, a Kurdish woman who died from a brain hemorrhage after falling down a staircase while trying to avoid inhaling tear gas during Kobani protests in 2014.

December 24: The police in Van detained five local HDP executives and members.

December 25: The police in Mersin briefly detained four HDP members who were handing out flyers about the downturn in the economy.

December 26: The police in Diyarbakır detained 16 people on terrorism charges during a youth meeting organized by the HDP.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

December 26: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison physically and verbally assaulted inmates during a ward search, confiscating personal belongings.

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Issue 80⁸⁰

27 December 2021 – 2 January 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

December 28: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of one day.

January 2: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, detaining at least 10 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 28: The police in Antalya detained 12 people as part of an investigation into alleged terrorist propaganda at a HDP rally on October 24. The detainees were released the next day.

December 28: Facebook banned the page of the Mezopotamya news agency.

December 30: İzmir prosecutors launched an investigation into HDP co-chair Pervin Buldan. The Kurdish politician is accused of insulting the panel of judges during a hearing in the trial of an alleged murderer who carried out a deadly armed attack at the HDP's İzmir office in June.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 28: An assailant carrying a gun and a knife attacked a HDP building in İstanbul, injuring a party employee.

⁸⁰ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 80 | December 27, 2021-January 2, 2022* [Report]. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/80-EN.pdf>

December 28: The police in Antalya detained 12 people as part of an investigation into alleged terrorist propaganda at a HDP rally on October 24.

December 28: The police in Edirne detained HDP executive Zeynep Karaman as part of an investigation into widespread protests in Kurdish-majority provinces in 2014. Karaman was later arrested by a court.

December 28: Facebook banned the page of the Mezopotamya news agency.

December 30: İzmir prosecutors launched an investigation into HDP co-chair Pervin Buldan. The Kurdish politician is accused of insulting the panel of judges during a hearing in the trial of an alleged murderer who carried out a deadly armed attack at the HDP's İzmir office in June.

December 2: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, detaining at least 10 people.

PRISON CONDITIONS

January 1: A report released by the Diyarbakır Bar Association noted a significant increase in rights violations as well as a worsening of conditions in prisons in 2021.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

December 29: İbrahim Temel, an inmate held in an Elazığ prison told his family that the guards have been torturing him and threatening to kill him.

December 30: The guards in an Iğdır prison physically assaulted inmate Hogir Batu for refusing to undergo a strip-search.

Issue 81⁸¹

3-9 January 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

⁸¹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 81 | January 3-9, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/81-EN.pdf>

January 3: Rights groups announced that the Forensic Medicine Institution issued a report that said sick inmate Civan Boltan can remain in prison, despite physicians that treated him indicating otherwise.

January 6: The Ministry of Justice denied MP and medical doctor Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu authorization to visit jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk, who has been held behind bars despite being diagnosed with dementia and hospital reports indicating that she was unfit to stay in prison.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

January 3: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 4: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 9: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 5: The police in İstanbul detained journalist Ferhat Çelik upon a warrant issued by Gaziantep prosecutors over a news report.

January 6: A Van court ruled to acquit journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi and Zeynep Durgut of terrorism charges while sentencing Journalist Nazan Sala to one year, three months in prison. The journalists stood trial and underwent months-long detention over their coverage of an alleged incident of torture involving soldiers.

January 6: Van prosecutors indicted local HDP executive Handan Karakoyun due to a social media message.

January 6: Kocaeli prosecutors launched an investigation into MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu due to comments he made in front of a Kocaeli prison after he was not allowed to visit sick prisoner Aysel Tuğluk.

January 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

January 7: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Rojhat Doğru to life in prison as well as to 12 years, one month in prison on four different charges over his coverage of widespread protests in predominantly Kurdish provinces in 2014.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 5: The police in İstanbul detained journalist Ferhat Çelik upon a warrant issued by Gaziantep prosecutors over a news report published by the pro Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency.

January 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to release former HDP MP Abdullah Zeydan after an appeals court overturned his 8-year prison sentence on terrorism related charges.

January 6: A Van court ruled to acquit journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi and Zeynep Durgut of terrorism charges while sentencing Journalist Nazan Sala to one year, three months in prison. The journalists stood trial and underwent months-long detention over their coverage of an alleged incident of torture involving soldiers.

January 6: The Ministry of Justice denied MP and medical doctor Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu authorization to visit jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk, who has been held behind bars despite being diagnosed with dementia and hospital reports indicating that she was unfit to stay in prison. Prosecutors launched an investigation into Gergerlioğlu over his comments in front of the Kocaeli prison where Tuğluk is incarcerated.

January 6: Van prosecutors indicted local HDP executive Handan Karakoyun due to a social media message.

January 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

January 7: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Rojhat Doğru to life in prison as well as to 12 years, one month in prison on four different charges over his coverage of widespread protests in predominantly Kurdish provinces in 2014.

January 7: A Gaziantep court sentenced 62 people, including members of the HDP and the Democratic Regions Party (DBP), to varying prison sentences on terrorism-related charges.

January 9: A mob in Ankara attacked three Kurdish university students, injuring one of them. Two people were briefly detained in connection with the incident.

PRISON CONDITIONS

January 4: A prison administration in Şırnak did not deliver clothes sent by family members of inmate Kasım Yiğit.

Issue 82⁸²

10-16 January 2022

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

January 12: An appeals court in Gaziantep overturned an administrative court decision ordering the Interior Ministry to pay a monetary compensation to the family of Kemal Kurkut, university student who was shot dead by the police in 2017. A criminal court handling the incident had acquitted the police officer who killed Kurkut.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

January 12: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 13: The Elazığ Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 11: The police in Gaziantep briefly detained local labor union executive Mehmet Türkmen over his social media messages.

January 12: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

January 13: The managing editor of a local newspaper in Elazığ was fired from office after the publication of a report about a university student who committed suicide due to pressure he faced at a dorm run by a religious community. The report was later removed from the newspaper's online edition.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

⁸² Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 82 | January 10-16, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/82-EN.pdf>

January 13: Elazığ prosecutors dismissed a criminal complaint against prison guards in the province who reportedly assaulted inmate İbrahim Temel and threatened him with death.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 10: A prison in Kocaeli imposed disciplinary sanctions on 15 inmates, including former HDP MPs, for chanting to protest the death of a prisoner following reports that she was subjected to torture and sexual abuse by prison guards.

January 11: The police in Van detained local HDP member Cemal Aslan.

January 11: A prison administration in Kayseri refused to deliver some inmates' Kurdish-language letters and books, citing lack of translators.

January 15: The daughter of jailed Kurdish politician Leyla Güven announced on social media that her mother was threatened with physical violence by a prison guard.

PRISON CONDITIONS

January 10: A women's prison in Diyarbakır denied visitation rights to inmates who refused to undergo a detailed body search in front of cameras.

January 11: A prison administration in Bolu refused to deliver to an inmate a novel authored by jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş on the grounds that it included obscenity.

January 11: A prison administration in Kayseri refused to deliver some inmates' Kurdish-language letters and books, citing lack of translators.

January 13: A person identified as Murat E. lost his life in a one-person cell in a Van prison one day after he was arrested. While the prison administration told family members that Murat E. had committed suicide, the authorities imposed a confidentiality order on the investigation into his death and a report issued by the local forensic medicine institution did not indicate the cause of death.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 11: The guards in an Iğdır prison physically and verbally assaulted inmate Hogir Batu.

January 11: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison physically assaulted inmates Velat Aydın and Süleyman Alıkan. One of the prisoners were injured and hospitalized as a result of

the incident. Their phone call with their families was interrupted as they were beginning to talk about the violence.

January 13: Elazığ prosecutors dismissed a criminal complaint against prison guards in the province who reportedly assaulted inmate İbrahim Temel and threatened him with death.

January 13: Prison guards in Diyarbakır strip-searched relatives of inmates who were visiting.

January 15: The daughter of jailed Kurdish politician Leyla Güven announced on social media that her mother was threatened with physical violence by a prison guard.

January 15: Police officers in Van physically assaulted a person while detaining him.

Issue 83⁸³

17-23 January 2022

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FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

January 17: A Diyarbakır court sentenced pro-Kurdish NGO activist Yıldız Damla to six years, three months on terrorism charges.

January 17: A district governor's office in Diyarbakır issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 18: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Mehmet Şerif Çamçı, an NGO executive, to six years, three months on terrorism charges, as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political movement.

January 21: A Tunceli court sentenced local civil society activist Özkan Arslan to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, over his participation in environmental protests as well as his social media commentary.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

⁸³ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 83 | January 17-23, 2021*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/83-EN.pdf>

January 17: A Şanlıurfa court sentenced a Kurdish minor to eight months in prison for allegedly denigrating the national flag in a social media message.

January 18: Van prosecutors indicted a man who was detained for listening to a Kurdish song on his phone in a park, seeking up to 5 years in prison for alleged terrorist propaganda.

January 20: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted journalist Abdurrahman Gök on terrorism charges. The journalist faces the charges for photographing the moment when a police officer shot a young Kurdish man during Newroz celebrations in 2017.

January 21: A Tunceli court sentenced local civil society activist Özkan Arslan to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, over his participation in environmental protests as well as his social media commentary.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

January 22: Prosecutors indicted Öztürk Türkdoğan, the chairman of the Human Rights Association (İHD), on charges of having links to terrorism and insulting the interior minister, due to an article published on the association's website.

2022

KURDISH MINORITY

January 17: A Diyarbakır court sentenced pro-Kurdish NGO activist Yıldız Damla to six years, three months on terrorism charges.

January 17: A Şanlıurfa court sentenced a Kurdish minor to eight months in prison for allegedly denigrating the national flag in a social media message.

January 17: Reports revealed that jailed Kurdish politician Seyit Narin suffered a heart attack in a Rize prison. Narin is the former mayor of a district in Diyarbakır.

January 18: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Mehmet Şerif Çamçı, an NGO executive, to six years, three months on terrorism charges, as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political movement.

January 18: A Van court ruled to restrict jailed Kurdish journalist Nedim Türfent's meetings with his lawyers for three months.

January 18: Van prosecutors indicted a man who was detained for listening to a Kurdish song on his phone in a park, seeking up to 5 years in prison for alleged terrorist propaganda. PRISON CONDITIONS

January 17: Reports revealed that jailed Kurdish politician Seyit Narin suffered a heart attack in a Rize prison. Narin is the former mayor of a district in Diyarbakır.

January 18: A Van court ruled to restrict jailed Kurdish journalist Nedim Türfent's meetings with his lawyers for three months.

January 19: The Human Rights Association (İHD) announced that an inmate suffering from Buerger's disease in Hatay risks losing his foot unless he receives immediate treatment.

January 19: Media reports said that a women's prison in Diyarbakır has been refusing to respond to petitions written in Kurdish and to deliver Kurdish-language publications that were sent to inmates. The prison administration has also been delaying the delivery of Kurdish-language letters sent to prisoners.

January 21: Ramazan Turan, a 70-year-old inmate incarcerated in a Van prison, lost his life in a one-person quarantine cell. While the official announcement said that Turan died of a heart attack, rights groups reported that his autopsy was conducted without the presence of lawyers.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 18: The guards in a Van prison physically assaulted inmate Fikret Diyar Orhan.

January 19: The guards in an Ağrı prison physically assaulted inmates during a ward search and confiscated items that they had purchased from the prison cafeteria.

Issue 84⁸⁴

24-30 January 2022

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

January 28: An armored police vehicle in Şırnak hit and killed Abdulgaffar Dayan, a 23-year-old Kurdish man.

⁸⁴ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 84 | January 24-30, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/84-EN.pdf>

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

January 28: The Batman Governor's Office refused to authorize the opening of a stand to call for the official recognition of the Kurdish language.

January 28: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 24: A court sentenced Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş to 11 months, 20 days in prison on charges of insulting a former prime minister.

January 24: Throughout the week, courts and other authorities blocked access to at least eight websites used by pro-Kurdish or leftist news agencies, newspapers or platforms to publish news.

January 25: A Hatay court sentenced local HDP executive Abdurrahim Şahin to two years, one month in prison on terrorism-related charges, over a speech he made in 2014.

January 29: A HDP official announced that plainclothes police officers detained four people who were singing Kurdish-language music on a historic street in İstanbul.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 24: A court sentenced Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş to 11 months, 20 days in prison on charges of insulting a former prime minister.

January 25: A Hatay court sentenced local HDP executive Abdurrahim Şahin to two years, one month in prison on terrorism-related charges, over a speech he made in 2014.

January 26: The police in Diyarbakır detained Seval Gülmez, an executive of the Democratic Regions' Party (DBP), on terrorism-related charges.

January 28: An armored police vehicle in Şırnak hit and killed Abdulgaffar Dayan, a 23-year-old Kurdish man.

January 28: The police in four provinces detained 15 people including HDP members.

January 28: The Constitutional Court rejected journalist Mehmet Güleş's individual application, saying that his prison sentence of nine years, four months over his social media posts did not violate his freedom of expression. Güleş was a reporter for the pro-Kurdish Dicle news agency (DİHA).

January 28: The Batman Governor's Office refused to authorize the opening of a stand to call for the official recognition of the Kurdish language.

January 29: A HDP official announced that plainclothes police officers detained four people who were singing Kurdish-language music on a historic street in İstanbul.

PRISON CONDITIONS

January 28: Opposition MP Sezgin Tanrikulu announced that a total of 3,145 people were subjected to torture and ill-treatment in 2021.

Issue 85⁸⁵

31 January – 6 February 2022

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

February 1: The ruling party and its nationalist ally blocked a parliamentary motion to investigate civilian deaths caused by armored vehicles in the predominantly Kurdish southeastern provinces. The motion was proposed by an opposition party after an armored vehicle in Şırnak hit and killed a 23-year-old student. According to a report by the Human Rights Association (İHD), armored vehicles have killed 36 people, including six women and 16 children, over the past 10 years.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

February 3: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 4: The police in Diyarbakır detained Kurdish journalist and writer Nurcan Yalçın.

February 4: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA) for news publication.

⁸⁵ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 85 | January 31-February 6, 2022* [Report]. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/85-EN.pdf>

2022

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

February 3: The police in Diyarbakır raided the provincial bureau of the Human Rights Association (İHD), detaining board member Ferhat Berkpınar.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

February 1: The Constitutional Court found no rights violation in the five-year pretrial detention of Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ, describing the measure as "proportionate."

KURDISH MINORITY

February 1: The Constitutional Court found no rights violation in the five-year pretrial detention of Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ, describing the measure as "proportionate."

February 1: The European Court of Human Rights ruled that Turkey violated the freedom of expression of 40 former HDP MPs by lifting their parliamentary immunity through a constitutional amendment in 2016 and by their subsequent trial. The court ordered Ankara to pay €5,500 to each applicant.

February 1: The ruling party and its nationalist ally blocked a parliamentary motion to investigate civilian deaths caused by armored vehicles in the predominantly Kurdish southeastern provinces. The motion was proposed by an opposition party after an armored vehicle in Şırnak hit and killed a 23-year-old student. According to a report by the Human Rights Association (İHD), armored vehicles have killed 36 people, including six women and 16 children, over the past 10 years.

February 3: The police in Van prevented a demonstration to protest the pressures on the Kurdish language.

February 4: The police in Diyarbakır detained Kurdish journalist and writer Nurcan Yalçın.

February 4: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA) for news publication.

PRISON CONDITIONS

February 5: A Malatya prison deprived sick inmate Mehmet Yamaç of a respirator that he needs.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 3: Some inmates held in a Diyarbakır prison were reportedly taken to rooms without surveillance cameras and were subjected to torture and ill-treatment.

Issue 86⁸⁶

7-13 February 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

February 7: The police in Mardin detained 41 people a day after they attended protests against the increases in electricity prices. The detainees were released the next day.

February 8: The police in Van intervened in a demonstration staged by health workers, briefly detaining eight people.

February 9: Mardin prosecutors indicted civil society activists Abdullah Ayav, Vesile Yüksel and Ruken Aslan on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, over an event that featured Kurdish-language theater and music.

February 11: An İzmir court ruled to acquit 25 lawyers and a journalist who stood trial over their participation in a protest against the appointment of government trustees to replace the elected mayors of three predominantly Kurdish provinces in August 2019.

February 12: The police in Muş detained lawyers Tarık Güneş and Rümet Agir Özer, former executives of the Human Rights Association (İHD) on terrorism-related charges. Güneş was arrested by a court on February 13 while Özer was released on probation.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 8: A Kars court sentenced journalist Selda Manduz to one year, six months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda on social media.

February 8: The Constitutional Court ruled that the pretrial detention of journalist Cemil Uğur violated his rights. Uğur was arrested after reporting on allegations that soldiers in

⁸⁶ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 86 | February 7-13, 2022* [Report]. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/86-EN.pdf>

Van had tortured two Kurdish villagers. He stood trial on terrorism charges along with four other journalists but was ultimately acquitted by a Van court.

February 8: An appeals court overturned the prison sentences of documentary filmmakers Çayan Demirel and Ertuğrul Mavioglu, the directors of a documentary about the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) who were convicted on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda. The retrial of the filmmakers will be held at a Batman court.

February 9: Kurdish filmmaker Abdülselem Kılıç was detained at İzmir Airport upon arrival from Germany. Kılıç is reportedly facing terrorism-related charges.

February 10: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Mehmet Şahin to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges.

February 10: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit writer Aslı Erdoğan of terrorism charges. Erdoğan stood trial over her support to a now-shuttered pro-Kurdish newspaper. She was held in pretrial detention for more than four months.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

February 12: The police in Muş detained lawyers Tarık Güneş and Rumez Agir Özer, former executives of the Human Rights Association (İHD) on terrorism-related charges. Güneş was arrested by a court on February 13 while Özer was released on probation.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 7: The police in Mardin detained former HDP executive Kadir Işık and two others in house raids. During the operation, the officers physically mistreated Işık and broke his nose.

February 8: An Elazığ prison imposed a disciplinary sanction of 10 days in solitary confinement on jailed Kurdish politician Leyla Güven.

February 8: The Constitutional Court ruled that the pretrial detention of journalist Cemil Uğur violated his rights. Uğur was arrested after reporting on allegations that soldiers in Van had tortured two Kurdish villagers. He stood trial on terrorism charges along with four other journalists but was ultimately acquitted by a Van court.

February 9: Kurdish filmmaker Abdülselem Kılıç was detained at İzmir Airport upon arrival from Germany. Kılıç is reportedly facing terrorism-related charges.

February 9: Mardin prosecutors indicted civil society activists Abdullah Ayav, Vesile Yüksel and Ruken Aslan on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, over an event that featured Kurdish-language theater and music.

February 10: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Mehmet Şahin to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political movement.

February 13: The police in Van, Diyarbakır and Mardin detained nine people, including HDP youth members, in house raids.

PRISON CONDITIONS

February 8: An Elazığ prison imposed a disciplinary sanction of 10 days in solitary confinement on jailed Kurdish politician Leyla Güven.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 7: The police in Mardin detained former HDP executive Kadir Işık in a house raid. During the operation, the officers physically mistreated Işık and broke his nose.

February 8: The Constitutional Court ruled that the pretrial detention of journalist Cemil Uğur violated his rights. Uğur was arrested after reporting on allegations that soldiers in Van had tortured two Kurdish villagers. He stood trial on terrorism charges along with four other journalists but was ultimately acquitted by a Van court.

February 9: The police in Diyarbakır physically assaulted three people with whom they got involved in a verbal argument in front of their shop.

February 10: A police officer in Şırnak hit a protester with a shield, injuring the protester in the face.

February 10: The guards in an Ağrı prison physically assaulted an inmate named Barış Demir.

February 10: A prison administration in Şanlıurfa denied visitation rights to relatives of inmates who refused to undergo strip-searches.

February 11: Bazo Yılmaz and Bayram Demirhan, two sick inmates held in a Şanlıurfa prison, refused hospitalization due to the mistreatment during the transfer to the hospital.

Issue 87⁸⁷

14-20 February 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

February 17: The Council of Forensic Medicine (ATK) presented to court its report on ailing Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk, stating that she displayed symptoms of mild cognitive impairment and was fit to remain in prison. Tuğluk suffers from dementia and rights groups have been calling for her immediate release.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

February 16: The police in Ağrı detained six people for their participation in events in 2015.

February 18: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 14: The police in Mardin detained 22 people over their social media messages and their involvement in the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), the umbrella organization of the Kurdish political movement.

February 14: The police in Şırnak detained journalist Zeynep Durgut. Durgut was released on February 17.

February 17: A Tunceli court ruled to acquit Eren Keskin, an executive of the Human Rights Association (İHD), who stood trial on terrorism related charges due to a speech and her social media posts.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

February 15: The police in Kars detained Ziyadin Can, a provincial executive of the Human Rights Association (İHD).

⁸⁷ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 87 | February 14-20, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/87-EN.pdf>

February 17: A Tunceli court ruled to acquit Eren Keskin, an executive of the Human Rights Association (İHD), who stood trial on terrorism related charges due to a speech and her social media posts.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 14: The police in Mardin detained 22 people over their social media messages and their involvement in the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), the umbrella organization of the Kurdish political movement.

February 14: The police in Batman detained four members of the HDP.

February 14: The police in Şırnak detained journalist Zeynep Durgut, a reporter for the Mezopotamya news agency. Durgut was released on February 17.

February 14: The police in Manisa and Batman detained six people including local HDP executives and members.

February 15: The police in Kars detained five people, including a provincial HDP executive.

February 15: The police in İstanbul detained 10 people, including members of the HDP.

February 15: The police in Kocaeli detained two local HDP executives.

February 17: An appeals court in Diyarbakır upheld the prison sentence of six years, three months handed down to HDP MP Kemal Bülbül on terrorism charges.

February 17: The Council of Forensic Medicine (ATK) presented to court its report on ailing Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk, stating that she displayed symptoms of mild cognitive impairment and was fit to remain in prison. Tuğluk suffers from dementia and rights groups have been calling for her immediate release.

February 17: A parliamentary committee voted to lift the immunity of HDP MP Semra Güzel who risks standing trial on terrorism charges.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 14: The guards in a Şanlıurfa prison physically assaulted inmates and confiscated their personal belongings during a ward search.

February 15: The gendarmerie in Bingöl physically mistreated a man and his family during a house raid to detain him.

February 17: A Van court handed down a lenient prison sentence of five months to a police officer who fatally punched an Afghan migrant in 2014.

Issue 88⁸⁸

21-27 February 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

February 24: The police in Van detained four university students who staged a protest at the university cafeteria.

February 27: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 21: An appeals court upheld the prison sentence of Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş, which was handed down for insulting the president over remarks he made 2015. Demirtaş was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison.

February 21: A Diyarbakır court acquitted nine lawyers who stood trial over a joint statement which contained references to the Armenian genocide and Kurdistan.

February 21: A Diyarbakır court acquitted Kurdish journalist Durket Süren who stood trial on terrorism charges.

February 25: A Mersin court sentenced Kurdish journalist Berivan Altan to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges.

February 25: Ankara prosecutors indicted former Kurdish MP Altan Tan on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda in a TV program.

February 25: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency to publish news, citing national security reasons.

⁸⁸ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 88 | February 21-27, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/88-EN.pdf>

2022

KURDISH MINORITY

February 21: An appeals court upheld the prison sentence of Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş, which was handed down for insulting the president over remarks he made in 2015. Demirtaş was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison.

February 21: A Diyarbakır court acquitted Kurdish journalist Durket Süren who stood trial on terrorism charges.

February 22: A court ruled to arrest HDP executives Mesut Hayri Bökü and Naile Gümüştaş who were detained on terrorism charges on February 14.

February 23: Three Kurdish university students in Antalya were slightly injured in an allegedly racist attack on a university campus by a group of 30 people.

February 25: A Mersin court sentenced Kurdish journalist Berivan Altan to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges.

February 25: Ankara prosecutors indicted former Kurdish MP Altan Tan on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda in a TV program.

February 25: A parliamentary commission proposed the lifting of the legislative immunity of HDP MP Semra Güzel, who is faced with terrorism-related charges.

PRISON CONDITIONS

February 25: Reports revealed that a Mardin prison has been denying hospitalization to an inmate for five months for refusing to undergo strip-search.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 21: The Turkish Medical Association (TTB) announced that a prosecutor in Şırnak physically assaulted a doctor over a disagreement about a relative's medical treatment.

February 27: The police in Şanlıurfa mistreated four people over a discussion.

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28 February – 6 March 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 3: An İzmir court sentenced six people to five months in prison over a demonstration they staged in 2019 against the ousting of elected mayors in three predominantly Kurdish provinces.

March 3: İstanbul prosecutors drafted an indictment seeking the closure of a pro-Kurdish association.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 2: Hakkari prosecutors launched an investigation into Journalist Rabia Öner on account of her social media posts.

March 2: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

March 4: The authorities prevented opposition (HDP) MP and human rights defender Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu from leaving Turkey due to a travel ban in place despite his parliamentary immunity. He was scheduled to attend a conference in Berlin.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 1: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former district mayor Selim Kurbanoğlu to 10 years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

March 1: A Diyarbakır court sentenced lawyer Ruşen Seydaoğlu to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, as part of an investigation into pro Kurdish political networks.

⁸⁹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 89 | February 28-March 6, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/89-EN.pdf>

March 2: The parliament lifted the parliamentary immunity of HDP MP Semra Güzel who is facing terrorism charges.

March 3: An Aydın court sentenced journalist Ahmet Kanbal to one year, three months in prison over a social media post where he shared a news report about alleged war crimes committed by a high-rankin gendarmerie officer in Diyarbakır.

March 3: An İzmir court sentenced six people to five months in prison over a demonstration they staged in 2019 against the ousting of elected mayors in three predominantly Kurdish provinces.

March 3: The police in Şırnak detained local HDP executives Songül Küçük, Naim İnedi and three others. The detainees were released the next day.

March 3: İstanbul prosecutors drafted an indictment seeking the closure of a pro-Kurdish association.

March 6: A district governor's office in Şırnak banned the staging of a Kurdish-language theater play without citing a reason.

PRISON CONDITIONS

February 28: Reports revealed that a Diyarbakır prison was denying needed medication to a child who was staying behind bars with her mother and that lesions have appeared on the child's body as a result.

March 4: A Mardin prison denied hospitalization to inmates who refused to undergo mouth searches.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 2: The guards in an Ankara prison strip-searched a relative of an inmate who was visiting.

March 4: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison threatened to kill an inmate named Kurbanî Özcan.

Issue 90⁹⁰

7-13 March 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 7: A Şırnak court ruled to acquit 16 people who were standing trial over their participation in a commemoration event for the victims of a Turkish airstrike that killed 34 civilians in 2011.

March 8: The police in İstanbul, İzmir, Antalya and Diyarbakır intervened in Women's Day marches, briefly detaining at least 78 people.

March 10: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish author Azad Zal to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, citing as evidence his memberships in pro-Kurdish associations, his involvement in pro-Kurdish media and his affiliation with the Kurdish political movement.

March 9: The police in Elazığ briefly detained journalist Sultan Eylem Keleş, who was facing charges of insulting the president. An İzmir court handed down a suspended prison sentence of one year, two months, 17 days on March 10.

March 9: The police in Malatya detained two people for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda on social media.

March 9: The Van Governor's Office ordered the removal of banners that were put up by a local medical chamber to support the İstanbul Convention on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

March 10: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish author Azad Zal to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, citing as evidence his memberships in pro-Kurdish associations, his involvement in pro-Kurdish media and his affiliation with the Kurdish political movement.

⁹⁰ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 90 | March 7-13, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/90-EN.pdf>

March 10: Ankara prosecutors asked the parliament to lift the legislative immunity of HDP MP Feleknas Uca, who is charged with "inciting hatred and enmity among public" over a speech where she mentioned Kurdistan.

March 10: The Bolu municipality fired a janitor for posting a photo on social media of jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş.

March 10: A Hatay court ruled to block access to the websites of pro-Kurdish Pir news agency (PİRHA) and the Yeni Yaşam newspaper.

March 10: A Mardin court acquitted journalist Ahmet Kanbal, who was standing trial on charges of insulting the interior minister on social media. On the other hand, Mardin prosecutors launched another investigation into Kanbal, this time on charges of provoking hatred and enmity among public.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 8: The guards in an Afyon prison physically assaulted inmates for speaking in Kurdish.

March 8: A district governor's office in Şırnak banned the staging of a Kurdish-language theater play without citing a justification.

March 10: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish author Azad Zal to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, citing as evidence his memberships in pro-Kurdish associations, his involvement in pro-Kurdish media and his affiliation with the Kurdish political movement.

March 10: Ankara prosecutors asked the parliament to lift the legislative immunity of HDP MP Feleknas Uca, who is charged with "inciting hatred and enmity among public" over a speech where she mentioned Kurdistan.

March 10: The Bolu municipality fired a janitor for posting a photo on social media of jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş.

March 10: A Hatay court ruled to block access to the websites of pro-Kurdish Pir news agency (PİRHA) and the Yeni Yaşam newspaper.

March 11: A Diyarbakır court sentenced HDP executive Beritan Yaşar to seven years, six months on terrorism related charges.

March 12: The police in Van detained three youth members of the HDP.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 8: The guards in an Afyon prison physically assaulted inmates for speaking in Kurdish.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

March 9: The Van Governor's Office ordered the removal of banners that were put up by a local medical chamber to support the İstanbul Convention on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

Issue 91⁹¹

14-20 March 2022

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE March 14: A regional appeals court in Diyarbakır ruled that no charges can be leveled against the police officer who shot a 23-year-old Kurdish university student to death during Newroz celebrations in 2017.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 14: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 17: A Diyarbakır court sentenced 79-year-old peace activist Meryem Soylu to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges, over her membership in an association for people who have lost their relatives in the armed conflict in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish southeast.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 15: Ankara prosecutors launched an investigation into HDP executive Veli Saçılık over his social media messages.

March 15: A Van court ruled to acquit Handan Karakoyun, a local HDP executive who was standing trial over a social media message.

⁹¹ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/91-EN.pdf>

March 17: The police in Gaziantep detained six people on charges of insulting the president on social media and spreading terrorist propaganda.

March 17: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency.

March 18: The police in İstanbul detained Kurdish musician Çiya Şenses for an undisclosed reason. Şenses was released the next day after his questioning.

March 18: An Elazığ court ruled to acquit academic Hifzullah Kutum, who was standing trial on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, over a social media message containing the word "Kurdistan."

March 20: The police in Diyarbakır detained journalists Ertuğ Bozkurt and Mikail Barut.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 15: Ankara prosecutors launched an investigation into HDP executive Veli Saçılık over his social media messages.

March 15: A Van court ruled to acquit Handan Karakoyun, a local HDP executive who was standing trial over a social media message.

March 17: A Diyarbakır court sentenced 79-year-old peace activist Meryem Soylu to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges, over her membership in an association for people who have lost their relatives in the armed conflict in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish southeast.

March 17: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency.

March 18: The police in İstanbul detained Kurdish musician Çiya Şenses for an undisclosed reason. Şenses was released the next day after his questioning.

March 18: An Elazığ court ruled to acquit academic Hifzullah Kutum, who was standing trial on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, over a social media message containing the word "Kurdistan."

March 19: A Kurdish student in Kocaeli was the subject of threats and racist attacks after he said he would not vote for the ruling party in the 2023 elections.

March 20: The police in İstanbul intervened in a Newroz celebration, briefly detaining 86 people.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 18: The guards in an Elazığ prison physically assaulted inmates during a ward search.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

March 17: The police in Diyarbakır detained 24 women's rights activists after their participation in Women's Day demonstrations.

Issue 92⁹²

21-27 March 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

March 22: Abdo Baran, a 80-year-old prisoner suffering from end-stage cancer, died in a Mardin prison.

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

March 22: Şervan Can Güder, a 22-year-old inmate, died of heart attack in a Van prison. The opposition announced that Güder had no prior health problems and that his death was suspicious.

March 26: Muharrem Aksem, a 16-year-old minor in Şanlıurfa, was found dead under suspicious circumstances on a target practice training ground for special operations police.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 21: The police in Diyarbakır, Ağrı, Hakkari, Konya and Mardin intervened in Newroz celebrations in the province, detaining at least 353 people.

March 25: The police in İzmir and Tekirdağ detained at least 55 people over their participation in Newroz celebrations.

⁹² Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 92 | March 21-27, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/92-EN.pdf>

March 26: The Diyarbakır Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 10 days.

March 26: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 21: Journalist Altan Sancar was intercepted and verbally threatened by three armed individuals while he was covering Newroz celebrations in Diyarbakır.

March 21: The European Court of Human Rights ruled that Turkey violated the rights of Zehra Doğan, a journalist and painter who was arrested on terrorism related charges.

March 23: The authorities blocked access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 21: The police in Diyarbakır, Ağrı, Hakkari, Konya and Mardin intervened in Newroz celebrations in the province, detaining at least 353 people.

March 22: The Constitutional Court rejected an application submitted by HDP deputy Semra Güzel for a reversal of a decision to lift her parliamentary immunity on terrorism charges. Later in the week, an Ankara court issued an arrest warrant for Güzel.

March 23: A Diyarbakır court sentenced city council member Şehriban Zuğurlu to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

March 24: A Van court handed down a suspended prison sentence of 18 months to HDP deputy Murat Sarısaç on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda.

March 24: The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (CoE) adopted a recommendation and resolution on the situation of mayors in Turkey, calling on the Turkish authorities to modify the definition of terrorism in its legislation and to stop the practice of removing mayors, mostly members of the HDP, without court decisions.

March 25: The police in İzmir and Tekirdağ detained at least 55 people over their participation in Newroz celebrations.

March 27: A HDP district office in Mersin was assaulted by unknown assailants who fired at the office with a shotgun.

PRISON CONDITIONS

March 22: Şervan Can Güder, a 22-year-old inmate, died of heart attack in a Van prison. The opposition announced that Güder had no prior health problems and that his death was suspicious.

March 22: A Van court restricted inmates' access to an award-winning novel by journalist Gökçer Tahincioğlu.

March 26: A Van court placed six inmates in solitary confinement and restricted their rights to spend time together. The prison administration also restricted the visitation rights of another inmate for one month for writing on ventilation walls.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 24: The guards in a Malatya prison physically assaulted inmate Musa Kültür during a ward search.

March 25: The police in Van physically assaulted four people during a roadside control.

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Issue 93⁹³

28 March – 3 April 2022

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

April 1: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit a police officer who caused the death of a 5-year-old boy with an armored vehicle he was driving.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 28: The police detained two people over their participation in last week's Newroz celebrations.

⁹³ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 93 | March 28-April 3, 2022* [Report]. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/93-EN.pdf>

March 29: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 30: A Diyarbakır court sentenced NGO executive Zahit Çiftkuran to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism charges, over his participation in events and funerals.

March 30: The police in Antalya detained 10 people, including two minors, over their participation in Newroz celebrations. The detainees were released the next day.

March 31: The gendarmerie in Mardin detained six people over their participation in Newroz celebrations. The detainees were released the next day.

April 2: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

April 3: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 28: The police in İstanbul physically assaulted journalist Tuba Apaydın who was covering the detention of those celebrating Newroz.

April 1: Ankara prosecutors filed a new indictment for jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş, seeking up to 5 years in prison on terrorism charges based on a social media post dating back to 2013.

April 1: Diyarbakır courts ruled to block access to URLs used by pro-Kurdish news platforms Jinnews, Etkin news agency and Özgür Gelecek.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

March 31: The Constitutional Court found no violation of rights in the cases of two former mayors from pro Kurdish parties in Diyarbakır who were removed from office and replaced by government-appointed trustees in 2015 and 2016.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 29: The police in Van detained Sinan Kaya, a local HDP executive. Kaya was released on March 31.

March 30: A group of Kurdish students in Muğla were assaulted by a mob in what appears to be a racist attack.

March 31: The Constitutional Court found no violation of rights in the cases of two former mayors from pro Kurdish parties in Diyarbakır who were removed from office and replaced by government-appointed trustees in 2015 and 2016.

April 1: Ankara prosecutors filed a new indictment for jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş, seeking up to 5 years in prison on terrorism charges based on a social media post dating back to 2013.

April 1: Diyarbakır courts ruled to block access to URLs used by pro-Kurdish news platforms Jinnews, Etkin news agency and Özgür Gelecek.

PRISON CONDITIONS

April 2: A Şanlıurfa prison restricted inmates' rights to video call.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 28: Diyarbakır prosecutors ordered collection of blood samples from 42 minors who were detained by the police during Newroz celebrations.

March 29: Besna Daşçi, a distributor for the Yeni Yaşam newspaper, was verbally threatened by individuals who introduced themselves as police officers.

March 30: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison physically assaulted inmates.

March 30: An inmate named Ramazan Turan was subjected to a strip-search in a Çorum prison during an involuntary transfer from Diyarbakır.

March 31: The gendarmerie in Batman tortured 15 people who were in custody.

April 3: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison physically assaulted inmates.

April 3: Mehmet Emin Çam, a 70-year-old sick inmate in a Batman prison, was held in a one-person cell for 17 days and was forced to stay up during head count.

Issue 94⁹⁴

4-10 April 2022

⁹⁴ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 94 | April 4-10, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/94-EN.pdf>

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

April 4: The Constitutional Court found no rights violation in the pretrial detention of Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ in connection with a trial concerning deadly protest in southeastern Turkey in 2014.

April 9: Reports indicated that a Diyarbakır prison denied parole to two eligible Kurdish inmates, citing "lack of good behavior."

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 5: Diyarbakır courts ruled to block access to three news websites.

April 8: An Ardahan court ruled to block access to a web page used by the left-wing Umut newspaper.

April 9: The Constitutional Court ruled that Kurdish politician Leyla Güven's pretrial detention in 2018 violated her rights. Güven was arrested for calling Turkey's military operation against Syrian Kurdish militia an "invasion."

KURDISH MINORITY

April 4: The police in Erzurum detained three members and executives of the HDP.

April 4: The Constitutional Court found no rights violation in the pretrial detention of Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ in connection with a trial concerning deadly protest in southeastern Turkey in 2014.

April 5: The guards in a Bayburt prison verbally threatened inmates, confiscated their belongings during ward searches and prohibited them from writing letters in Kurdish.

April 5: Diyarbakır courts ruled to block access to three news websites, including one used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency.

April 5: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit HDP executive Berna Çelik of terrorism charges. The prosecutor's office objected to the decision the same day.

April 9: The Constitutional Court ruled that Kurdish politician Leyla Güven's pretrial detention in 2018 violated her rights. Güven was arrested for calling Turkey's military operation against Syrian Kurdish militia an "invasion."

2022

April 9: Reports indicated that a Diyarbakır prison denied parole to two eligible Kurdish inmates, citing "lack of goof behavior."

April 9: A racist mob in Karaman attacked a group of Kurdish university students performing a folkloric dance.

PRISON CONDITIONS

April 5: The guards in a Bayburt prison verbally threatened inmates, confiscated their belongings during ward searches and prohibited them from writing letters in Kurdish.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 4: The gendarmerie in Van physically mistreated a man named Yakup Avan whom they detained for alleged smuggling.

April 7: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison physically and verbally assaulted inmates.

April 9: The guards in an Ağrı prison physically assaulted three inmates.

April 9: Prison officials in Diyarbakır cut off inmate İbrahim Ayaz's phone call with his family while he was talking about an incident of mistreatment he suffered.

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Issue 95⁹⁵

11-17 April 2022

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

April 11: A police officer in Şırnak ran over lawyer Serkan Karakaş. The officer was detained after he admitted during his questioning that his action was deliberate.

April 16: Soldiers in Hakkari shot dead Tahsin Yalçın, a 21-year-old man.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

⁹⁵ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 95 | April 11-17, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/95-EN.pdf>

April 12: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest staged by the HDP and detained three people, including executives of the party. The detainees were released the next day.

April 13: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

April 14: Gendarmes in Adıyaman briefly detained 20 people protesting the construction of a marble quarry.

April 15: The police detained at least 66 people on terrorism-related charges for their attendance at Newroz celebrations in Diyarbakır in March.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 14: An Ankara court sentenced Kurdish politician Altan Tan to 15 months in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda on social media.

April 14: An appeals court in İstanbul upheld the prison sentences handed down to Kemal Sancılı, İnan Kızılkaya and Eren Keskin on terrorism-related charges as part of an investigation into the now-closed Özgür Gündem newspaper.

April 14: The authorities blocked access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

April 14: Kocaeli prosecutors ordered the removal of a banner placed by the HDP on a party building.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 11: The police in Şırnak detained 10 people, including local HDP executives.

April 11: A school in Mersin expelled a teacher named Hüdai Morsümbül for speaking Kurdish and Arabic with his students and encouraging them to enroll in elective Kurdish courses.

April 12: The police in several provinces detained 46 people, including former mayors from the HDP, as part of an investigation into a series of protests in Kurdish majority southeast in 2014. Arrest warrants were issued for 91 suspects as part of the investigation.

April 12: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest staged by the HDP and detained three people, including executives of the party. The detainees were released the next day.

April 13: A Diyarbakır court sentenced HDP press worker Vedat Dağ to 10 years, three months on several charges.

April 14: An Ankara court sentenced Kurdish politician Altan Tan to 15 months in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda on social media.

April 14: The authorities blocked access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

April 14: Kocaeli prosecutors ordered the removal of a banner placed by the HDP on a party building.

April 15: The police detained at least 66 people on terrorism-related charges for their attendance at Newroz celebrations in Diyarbakır in March.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 11: The police in Tunceli physically mistreated a man named Doğukan Gül who was in custody.

April 13: Reports revealed that the police in Bitlis physically assaulted an 18-year-old man for making the V sign while taking a picture.

April 13: The police in Şırnak physically assaulted a woman during a house raid.

April 14: The guards in an Afyon prison verbally threatened inmate Xemgin Karakaş with death.

April 15: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison physically assaulted inmates during a ward search. The prison administration cut off the phone calls of inmates who attempted to talk about the incident of torture.

Issue 96⁹⁶

⁹⁶ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 96 | April 18-24, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/96-EN.pdf>

18-24 April 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

April 19: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

April 22: Airport police in İstanbul barred HDP MP Kemal Bülbül from traveling abroad to attend an event, citing a travel ban on his passport.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

April 19: An Ankara court ruled to acquit Öztürk Türkdoğan, an executive of the Human Rights Association (İHD) who stood trial on terrorism-related charges.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 18: İzmir prosecutors indicted Abdullah Poyraz, the father of HDP employee Deniz Poyraz who was killed in an armed attack at a party office last year, on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda in an interview he gave to the media about the incident.

April 18: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration to commemorate a deadly May Day incident in 1977, detaining more than 20 people, including members of the HDP.

April 20: The police in Diyarbakır detained 10 people, including local politicians and members of the HDP.

April 22: The police in Ağrı detained three pro-Kurdish politicians.

April 22: Airport police in İstanbul barred HDP MP Kemal Bülbül from traveling abroad to attend an event, citing a travel ban on his passport.

April 24: Ankara prosecutors ordered the detention of 18 pro-Kurdish politicians in connection with an investigation into 2014 protests in southeastern provinces.

PRISON CONDITIONS

April 20: A Şanlıurfa prison denied political prisoners their right to video call and refused to deliver items that were sent to them.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 18: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison physically assaulted inmate Hasan Aşa who argued with them after he was denied his medication. Aşa's both arms were broken as a result of the incident.

April 18: Gendarmes in Van physically mistreated two people who were detained while trying to cross into Iran illegally.

April 18: Opposition MP Sezgin Tanrıku reported that 281 incidents of torture took place in March, with 51 of them taking place in prisons.

April 19: The guards in a Batman prison physically assaulted inmate Alaattin Demir.

April 20: A prison official in Şanlıurfa verbally threatened an inmate.

Issue 97⁹⁷

25 April – 1 May 2022

2022

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 25: An appeals court in Ankara overturned a prison sentence of two years, six months handed down to Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş over his criticism of a member of high judiciary.

April 25: The Constitutional Court ruled that a 2011 court decision ordering Kurdish politician Hasip Kaplan to pay damages to then-prime minister over his remarks was in violation of his right to freedom of expression.

April 26: The police in Van detained a man for singing in Kurdish. The man was rear-handcuffed and severely beaten.

April 26: The police in Batman detained a local inhabitant on terrorism-related charges, over a conversation with a politician about the Kurdish minority.

⁹⁷ *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 97 | April 25-May 1, 2022. (n.d.). [Report].*

<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/97-EN.pdf>

April 26: A Sakarya court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Özgür Gelecek newspaper.

April 27: An İstanbul court sentenced former HDP MP Halil Aksoy to one year in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda in a speech.

April 27: The security detail of the mayor of Elazığ allegedly assaulted reporter Ardi Batmaz who was following up on news.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

April 29: A lawyer announced that no indictment has been drafted in the past 21 months after an investigation was launched into an incident in which two Kurdish villagers were allegedly thrown from a military helicopter and tortured in southeastern Turkey.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 25: An appeals court in Ankara overturned a prison sentence of two years, six months handed down to Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş over his criticism of a member of high judiciary.

April 25: A court ruled to arrest four pro-Kurdish politicians who were detained in Ağrı last week on terrorism-related charges. A

April 26: The police in Van detained a man for singing in Kurdish. The man was rear-handcuffed and severely beaten.

April 26: The police in Batman detained a local inhabitant on terrorism-related charges, over a conversation with a politician about the Kurdish minority.

April 26: The guards in an Ankara prison verbally assaulted two inmates who greeted each other in Kurdish.

April 26: A Sakarya court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Özgür Gelecek newspaper.

April 27: An İstanbul court sentenced former HDP MP Halil Aksoy to one year in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda in a speech.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 26: The police in Van rear-handcuffed and physically mistreated a man who was detained for singing in Kurdish.

April 26: The guards in an Ankara prison verbally assaulted two inmates who greeted each other in Kurdish.

April 27: The security detail of the mayor of Elazığ allegedly assaulted reporter Ardil Batmaz who was following up on news.

April 29: A lawyer announced that no indictment has been drafted in the past 21 months after an investigation was launched into an incident in which two Kurdish villagers were allegedly thrown from a military helicopter and tortured in southeastern Turkey.

Issue 98⁹⁸

2-8 May 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

May 3: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

May 5: The police in Ankara intervened in an event organized by the HDP, detaining six party members as well as two others. Party members were physically assaulted during the intervention. An officer verbally threatened MP Ayşe Acar-Başaran.

May 7: The police in Muş intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, briefly detaining three party executives.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 8: The police in Şırnak detained Mahsun Birlik, an employee of the pro-Kurdish Yeni Yaşam newspaper.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 5: The police in Ankara intervened in an event organized by the HDP, detaining six party members as well as two others. Party members were physically assaulted during the intervention. An officer verbally threatened MP Ayşe Acar-Başaran.

⁹⁸ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 98 | May 2-8, 2022*.
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/98-EN.pdf>

May 7: The police in Muş intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, briefly detaining three party executives.

May 8: The police in Şırnak detained Mahsun Birlik, an employee of the pro-Kurdish Yeni Yaşam newspaper.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

May 3: The guards in a Bitlis prison threatened with death an inmate named Naif İşçi.

May 4: The police in Şırnak physically assaulted a man named Ebubekir Çıkmaz during an ID check.

May 5: The police in Ankara physically assaulted HDP MPs during an intervention in a party event. An officer also verbally threatened MP Ayşe Acar-Başaran.

Issue 99⁹⁹

9-15 May 2022

2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

May 10: The police in Mardin briefly detained 12 people, including five minors, over their participation in Newroz celebrations.

May 10: The Batman Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

May 11: The police in Mardin detained 10 people over their participation in Newroz celebrations.

May 13: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

May 13: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 7 days.

⁹⁹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 99 | May 9-15, 2022* [Report]. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/99-EN.pdf>

May 14: The police in Tunceli violently intervened in the funeral of a Kurdish politician, detaining four people. Three of the detainees were later released while one was arrested by a court on charges of resisting the police.

May 15: The Kocaeli Municipality cancelled a concert by Kurdish singer Aynur Doğan.

May 16: Opposition MP Sezgin Tanrikulu announced that the police detained 288 people in 45 demonstrations in April.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 11: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web page used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

May 10: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit four police officers who were previously sentenced to two years, 15 days in prison on negligence charges over a bomb attack against a rally organized by the HDP. The officers' were retried after an appeals court overturned their sentences.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 10: The police in Mardin briefly detained 12 people, including five minors, over their participation in Newroz celebrations.

May 10: The police in Şırnak detained two people, including HDP executive Müzeyyen İnan.

May 11: The police in Mardin detained 10 people over their participation in Newroz celebrations.

May 14: The police in Tunceli violently intervened in the funeral of a Kurdish politician, detaining four people. Three of the detainees were later released while one was arrested by a court on charges of resisting the police.

May 15: An Ankara prison refused to deliver a book to jailed Kurdish politician Sebahat Tuncel on the grounds that it contained "security threats."

May 15: The police in Diyarbakır detained pro-Kurdish politician Hafize İpek and NGO executive Metin Kılavuz as part of an investigation into widespread Kurdish protests in 2014.

PRISON CONDITIONS

May 15: An Ankara prison refused to deliver a book to jailed Kurdish politician Sebahat Tuncel on the grounds that it contained "security threats."

Issue 100¹⁰⁰

16-22 May 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

May 17: The Muş Governor's Office banned a concert by Metin Kahraman and Kemal Kahraman.

May 17: A municipality in Kocaeli banned the staging of a Kurdish-language theater play.

May 20: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, briefly detaining four people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 20: The police in İstanbul briefly detained Kurdish musician Zelal Gökçe on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

May 17: The Human Rights Association (İHD) announced that one of its provincial co-chairs in Hakkari received death threats.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 19: The police in Diyarbakır detained 12 people, including executives and members of the HDP.

May 20: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, briefly detaining four people.

May 20: The police in İstanbul briefly detained Kurdish musician Zelal Gökçe on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda.

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¹⁰⁰ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 100 | May 16-22, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/100-EN.pdf>

Issue 101¹⁰¹

23-29 May 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

May 26: The Bursa Governor's Office banned a concert by Kurdish singer Mem Ararat, citing "public safety" reasons.

May 26: The Bursa Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

May 27: The police in Tunceli briefly detained 11 people staging a protest.

May 28: The police in Tunceli detained 20 people for attending Newroz celebrations.

May 28: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

May 24: The Constitutional Court rejected the applications of Kurdish politicians Aysel Tuğluk and Sebahat Tuncel who claimed that their arrest over protests in 2014 was unlawful and politically motivated.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 24: A right-wing mob in Antalya physically assaulted a group of Kurdish university students.

May 26: The Bursa Governor's Office banned a concert by Kurdish singer Mem Ararat, citing "public safety" reasons.

¹⁰¹ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/101-EN.pdf>

Issue 102¹⁰²

30 May – 5 June 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

May 30: A district governor's office in Bitlis canceled a Kurdish-language theater play, citing technical problems.

May 31: The police in Şırnak intervened in a protest organized by the HDP, detaining five party executives.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 30: An Ardahan court ruled to block access to five news websites and online magazines, citing national security and public order reasons.

May 31: A Van court handed down a suspended prison sentence of eight months, 22 days to reporter Zelal Tunç on charges of insulting a public official.

May 31: Diyarbakır courts ruled to block access to three pro-Kurdish news websites.

June 3: The police in Diyarbakır detained journalist Dicle Müftüoğlu.

June 3: Ankara prosecutors summoned journalist Berivan Altan for a questioning over her coverage of an alleged racist attack targeting a Kurdish family.

June 3: An İstanbul court ruled to censor and confiscate the copies of three books and a report published by an NGO about internally displaced Kurds and curfews imposed in predominantly Kurdish provinces.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 30: The police in Şırnak physically assaulted local HDP executive Ahmet Aktuğ.

May 31: The police in Batman detained 19 people, including local HDP executives.

May 31: The police in Şırnak intervened in a protest organized by the HDP, detaining five party executives.

¹⁰² Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 102 | May 30-June 5, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/102-EN.pdf>

May 31: Diyarbakır courts ruled to block access to three pro-Kurdish news websites.

June 3: Prosecutors issued detention warrants for more than 40 members of the HDP across 10 provinces.

June 3: The police in Van detained 13 people, including members and executives of the HDP.

June 3: The police in Bingöl detained local HDP executive Saadet Fırat.

June 3: The police in Diyarbakır detained journalist Dicle Müftüoğlu.

June 3: Ankara prosecutors summoned journalist Berivan Altan for a questioning over her coverage of an alleged racist attack targeting a Kurdish family.

June 3: An İstanbul court ruled to censor and confiscate the copies of three books and a report published by an NGO about internally displaced Kurds and curfews imposed in predominantly Kurdish provinces.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

May 30: The police in Şırnak physically assaulted local HDP executive Ahmet Aktuğ.

May 30: The Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) announced that it received 984 complaints about torture in 2021, the highest annual number since the foundation's establishment in 1990.

May 31: The guards in a Van prison physically assaulted inmates Mehmet Kültür and Feyyaz Başak.

Issue 103¹⁰³

6-12 June 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

¹⁰³ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 103 | June 6-12, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/103-EN.pdf>

June 6: Governors of Adana and Mersin banned the Kurdish-language staging of Tartuffe without a justification.

June 11: The police in Diyarbakır detained 12 pro Kurdish politicians and activists who staged a demonstration.

June 12: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 6: A Şanlıurfa court ordered activist Emine Şenyaşar to pay damages for allegedly insulting government officials.

June 6: The Dicle Fırat Journalists' Association (DFG) reported that Turkish authorities detained 11 journalists and mistreated 11 others in May.

June 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

June 6: The authorities released journalist Dicle Müftüoğlu, who was detained last week.

June 8: The police in Diyarbakır conducted house raids to detain 21 Kurdish journalists. The police also raided offices of pro-Kurdish media outlets, confiscating computers, drives and printed material.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

June 12: Şanlıurfa prosecutors decided for non prosecution in the case of prison guards accused of torturing inmates.

KURDISH MINORITY

June 6: The Adana Governor's Office banned the Kurdish-language staging of Tartuffe without a justification.

June 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

June 8: The police in Diyarbakır conducted house raids to detain 21 Kurdish journalists. The police also raided offices of pro-Kurdish media outlets, confiscating computers, drives and printed material.

June 8: The police in Tekirdağ detained eight Kurdish politicians on terrorism charges.

June 8: A Kurdish construction worker in Bursa was subjected to a racist attack by his coworkers and injured as a result. The worker was also fired after the incident.

June 11: The police in Diyarbakır detained 12 pro Kurdish politicians and activists who staged a demonstration.

PRISON CONDITIONS

June 7: A Batman prison denied medical treatment to inmate Önder Poyraz.

June 7: A prison administration in Şanlıurfa denied hospitalization to inmates.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 6: Mehmet Ali Aykal, an inmate held in a Diyarbakır prison, was physically assaulted by soldiers during a hospital visit.

June 7: The guards in a Şanlıurfa prison verbally threatened inmate Cesim Karataş.

June 12: The guards in a Batman prison physically assaulted two inmates who resisted a head count.

June 12: Şanlıurfa prosecutors decided for non prosecution in the case of prison guards accused of torturing inmates.

2022

Issue 104¹⁰⁴

13-19 June 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

June 14: A Diyarbakır court sentenced NGO activist Mehmet Hafız Şık to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

¹⁰⁴ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 104 | June 13-19, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/104-EN.pdf>

June 14: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

June 15: The police in Van detained two people, one of whom a minor, for wearing t-shirts with a picture of jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş. The police later detained six others who objected to the detentions.

June 16: A court arrested 16 Kurdish journalists out of the 22 who were detained a week earlier on terrorism charges.

June 16: An Erzurum court sentenced journalist Mehmet Arslan to one year, six months on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda. The court suspended the execution of the sentence.

June 16: A Diyarbakır court handed down a suspended prison sentence of one year, two months and 17 days to Mehmet Yıldırım on charges of insulting the president on social media.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

June 15: The police in Ankara detained Adile Erkan, a provincial executive of the Human Rights Association (İHD).

KURDISH MINORITY

June 14: The police in Batman detained local Kurdish politician Seyhan Başak.

June 14: A prison administration in Kayseri refused to deliver a bookmark to an inmate on the grounds that it contained jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş's name on it.

June 15: The police in İstanbul detained 10 people during a wedding for wearing scarves in traditional Kurdish colors. The detainees were later arrested by a court.

June 15: The police in Van detained two people, one of whom a minor, for wearing t-shirts with a picture of jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş. The police later detained six others who objected to the detentions.

June 16: A court arrested 16 Kurdish journalists out of the 22 who were detained a week earlier on terrorism charges.

June 16: An Erzurum court sentenced journalist Mehmet Arslan to one year, six months on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda. The court suspended the execution of the sentences. Arslan stood trial over his work for the pro-Kurdish Dicle news agency (DİHA).

June 16: The police in İstanbul carried out house raids to detain 10 members and executives of the HDP.

June 17: The police in İzmir detained HDP youth member Serhat İrlan.

PRISON CONDITIONS

June 14: A prison administration in Kayseri refused to deliver a bookmark to an inmate on the grounds that it contained jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş's name on it.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 19: The guards in an Elazığ prison physically assaulted inmate Abdo Şeyh for resisting a strip-search.

2022**Issue 105¹⁰⁵**

20-26 June 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

June 25: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the Saturday Mothers (Cumartesi Anneleri), briefly detaining 16 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 21: A Diyarbakır court handed down a suspended prison sentence of 10 months to Kurdish politician Sırrı Süreyya Önder on charges of insulting the president.

KURDISH MINORITY

¹⁰⁵ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/105-EN.pdf>

June 21: In a video that sparked outrage on social media, a group of gendarmes were seen terrorizing civilians in a Kurdish-majority province by firing random shots in the air as they arrived to detain a suspect.

June 22: The police in Mersin detained 20 people, including a local HDP executive, on terrorism-charges.

June 24: The Supreme Court of Appeals (Yargıtay) upheld prison sentences handed down in 2018 to 13 Kurdish politicians, including former Van Mayor Bekir Kaya, on terrorism charges.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 21: In a video that sparked outrage on social media, a group of gendarmes were seen terrorizing civilians in a Kurdish-majority province by firing random shots in the air as they arrived to detain a suspect.

June 22: The guards in an Elazığ prison mistreated inmate Süleyman Göksel Yerdut.

June 26: Gendarmerie in Hakkari mistreated 20 people, including minors, who were detained in house raids. Two lawyers who went to meet with the victims were also reportedly mistreated.

June 26: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison physically assaulted six inmates during a ward search.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

June 22: A Turkish national who was arrested in Germany last year admitted in court to spying on members of the Gülen movement and the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Issue 106¹⁰⁶

27 June – 3 July 2022

¹⁰⁶ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 106 | June 27-July 3, 2022* [Report]. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/106-EN.pdf>

2022

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

June 30: A Diyarbakır court sentenced photojournalist Abdurrahman Gök to one year, six months and 22 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda for taking photos of university student Kemal Kurkut being shot to death by a police officer during Newroz celebrations in 2017.

July 3: Gendarmerie in Van opened fire on a vehicle carrying migrants on the grounds that the vehicle did not comply with a warning to stop, killing a four-year-old child and injuring 12 others who were inside.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

June 30: The police in Kocaeli attacked an outdoor exhibition organized by the HDP, briefly detaining six party members.

July 2: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 27: The police in Aydın detained musician Veysi Belketin on terrorism charges for singing in Kurdish at a wedding.

July 1: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a news website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

KURDISH MINORITY

June 27: The police in Adana detained 36 people, including members and executives of the HDP.

June 27: The police in Aydın detained musician Veysi Belketin on terrorism charges for singing in Kurdish at a wedding.

June 28: A Hatay court sentenced a man named Menci Orman to 10 months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda for wearing a scarf in yellow, red and green during Newroz celebrations. The court suspended the sentence.

June 30: A Diyarbakır court sentenced photojournalist Abdurrahman Gök to one year, six months and 22 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda for

taking photos of university student Kemal Kurkut being shot to death by a police officer during Newroz celebrations in 2017.

June 30: The police in Kocaeli attacked an outdoor exhibition organized by the HDP, briefly detaining six party members.

July 3: The police in Ankara detained five people over slogans chanted at a meeting organized by the HDP.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 27: The guards in an Ağrı prison physically assaulted inmate Zülküf Kaya. The victim was later transferred to another prison against his will.

June 30: The police in Siirt physically assaulted a man named Welat İnan.

Issue 107¹⁰⁷

4-10 July 2022

2022

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

July 7: The Constitutional Court found inadmissible applications filed by people affected by a curfews in the predominantly Kurdish southeast of Turkey in which 137 were killed in counterterrorism operations in 2015-2016.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

July 4: Gendarmerie in Şırnak intervened in a protest by local inhabitants against an energy company, detaining 20 people.

July 5: The police in Batman detained four people over slogans chanted at a HDP rally.

July 7: The police in Mardin detained seven people protesting a local energy supplier.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 5: The police in Batman detained four people over slogans chanted at a HDP rally.

¹⁰⁷ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/107-EN.pdf>

PRISON CONDITIONS

July 7: An Elazığ prison denied medical care to inmates suffering from health problems.

Issue 108¹⁰⁸

11-17 July 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

July 14: The Council of Forensic Medicine issued a controversial report in which it stated that Aysel Tuğluk, a jailed Kurdish politician suffering from dementia, is fit to remain in prison.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

July 14: The Van Governor's Office released a statement designating the vicinity of government offices as well as a number of streets as parks as localities categorically forbidden for demonstrations while lifting restrictions to assembly imposed in other areas in the province.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 14: The police in Tunceli confiscated two books at a book fair, citing a court order.

July 16: The police in Tunceli detained journalist Azime Bozkurt at a road checkpoint. Bozkurt was released the next day.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 11: Kadri Devir, a HDP executive in Şanlıurfa, was arrested and sent to prison after appeals courts upheld his prison sentence.

July 16: The Constitutional Court ruled that the conviction of Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ on terrorism charges violated her rights. Yüksekdağ was sentenced to 10 months in prison for participating in a funeral in 2012.

¹⁰⁸ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 108 | July 11-17, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/108-EN.pdf>

PRISON CONDITIONS

July 11: A Diyarbakır prison confiscated letters sent by jailed journalists Mehmet Ali Ertaş, Serdar Altan and Zeynel Abidin Bulut.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 14: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison strip searched the spouse of jailed journalist Serdar Altan who was visiting.

Issue 109¹⁰⁹

18-24 July 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

July 18: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 17 days.

July 18: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 21: A culture festival in Tunceli was cancelled after local authorities imposed roadblocks that made the event impossible to hold.

July 23: The police in İstanbul intervened in a football event organized by the HDP to commemorate a 19-year old Kurdish university student who was killed by the police, detaining 11 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 19: İstanbul prosecutors ordered the confiscation and censorship of two books on the Kurdish militants' fight against ISIL.

July 20: Mardin prosecutors launched an investigation into Kurdish journalist Öznur Değer over her social media messages and summoned her for a questioning.

¹⁰⁹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 109 | July 18-24, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/109-EN.pdf>

2022

July 22: Diyarbakır prosecutors launched an investigation into the Diyarbakır Bar Association over a statement that the bar released about alleged Turkish artillery strikes that killed nine civilians in northern Iraq.

KURDISH MINORITY July 20: Members of a Kurdish family in Denizli was targeted in a racist attack by local inhabitants who threatened them with death.

July 20: The Constitutional Court found rights violations in the trial of Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş, who was prosecuted over slogans chanted at a demonstration he attended in 2011.

July 22: The police in Van detained HDP youth member Arjin Tüncer.

July 23: The police in İstanbul intervened in a football event organized by the HDP to commemorate a 19-year old Kurdish university student who was killed by the police, detaining 11 people.

PRISON CONDITIONS

July 21: Kadri Ekinci, an inmate incarcerated in a Diyarbakır prison, was found dead in his cell. While the authorities classified Ekinci's death as suicide, his family claimed that he was heavily mistreated by the prison administration and that he was unlikely to have killed himself.

July 24: An Elazığ prison refused to deliver a letter sent to sick inmate Mehmet Emin Özkan on the grounds that it would "cheer him up." The letter was sent by jailed Kurdish politician Leyla Güven.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 18: The guards in an Erzurum prison mistreated inmate Emrah Yakut and threatened to kill him.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

July 20: The Iraqi government blamed Turkey for artillery strikes that killed nine civilians and wounded 23 others in Zakho.

Issue 110¹¹⁰

25-31 July 2022

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 25: The police in Mardin removed a banner hung by the HDP on its provincial headquarters.

July 26: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

July 27: The police in Manisa briefly detained four people, three of whom members of the HDP, over their social media messages.

July 28: The police in Antalya detained six people on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 25: Esat Atabay, a Kurdish seasonal agricultural laborer, was targeted in a racist attack and was injured in his head.

July 25: The police in Antalya intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, briefly detaining seven people.

July 25: The police in Mardin removed a banner hung by the HDP on its provincial headquarters.

July 26: The police in Kars detained HDP member Gülcan Alp on terrorism-related charges.

July 26: A parliamentary committee lifted the parliamentary immunity of Kurdish MP Salihe Aydeniz.

¹¹⁰ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 110 | July 25-31, 2022* [Report]. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/110-EN.pdf>

July 26: The Constitutional Court found no rights violation in a disciplinary punishment given to 22 teachers for staging a protest about the freedom to use one's mother tongue.

July 27: The police in Manisa briefly detained four people, three of whom members of the HDP, over their social media messages.

July 28: The police in Mersin detained 21 people, including local HDP executives, on terrorism-related charges.

July 29: The police in İstanbul detained seven members of the HDP. During the house raids, the police mistreated the family members of HDP executive Livan Orman who was detained as part of the operation.

July 30: Opera singer Pervin Çakar announced that a university in Mardin refused to give her a hall for a concert on the grounds that there were Kurdish language songs in her repertoire.

PRISON CONDITIONS

July 25: A Van prison rejected the requests to visit hospital of four inmates who tested positive for Covid-19.

July 26: Reports indicated that a Van prison has been keeping six inmates in one-person cells for 67 months, restricting their social and cultural rights and confiscating their petitions to the Ministry of Justice.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 29: The police in İstanbul mistreated family members of HDP executive Livan Orman during a house raid to detain him.

Issue 111¹¹¹

1-7 August 2022

¹¹¹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 111 | August 1-7, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/111-EN.pdf>

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

August 1: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

August 4: The Constitutional Court ruled that a monetary fine imposed on 10 people in Van for handing out flyers about a HDP meeting was in violation of the right to assembly.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

August 1: The police in Tunceli detained a newspaper distributor working for a left-wing opposition daily, confiscating his newspapers.

August 3: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to websites used by the Etkin news agency (ETHA) and the Yeni Demokrasi newspaper, two pro-Kurdish media outlets.

August 4: The Constitutional Court ruled that universities that imposed disciplinary penalties on several academics for signing a joint petition in 2016 violated the academics' right to freedom of speech and expression. The group of academics had released a joint petition that criticized the government's handling of the armed conflict in the predominantly Kurdish southeast.

August 6: The police in Diyarbakır detained nine people over slogans chanted at a rally organized by the HDP.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

August 1: Jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk was forced to present her defense in a court hearing despite suffering from dementia. Tuğluk was arrested in December 2016 as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political movement and despite her health problems, the authorities have ignored repeated calls for her release.

KURDISH MINORITY

August 1: Jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk was forced to present her defense in a court hearing despite suffering from dementia. Tuğluk was arrested in December 2016 as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political movement and despite her health problems, the authorities have ignored repeated calls for her release.

August 3: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to websites used by the Etkin news agency (ETHA) and the Yeni Demokrasi newspaper, two pro-Kurdish media outlets.

August 4: Ömer Çelik, one of the 16 Kurdish journalists arrested in June on terrorism-related charges, announced to his family during a visit that they were not allowed to buy refrigerators to use in their cells and that the prison administration did not deliver the books sent for them.

August 4: The Constitutional Court ruled that a monetary fine imposed on 10 people in Van for handing out flyers about a HDP meeting was in violation of the right to assembly.

August 6: The police in Diyarbakır detained nine people over slogans chanted at a rally organized by the HDP.

August 6: The police in Diyarbakır detained HDP district executive Berat Can.

PRISON CONDITIONS

August 1: A Şanlıurfa prison confiscated inmates' personal belongings during ward searches, restricted their video calls and denied medical care to four inmates suffering from health problems.

August 4: Ömer Çelik, one of the 16 Kurdish journalists arrested in June on terrorism-related charges, announced to his family during a visit that they were not allowed to buy refrigerators to use in their cells and that the prison administration did not deliver the books sent for them.

August 5: A Diyarbakır prison arbitrarily reduced the duration of inmates' visitation rights, restricted their access to social and cultural activities.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

August 5: The guards in an Elazığ prison mistreated sick inmate Fevzi Fidan.

August 6: The guards in a women's prison in Diyarbakır verbally assaulted inmates.

Issue 112¹¹²

8-14 August 2022

¹¹² Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 112 | August 8-14, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/112-EN.pdf>

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

August 12: The Constitutional Court ruled that jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk should receive neurological and psychiatric treatment in hospital while rejecting a plea for her release. Tuğluk's lawyers and rights groups have announced that she suffers from dementia and repeatedly called for her release.

August 14: An Ankara prison denied parole to Mukaddes Kubilay, jailed Kurdish politician and the former mayor of Ağrı, on the grounds that she had exchanged greetings with families of other prisoners.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

August 10: The Batman Governor's Office restricted all outdoor gatherings for a period of 10 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

August 12: Several Kurdish musicians announced that the municipal police in İstanbul were preventing them from singing in Kurdish on the streets.

KURDISH MINORITY

August 9: The police in Batman detained local HDP executive Sezgin Yavuz.

August 11: The police in Şırnak detained local HDP executive Sabuha Akdağ.

August 12: The Constitutional Court ruled that jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk should receive neurological and psychiatric treatment in hospital while rejecting a plea for her release.

August 12: Several Kurdish musicians announced that the municipal police in İstanbul were preventing them from singing in Kurdish on the streets.

August 13: The police in Hakkari detained nine people, including local HDP executives.

August 14: Jailed Kurdish politician Mehmet Candemir died after being taken to a hospital from a prison in Giresun. The authorities said the cause of death was a heart attack. Candemir was serving a sentence of 17 years, six months on terrorism-related charges.

August 14: An Ankara prison denied parole to Mukaddes Kubilay, jailed Kurdish politician and the former mayor of Ağrı, on the grounds that she had exchanged greetings with families of other prisoners.

August 14: The police in Mersin, Hatay, Adana, İzmir, Van and Manisa detained 43 members and executives of the HDP.

PRISON CONDITIONS

August 12: Reports said that a women's prison in Diyarbakır was offering insufficient food and hygiene products to inmates.

Issue 113¹¹³

15-21 August 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

August 18: Bazo Yılmaz, a 67-year-old bedridden Kurdish politician, lost his life in a Şanlıurfa prison. Yılmaz was a former district mayor in the province before he was arrested and sentenced to prison on terrorism-related charges.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

August 16: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

August 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

August 15: The police in İstanbul detained Diren Yurtsever, the editor-in-chief of the Mezopotamya news agency. Yurtsever was released the next day.

August 17: The police in Şırnak removed a banner hung by the HDP to commemorate the victims of a massacre in 1992. The police also summoned three HDP executives for a questioning about the banner.

KURDISH MINORITY

¹¹³ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 113 | August 15-21, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/113-EN.pdf>

August 15: The police in İstanbul detained Diren Yurtsever, the editor-in-chief of the Mezopotamya news agency. Yurtsever was released the next day.

August 16: The HDP announced that one of their district offices in Ankara was broken into by assailants. August 17: Aydın prosecutors indicted 11 members of the HDP on terrorism-related charges.

August 17: The police in Şırnak removed a banner hung by the HDP to commemorate the victims of a massacre in 1992. The police also summoned three HDP executives for a questioning about the banner.

PRISON CONDITIONS

August 18: A Bayburt prison belated inmates' hospital referrals, forced them to undergo treatment in handcuffs and refused treatment to those who refused.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

August 21: Soldiers in Van mistreated a person named Adem Yiğit during house raids in a village.

August 21: The guards in a Kilis prison verbally threatened four inmates who resisted a head count in military order.

2022

Issue 114¹¹⁴

22-28 August 2022

PRISON CONDITIONS

August 27: A prison administration in Van denied treatment and medication to inmates who tested positive for Covid-19.

August 28: Hasan Karapınar, an end-stage cancer patient who was released from an İstanbul prison two months ago, revealed to the media that the prison administration denied him treatment for five months during his incarceration.

¹¹⁴ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 114 | August 22-28, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/114-EN.pdf>

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

August 27: Village guards in Mardin physically assaulted and injured five villagers over an argument.

Issue 115¹¹⁵

29 August – 4 September 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

August 30: Turkish authorities arrested Reyhan Abdi, a Kurdish migrant woman from Syria and the mother of a two-month-old baby, on terrorism-related charges. Turkey's laws prohibit the incarceration of pregnant and post-partum women even if they are found guilty.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

August 30: A district governor's office in Adana and the Mardin Governor's Office banned concerts that were organized on the occasion of a national holiday.

August 31: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 1: The police in İstanbul and Van intervened in demonstrations held on the occasion of the International Day of Peace, briefly detaining at least 108 activists.

September 1: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 1: Police officers in Van pulled guns on journalists during their intervention in a demonstration held on the occasion of the International Day of Peace.

¹¹⁵ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 115 | August 29-September 4, 2022* [Report]. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/115-EN.pdf>

September 2: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

KURDISH MINORITY

August 29: Makbule Özer, a 80-year-old Kurdish prisoner, was not provided with an interpreter during her hospital referral and had to communicate with doctors "in body language."

August 29: The personal notes kept by Bazo Yılmaz, a 67-year-old Kurdish politician who died in a Şanlıurfa prison on August 18, revealed that he was deprived of nutrients and subjected to neglect and mistreatment during his incarceration.

August 30: The remains of Hakan Arslan, a man who was killed during clashes between Turkish security forces and the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in January 2016 were returned to his father in a plastic bag nearly seven years after his death.

August 30: A group of Kurdish agricultural workers in Sakarya were assaulted by local inhabitants. The incident resulted in the injury of two people including a minor and led the workers to leave the district.

2022

September 1: Muhammed Eren Sütçü, an assailant who in December staged an attack at a HDP office in İstanbul verbally threatened by the prison director who told him and injured two party employees, was released from prison pending trial.

September 3: Kurdish politician Semra Güzel was detained while trying to flee the country. Güzel was stripped of her parliamentary immunity and was facing terrorism-related charges.

PRISON CONDITIONS

August 29: The personal notes kept by Bazo Yılmaz, a 67-year-old Kurdish politician who died in a Şanlıurfa prison on August 18, revealed that he was deprived of nutrients and subjected to neglect and mistreatment during his incarceration.

August 31: Reports revealed that Reyhan Abdi, a Kurdish Syrian woman who was arrested on August 30 despite having a two-month-old baby, was held in an unventilated room and was given only a bottle of water a day.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

August 30: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison mistreated inmate Kurbanî Özcan. Reports in the media revealed that when Özcan wanted to report the incident, he was verbally threatened by the prison director who told him "you are not going to leave here alive."

Issue 116¹¹⁶

5-11 September 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

September 7: The Forensic Medicine Institution issued a report on Mehmet Emin Özkan, a 83-year-old ailing prisoner, in which it said that his apparent difficulty walking in a video footage was "exaggerated". Özkan is suffering from heart problems, blood pressure, osteolysis and memory loss.

September 9: Aysel Tuğluk, an imprisoned Kurdish politician who was kept behind bars despite being diagnosed with dementia over a year ago, was reportedly hospitalized after her situation worsened.

September 9: The authorities refused to release sick inmate Şemsettin Kargılı despite a university hospital report describing him as severely disabled. Kargılı is incarcerated in a Gaziantep prison.

September 9: Makbule Özer, an ailing 80-year-old inmate in Van, was released due to her health problems after spending four months behind bars.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 7: A Gaziantep court sentenced the admin of a prominent government-critical Twitter account to 12 years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

September 7: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted Kurdish politician Leyla Güven, seeking up to 43 years in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda. Güven is already incarcerated on conviction of other terrorism-related charges.

¹¹⁶ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 116 | September 5-11, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/116-EN.pdf>

September 7: Van prosecutors indicted media executives Ferhat Çelik and İdris Yayla over coverage of allegations that a group of soldiers had tortured two villagers in the province.

September 7: Van prosecutors launched an investigation into journalist Oktay Candemir after he reported on vehicles rented for a presidential rally in the province.

September 8: An İstanbul court sentenced journalists Sadiye Eser and Sadık Topaloğlu to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

September 8: An Antalya court banned the publication, distribution and sale of a poetry book written by Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ who has been behind bars since November 2016.

September 9: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) faulted Turkey in the case of Fehime Ete, a Kurdish woman who was convicted of disseminating terrorist propaganda for celebrating the birthday of jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The court concluded that Ete's conviction was in violation of freedom of expression.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 6: A prison administration in Diyarbakır refused to deliver three government-critical newspapers to 16 jailed Kurdish journalists.

September 7: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted Kurdish politician Leyla Güven, seeking up to 43 years in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda. Güven is already incarcerated on conviction of other terrorism-related charges.

September 8: An İstanbul court sentenced journalists Sadiye Eser and Sadık Topaloğlu to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges. The journalists had previously worked as reporters for the Mezopotamya news agency (MA).

September 9: Aysel Tuğluk, an imprisoned Kurdish politician who was kept behind bars despite being diagnosed with dementia over a year ago, was reportedly hospitalized after her situation worsened.

September 9: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) faulted Turkey in the case of Fehime Ete, a Kurdish woman who was convicted of disseminating terrorist propaganda for celebrating the birthday of jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan

Workers' Party (PKK). The court concluded that Ete's conviction was in violation of freedom of expression.

September 11: A racist attack against Kurdish construction workers in Kastamonu resulted in one death and one injury. One person was detained and arrested in connection with the incident.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 6: A prison administration in Diyarbakır refused to deliver three government-critical newspapers to 16 jailed Kurdish journalists.

September 9: A Gaziantep prison denied medical treatment to sick inmate Şemsettin Kargılı.

Issue 117¹¹⁷

12-18 September 2022

2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

September 12: Gülser Yıldırım, an imprisoned Kurdish politician, has not been released despite being eligible for parole.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

September 13: The Şırnak Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 16: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP to demand mother tongue education for Kurds, detaining nine people.

September 16: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Yıldız Damla, a member of an association established for solidarity with people who lost relatives in the conflict in the predominantly Kurdish southeast, to six years, three months on terrorism charges. The

¹¹⁷ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 117 | September 12-18, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/117-EN.pdf>

judgment came after an appeals court overturned the same sentence that was previously handed down to Damla.

September 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 12: Diyarbakır prosecutors launched an investigation into opposition politician Nevaf Bilek for allegedly disseminating terrorist propaganda in an interview he gave to a Kurdish-language television channel.

September 12: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the Etkin news agency (ETHA).

September 13: The anti-terror department of İstanbul police summoned human rights lawyer Eren Keskin for a questioning over a reply to one of her tweets.

September 14: The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK), Turkey's broadcasting regulator, imposed monetary fines and a temporary broadcast ban on the pro-opposition Halk TV channel due to its coverage of the handing over of the remains of a young Kurdish man to his father.

September 15: An Elazığ court sentenced a man named Yusuf Güneş to one year, six months, 22 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda for posting a video of people singing in Kurdish on social media.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 12: Gülser Yıldırım, an imprisoned Kurdish politician, has not been released despite being eligible for parole.

September 12: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the Etkin news agency (ETHA).

September 13: Members of a Kurdish family in Aydın were assaulted by local inhabitants.

September 13: The police in Mersin detained local Kurdish politician Metin İnci. On September 16, İnci was arrested by a court.

September 14: A group of Kurdish workers were assaulted by local inhabitants in Mersin.

September 15: An Elazığ court sentenced a man named Yusuf Güneş to one year, six months, 22 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda for posting a video of people singing in Kurdish on social media.

September 15: The guards in an Ankara prison verbally threatened inmate Murat Bilger for speaking in Kurdish on the phone with his family.

September 16: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP to demand mother tongue education for Kurds, detaining nine people.

September 16: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Yıldız Damla, a member of an association established for solidarity with people who lost relatives in the conflict in the predominantly Kurdish southeast, to six years, three months on terrorism charges. The judgment came after an appeals court overturned the same sentence that was previously handed down to Damla.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 12: Images of a 70-year-old prisoner who was brought to the hospital in handcuffs in Mardin sparked widespread public reaction.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 15: The guards in an Ankara prison verbally threatened inmate Murat Bilger for speaking in Kurdish on the phone with his family.

Issue 118¹¹⁸

19-25 September 2022

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

September 21: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest, briefly detaining 16 people. The demonstration was organized by the Saturday Mothers, a group of activists and

¹¹⁸ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 118 | September 19-25, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/118-EN.pdf>

family members seeking the whereabouts of loved ones who disappeared while in police custody in the 1990s. Some of the group's members are on trial over their participation in earlier protests.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

September 21: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office banned a concert by singer İlkay Akkaya, citing security and public order reasons.

September 25: The police in Diyarbakır detained six people for carrying a flag of the Iraqi Kurdistan in a football stadium during a match.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 19: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Hatice Şahin to six years, three months in prison on conviction of terrorist organization membership due to her coverage of events held by a Kurdish political group.

September 19: The police in Diyarbakır confiscated 100 copies of a Kurdish-language newspaper without a reason.

September 20: A Hatay court sentenced a woman named Feleknaz Aslan to 10 months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda for carrying a shawl in traditional Kurdish colors during Newroz celebrations in 2015.

September 20: The police in Aydın briefly detained musician Kadir Çat over a song he sang at a HDP rally.

September 21: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Kadri Esen to one year, three months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda on social media.

September 23: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Nurcan Yalçın to two years, six months in prison on charges of aiding and abetting a terrorist organization, due to her journalistic work in 2015 and 2016.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 19: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Hatice Şahin to six years, three months in prison on conviction of terrorist organization membership due to her coverage of events held by a Kurdish political group.

September 19: The police in Diyarbakır confiscated 100 copies of a Kurdish-language newspaper without a reason.

September 20: A Hatay court sentenced a woman named Feleknaz Aslan to 10 months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda for carrying a shawl in traditional Kurdish colors during Newroz celebrations in 2015.

September 20: The police in Aydın briefly detained musician Kadir Çat over a song he sang at a HDP rally.

September 21: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Kadri Esen to one year, three months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda on social media.

September 23: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Nurcan Yalçın to two years, six months in prison on charges of aiding and abetting a terrorist organization, due to her journalistic work in 2015 and 2016.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 19: Barış Keve, a prisoner incarcerated in Malatya, reportedly committed suicide after being placed in a one-person cell.

September 25: A Diyarbakır prison denied medical treatment to inmate Mehmet Polat.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 20: The Constitutional Court ruled that the violent detention of Gülsüm Elvan in 2017 was in violation of the prohibition of ill-treatment. The police had broken Elvan's arm while rear-handcuffing her.

September 21: The police in Hakkari mistreated a man named Esat Çakmak who was in custody.

September 21: Media reports indicated that 10 people who were detained by gendarmes in Hakkari were coerced into becoming informants for the state.

September 22: Letters of Mehmet Bozan, an inmate who lost his life in an Ankara prison a month ago, revealed that he was frequently mistreated by prison guards.

Issue 119¹¹⁹

26 September – 2 October 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

September 27: The Mersin Governor's Office banned a concert by Kurdish musician Mem Ararat.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 29: The police in Şırnak detained three people due to their social media posts.

October 2: The police in Van physically assaulted reporter Hakan Yalçın while he was covering a press conference.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 27: A mob in a university campus in Ankara assaulted a group of protesters for chanting slogans in Kurdish.

September 30: Ankara prosecutors indicted Kurdish politician Semra Güzel, seeking up to 15 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 29: Mustafa Murat Ayhan, an inmate held in a one-person cell in a Diyarbakır prison, committed suicide.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 2: The guards in an Erzurum prison mistreated several inmates during visitation.

October 2: The police in Van physically assaulted reporter Hakan Yalçın while he was covering a press conference.

¹¹⁹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 119 | September 26-October 2, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/119-EN.pdf>

Issue 120¹²⁰

3-9 October 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

October 5: The Constitutional Court ruled that Kurdish politician Leyla Güven's re-arrest despite her election to parliament in 2018 violated her right to liberty and security.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

October 3: The police in İstanbul and Diyarbakır intervened in demonstrations organized by the HDP to protest the assassination of a journalist in Iraqi Kurdistan, briefly detaining 36 people.

October 5: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of eight days.

October 9: The police in İstanbul and several provinces across the country intervened in demonstrations held to call for the release of the jailed leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), detaining at least 170 people. Video footage of the police intervention showed HDP MPs Habip Eksik and Sait Dede being battered on the ground. Eksik's leg and nose were broken.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 6: A Mardin court sentenced Kurdish journalist Çetin Kurşun to 13 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

October 6: The police in Şırnak detained a man named Mehmet Şirin Demirtaş over his social media posts.

October 6: An İstanbul court ruled to block access to at least three news reports about gendarmerie colonel Yılmaz Kırgeç's verbal attack targeting a football club from a predominantly Kurdish province.

¹²⁰ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 120 | October 3-9, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/120-EN.pdf>

October 7: The police in Siirt detained Cemil Taşkesen, a man who was previously detained and released for referring to the region as Kurdistan in a video where he was talking to an opposition politician. Taşkesen was released under judicial control on October 9. He faces charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 3: The police in Erzurum detained local HDP executives Muammer Duman, Türkan Sümbül, Yüksel Kişi, Çetin Demir, Remziye Tosun and Emin Tosun. The detainees were released the next day.

October 3: The police in Van detained local Kurdish politician Ökkeş Kava. Kava was released the next day.

October 3: The police in İstanbul and Diyarbakır intervened in demonstrations organized by the HDP to protest the assassination of a journalist in Iraqi Kurdistan, briefly detaining 36 people.

October 4: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former district mayor Belgin Diken to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges. Diken was one of the elected mayors in the predominantly Kurdish southeast who were removed from office by the interior ministry and replaced by government-designated trustees.

October 5: The Constitutional Court ruled that Kurdish politician Leyla Güven's re-arrest despite her election to parliament in 2018 violated her right to liberty and security.

October 6: A Mardin court sentenced Kurdish journalist Çetin Kurşun to 13 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

October 7: The police in Siirt detained Cemil Taşkesen, a man who was previously detained and released for referring to the region as Kurdistan in a video where he was talking to an opposition politician. Taşkesen was released under judicial control on October 9. He faces charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda. October 9: The police in İstanbul several provinces across the country intervened in demonstrations held to call for the release of the jailed leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), detaining more than 130 people. Video footage of the police intervention showed HDP MPs Habip Eksik and Sait Dede being battered on the ground. Eksik's leg and nose were broken.

PRISON CONDITIONS

2022

October 3: Some inmates in a women's prison in Diyarbakır were hospitalized due to food poisoning.

October 7: A prison disciplinary board in Bursa imposed a three-month visitation ban on Abdullah Öcalan, the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 7: The police in Hakkari mistreated two people, one of them a minor, during a house raid.

October 7: The Human Rights Association (İHD) released a report which said that in 2021 a total of 5,488 people in Turkey were subjected to torture and ill treatment in police custody, on the street or in prison.

October 9: The police in Hakkari physically assaulted HDP MPs Habip Eksik and Sait Dede during a demonstration, breaking Eksik's leg and nose.

Issue 121¹²¹

10-16 October 2022

2022

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 10: A Hatay court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency to publish news.

October 13: The police in Konya briefly detained Dilan Babat and Firat Can Arslan, two reporters working for the pro-Kurdish media, who were covering a funeral event.

October 14: An Ankara court sentenced Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş to two-and-a-half years in prison due to his remarks allegedly targeting a prosecutor who had indicted him.

October 14: A Kilis court ruled to block access to two news report and a tweet about a ruling party member who became a public prosecutor despite his criminal record.

¹²¹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 121 | October 10-16, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/121-EN.pdf>

2022

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

October 12: A German newspaper reported that Turkish authorities are refusing to allow more than 120 German citizens, many of whom are Turkish or Kurdish Germans, to leave the country due to their criticism of the Turkish government or their affiliation with some groups not liked by the government.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 10: A Hatay court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency to publish news.

October 12: Reports said that an İstanbul prison was not responding to petitions submitted by jailed HDP MP Semra Güzel and not allowing her to participate in joint activities with other prisoners.

October 12: Jailed Kurdish journalist Ziya Ataman said in a letter that he was held in a one-person cell and that his access to outdoors was limited to 1.5 hours per day.

October 13: The police in Konya briefly detained Dilan Babat and Fırat Can Arslan, two reporters working for the pro-Kurdish media, who were covering a funeral event.

October 14: An Ankara court sentenced Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş to two-and-a-half years in prison due to his remarks allegedly targeting a prosecutor who had indicted him.

October 14: The police in İstanbul briefly detained journalist Meral Danyıldız who was covering the demolition of houses as part of an urban renewal project.

October 17: The police in Diyarbakır confiscated copies of the Kurdish-language Xwebûn newspaper that were being sent to İstanbul.

PRISON CONDITIONS

October 10: An Erzurum prison denied to inmate Abdulkaki Harmancı the nutrients he specifically needs due to a health condition.

October 12: Jailed Kurdish journalist Ziya Ataman said in a letter that he was held in a one-person cell and that his access to outdoors was limited to 1.5 hours per day.

October 13: A women's prison in Diyarbakır imposed disciplinary sanctions on 36 women due to their participation in a joint hunger strike. The sanctions were later annulled by a court.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 10: The police in Hakkari strip-searched and mistreated seven women who were taken into custody for participating in a demonstration.

October 10: Reports revealed that prisoners Abdülkadir Turay, Hamdullah Öz and Yusuf Erat were physically assaulted during their transfer from Mardin to Erzincan.

October 15: The guards in an Elazığ prison physically assaulted two inmates who were involuntarily transferred from Van.

Issue 122¹²²

17-23 October 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

October 18: The authorities released from prison Kurdish politician Gülser Yıldırım four months after she became eligible for parole.

October 21: The Turkish Medical Association (TTB) released a report stating that jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk's state of health has rapidly deteriorated and that proper treatment cannot be provided in prison.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

Provincial governors and other local authorities imposed the following blanket bans on outdoor gatherings:

Date	Governor's Office	Duration
October 19	Muş	15 days
October 19	Diyarbakır	1 day
October 20	Adıyaman	10 days
October 20	Şanlıurfa	3 days
October 20	Gaziantep	7 days
October 20	Tunceli	4 days
October 20	Bitlis	15 days
October 20	Şırnak	2 days
October 20	Bingöl	15 days
October 20	Elazığ	7 days
October 23	Şanlıurfa	15 days

¹²² Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 122 | October 17-23, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/122-EN.pdf>

The blanket bans were mostly issued in predominantly Kurdish cities, in apparent anticipation of potential protests that could be sparked by allegations that Turkey's military used chemical weapons in its fight against the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in northern Iraq.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 20: A Van court sentenced Kurdish musician Şilan Dora to one year, three months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda in a song she sang at a rally. The court suspended the execution of the sentence.

October 20: Ankara prosecutors launched an investigation into prominent human rights advocate Şebnem Korur Fincancı for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda and denigrating the state, over her remarks about allegations that Turkey used chemical weapons in its fight against the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

October 20: İzmir prosecutors launched an investigation into journalist Bahattin Seçilir over a news report about an armed attack that killed a HDP employee last year.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 17: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish politician Leyla Güven to 11 years, seven months, 15 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda.

October 18: The authorities released from prison Kurdish politician Gülser Yıldırım four months after she became eligible for parole.

October 19: The police in Van detained local HDP members Muhittin Üzümcüoğlu, Abdullah İşleyen, Şemsettin Esen and Mürsel Sayiner.

October 20: A Van court sentenced Kurdish musician Şilan Dora to one year, three months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda in a song she sang at a rally. The court suspended the execution of the sentence.

October 20: The police in Gaziantep detained eight people over their participation in a Newroz celebration. The detainees were released the next day.

October 21: The Turkish Medical Association (TTB) released a report stating that jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk's state of health has rapidly deteriorated and that proper treatment cannot be provided in prison.

PRISON CONDITIONS

2022

October 21: A Kocaeli prison denied proper healthcare to cancer patient Ahmet Dizlek.

October 21: The guards in a women's prison in Bayburt confiscated personal items of inmates Delila Roj Erkmen and Neslihan Çetin.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 18: The guards in a women's prison in Diyarbakır physically assaulted inmate Sariye Taşkesen for refusing to undergo a strip-search.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

October 18: Reports on the pro-Kurdish media claimed that Turkey carried out a chemical attack on militants of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), releasing video footage allegedly showing militants exposed to chemical weapons. The Turkish government denied the allegation.

Issue 123¹²³

24-30 October 2022

2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

October 26: The Forensic Medicine Institution issued a report that found jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk unfit to remain in prison. Tuğluk was released on October 27. She suffers from dementia and rights groups have been calling for her release for a long time.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 25: The police in several provinces carried out house raids and detained 12 journalists who work for pro-Kurdish news outlets Mezopotamya and Jinnews. Nine were arrested by a court on October 29 while the others were released under judicial control or to house arrest.

¹²³ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 123 | October 24-30, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/123-EN.pdf>

October 26: The police in İstanbul detained Şebnem Korur Fincancı, the head of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) and a prominent human rights advocate, on allegations of spreading terrorist propaganda after she called for a probe into the military's alleged use of chemical weapons against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in northern Iraq. Fincancı was arrested the next day.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

October 26: The police in İstanbul detained Şebnem Korur Fincancı, the head of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) and a prominent human rights advocate, on allegations of spreading terrorist propaganda after she called for a probe into the military's alleged use of chemical weapons against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in northern Iraq. Fincancı was arrested the next day.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 25: The police in several provinces carried out house raids and detained 12 journalists who work for pro-Kurdish news outlets Mezopotamya and Jinnews. Nine were arrested by a court on October 29 while the others were released under judicial control or to house arrest.

October 25: The police in Ankara rear-handcuffed and verbally mistreated Kurdish journalist Berivan Altan while detaining her. Öznur Değer, another Kurdish journalist detained as part of the same operation, was physically mistreated at the police headquarters.

October 25: The guards in a women's prison in Diyarbakır physically assaulted Kurdish journalist Derya Ren who resisted a strip-search.

October 26: The Forensic Medicine Institution issued a report that found jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk unfit to remain in prison. Tuğluk was released on October 27. She suffers from dementia and rights groups have been calling for her release for a long time.

October 26: The police in Adıyaman detained local HDP executive Hüseyin Uzun on terrorism-related charges. Uzun was arrested by a court the next day.

October 27: The police in Batman detained HDP members Barış Avşar, Muhammet Sevacı and Fikret Soysal on terrorism-related charges.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

2022

October 25: The police in Ankara rear-handcuffed and verbally mistreated Kurdish journalist Berivan Altan while detaining her. Öznur Değer, another Kurdish journalist detained as part of the same operation, was physically mistreated at the police headquarters.

October 25: The guards in a women's prison in Diyarbakır physically assaulted Kurdish journalist Derya Ren who resisted a strip-search.

October 26: Soldiers in Hakkari physically mistreated a 16-year-old minor that they detained in a village. Reports indicated that a local hospital denied the minor a medical report documenting injuries from the incident.

October 27: The police in Batman physically assaulted three people who were taken into custody.

Issue 124¹²⁴

31 October – 6 November 2022

2022

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

November 4: The Constitutional Court found no rights violations in a 2015-2016 curfew in Şırnak where 137 people were killed in counterterrorism operations.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

October 31: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 2: The Şırnak Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 5 days.

November 6: The gendarmes in Şırnak intervened in a protest about the military's alleged use of chemical weapons in northern Iraq, detaining 32 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

¹²⁴ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/124-EN.pdf>

November 2: A Hatay court sentenced a HDP supporter to three years in prison on terrorism charges for live streaming Kurdish songs on social media.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 31: The guards in a women's prison in Ankara strip-searched Kurdish journalists Diren Yurtsever, Berivan Altan, Ceylan Şahinli, Habibe Eren and Öznur Değer.

November 2: A Hatay court sentenced a HDP supporter to three years in prison on terrorism charges for live streaming Kurdish songs on social media.

PRISON CONDITIONS

November 3: Ceylan Şahinli, a jailed Kurdish journalist, was denied healthcare for refusing to undergo treatment in handcuffs.

November 5: Reports revealed that an Ağrı prison has been denying hospital referrals to inmates for nearly a year.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 31: The guards in a women's prison in Ankara strip-searched Kurdish journalists Diren Yurtsever, Berivan Altan, Ceylan Şahinli, Habibe Eren and Öznur Değer.

November 2: Gendarmes in Van mistreated two people during a house raid. One of the victims, a woman, was hospitalized due to the incident.

Issue 125¹²⁵

7-13 November 2022

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

¹²⁵ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 125 | November 7-13, 2022* [Report]. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/125-EN.pdf>

November 10: A court handed down a suspended prison sentence of five months to former HDP MP Sırrı Süreyya Önder for insulting the state, the government and judicial authorities.

November 10: A Diyarbakır prison blocked several names submitted as visitors by jailed journalists Serdar Altan, Mehmet Ali Ertaş, Ömer Çelik, Zeynel Abidin Bulut and Mazlum Güler on the grounds that they were "undesirable."

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

November 13: A lawyer named Jiyan Tosun was targeted by some social media users following a deadly explosion in İstanbul. After receiving death threats, Tosun spent the night in a courthouse in İstanbul because she feared for her safety.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 8: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) faulted Turkey over the pretrial detention of 13 former HDP MPs, ordering the release of two of them who are still in jail.

November 10: A court handed down a suspended prison sentence of five months to former HDP MP Sırrı Süreyya Önder for insulting the state, the government and judicial authorities.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 9: The guards in a Kahramanmaraş prison physically mistreated inmates Ahmet Bilge, Rahim Durukan and Ahmet İsmail.

November 10: A Diyarbakır prison blocked several names submitted as visitors by jailed journalists Serdar Altan, Mehmet Ali Ertaş, Ömer Çelik, Zeynel Abidin Bulut and Mazlum Güler on the grounds that they were "undesirable."

Issue 126¹²⁶

¹²⁶ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 126 | November 14-20, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/126-EN.pdf>

14-20 November 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

Provincial governors and other local authorities imposed the following blanket bans on outdoor gatherings.

Date	Governor's Office	Duration
November 14	Mardin	15 days
November 15	Hakkari	15 days
November 17	Tunceli	5 days
November 20	Elazığ	15 days
November 20	Bingöl	15 days

November 20	Van	9 days
November 20	Şanlıurfa	15 days
November 20	Bitlis	15 days

2022

The blanket bans were mostly issued in predominantly Kurdish provinces, in apparent anticipation of potential protests that could erupt following Turkey's airstrikes in Kurdish-majority areas in Syria and Iraq.

November 20: The police in Tunceli intervened in a protest against Turkey's airstrikes in Iraq and Syria, detaining one person.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 15: A Diyarbakır court sentenced HDP MP Çağlar Demirel to five months in prison on charges of denigrating the state, due to her statements and her attendance in demonstrations.

November 15: An İzmir court ruled to acquit human rights defender Günseli Kaya who was standing trial on terrorism-related charges due to her criticism of curfews imposed on Kurdish-majority provinces in 2016.

November 17: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Beritan Canözer to three years, one month and 15 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda on social media.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

November 15: An İzmir court ruled to acquit human rights defender Günseli Kaya who was standing trial on terrorism-related charges due to her criticism of curfews imposed on Kurdish-majority provinces in 2016.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 15: A Diyarbakır court sentenced HDP MP Çağlar Demirel to five months in prison on charges of denigrating the state, due to her statements and her attendance in demonstrations.

November 15: Diyarbakır prosecutors drafted a new indictment for Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk, demanding up to 15 years in prison on terrorism-related charges. Diagnosed with dementia, Tuğluk was recently released from prison due to her worsening health condition.

November 17: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Beritan Canözer to three years, one month and 15 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda on social media.

PRISON CONDITIONS

November 14: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison confiscated inmates' letters and draft texts.

November 19: Reports revealed that an Ankara prison has been holding inmate Bager Sayak in a one-person cell since October 2021 and was not delivering Kurdish language books and magazines sent to inmates from outside.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 15: Soldiers in Şırnak physically mistreated three shepherds while interrogating them.

Issue 127¹²⁷

21-27 November 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

November 21: The police in İstanbul, Ankara, Van and Diyarbakır intervened in protests held against Turkey's airstrikes in Kurdish-majority areas in Iraq and Syria, detaining 125 people.

November 21: The Diyarbakır Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

November 22: The Şırnak Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

November 24: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 25: The police in İstanbul, Ankara, Ağrı, Erzurum and Şırnak intervened in women's rights demonstrations, detaining 260 people.

November 23: The Batman Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of eight days.

November 25: The Gaziantep Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

November 25: The Kilis Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

November 25: Governors in Osmaniye, Bursa and Tunceli refused to authorize women's rights marches on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

¹²⁷ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 127 | November 21-27, 2022* [Report]. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/127-EN.pdf>

November 21: The police in Van briefly detained reporter Şakir Bedir while he was covering a demonstration against Turkey's airstrikes in Iraq and Syria.

November 24: A regional appeals court in İstanbul upheld the sentences handed down to journalists Mahir Kanaat, Ömer Çelik, Tunca Öğreten, Eray Sargın and Metin Yoksu on terrorism-related charges due to their reporting on hacked emails belonging to former energy minister. The court also overturned the acquittal of journalist Derya Okatan who had stood trial on the same charges.

November 25: Ankara prosecutors indicted human rights defender Şebnem Korur Fincancı, seeking up to seven-and-a-half years in prison on terrorism-related charges due to her remarks calling for an investigation into the Turkish army's alleged use of chemical weapons in northern Iraq.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

November 24: Van prosecutors decided not to prosecute police officers accused of physically assaulting an individual in August 2022.

November 26: Prosecutors declined to pursue the case of Garibe Gezer, an inmate who was reportedly beaten and sexually harassed by prison guards and found dead in her cell in December 2021, despite video footage clearly showing Gezer's mistreatment.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 26: The police in Şırnak briefly detained nine people, including local HDP executive Sedat Soysal.

November 27: The police in Mardin detained six people, including local politician İsmail Asi. The detainees were released the next day.

PRISON CONDITIONS

November 23: Reports revealed that a Diyarbakır prison was holding inmate Seda Baykan in a one-person cell.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 22: Gendarmes in Şanlıurfa mistreated three minors who were detained for allegedly taking down a flag from a schoolyard flagpole.

November 23: The guards in an Elazığ prison mistreated inmate Güneş Akan.

November 24: Van prosecutors decided not to prosecute police officers accused of physically assaulting an individual in August 2022.

Issue 128¹²⁸

28 November – 4 December 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

November 28: The police in Manisa detained 10 people as part of an investigation into a Newroz demonstration.

November 29: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 1: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 28: The police in Manisa detained seven people, including local HDP executives, due to slogans shouted at Newroz celebrations and social media messages.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 28: The police in Manisa detained 17 people, including local HDP executives, due to slogans shouted at Newroz celebrations and social media messages.

November 29: The police in 14 provinces detained 19 people, including HDP executives.

November 30: The authorities interrupted the hospital visit of inmate İhsan Uğur after he spoke to someone in Kurdish at the hospital. Uğur was taken back to prison without completing his examination.

2022

¹²⁸ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 128* [Report].

<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/128-EN.pdf>

December 1: The authorities mistreated 18 Kurdish political activists who were detained six provinces. One of them, Figen Ekti, was physically assaulted at the Ankara police headquarters.

PRISON CONDITIONS

November 30: The authorities interrupted the hospital visit of inmate İhsan Uğur after he spoke to someone in Kurdish at the hospital. Uğur was taken back to prison without completing his examination.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 28: A law firm announced that their client Gülten Matur was tortured in a military zone after being detained by the police in İstanbul.

December 1: The authorities mistreated 18 Kurdish political activists who were detained six provinces. One of them, Figen Ekti, was physically assaulted at the Ankara police headquarters.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

December 2: Sweden extradited Mahmut Tat, a man who was sentenced to imprisonment in Turkey for alleged membership in the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Tat was arrested upon his arrival in Turkey. His asylum application was rejected in Sweden in 2015. The development came amid Turkey's pressure on the Nordic country for the extradition of a number of people sought on terrorism-related charges in return for Ankara's approval of Sweden's NATO membership.

2022

Issue 129¹²⁹

5-11 December 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

¹²⁹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 129 | December 5-11, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/129-EN.pdf>

December 10: Tahir Gürdal, a sick inmate who was handcuffed to his hospital bed for 19 days, lost his life only two weeks after the execution of his sentence was suspended.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

December 11: The police in Diyarbakır intervened in a demonstration march about the imprisoned leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), detaining two people.

December 11: The Diyarbakır Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a day.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 6: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit journalist Hayri Tunç who was standing trial due to his social media posts.

December 8: Ankara prosecutors indicted 11 former HDP executives on charges of insulting the Turkish nation for referring to the Armenian Genocide in a statement last year.

December 8: An Ankara court ruled to acquit Fatih Kanar, an executive of the Human Rights Association (İHD) who was standing trial on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 7: Deputy parliamentary speaker Haydar Akar turned off the microphone of HDP MP İmam Taşçier for giving his speech in Kurdish.

December 7: The Supreme Court of Appeals (Yargıtay) declined to uphold a prison sentence of nine years, four months and 15 days handed down by a lower court to Kurdish politician Selçuk Mızraklı, stating that the terrorism-related charges against him had not been sufficiently investigated. Yet, the appeals court rejected Mızraklı's request for release from prison.

December 8: Ankara prosecutors indicted 11 former HDP executives on charges of insulting the Turkish nation for referring to the Armenian Genocide in a statement last year.

December 8: A national railway company officer in İzmir was reassigned to a post in eastern Turkey after his superior told the police he possessed a book authored by jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş.

December 9: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former HDP executive Ramazan Dengiz to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

PRISON CONDITIONS

December 9: Sick inmate Emre Abalak lost his life in a Şırnak prison. The prison administration announced the cause of death as falling down in the bathroom.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

December 6: The guards in an İstanbul prison strip searched inmate Güneş Akan as she was being taken to court for a hearing. The prison authorities also reportedly censored Akan's letter where she told about the incident and prevented her from sending a fax to the Human Rights Association (İHD).

Issue 130¹³⁰

12-18 December 2022

2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

December 12: The police in Van intervened in a demonstration staged to protest the detention conditions of the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), briefly detaining 48 people.

December 13: The Şırnak Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 7 days.

December 15: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 17: The Küçükçekmece district governor's office in İstanbul banned a concert organized by a pro Kurdish association. The police intervened in a protest staged against the ban, briefly detaining 26 people.

¹³⁰ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 130 | December 12-18, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/130-EN.pdf>

December 17: The police in Diyarbakır detained Kurdish activists Jiyan Timurtaş and Şerzan Kılıçarslan due to an event about the flag of Kurdistan.

December 18: The police in İzmir intervened in a protest against the prison conditions of jailed PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan, detaining 42 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 14: The police in Bitlis detained journalist Sinan Aygül on charges of inciting hatred and hostility due to his reporting on a child abuse incident in the province.

December 16: İzmir prosecutors indicted Eren Keskin, an executive of the Human Rights Association (İHD), due to her social media posts.

December 16: The police in Ankara detained documentary filmmaker and journalist Sibel Tekin on terrorism charges. The next day, Tekin was arrested by an Ankara court.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 13: An Adıyaman court sentenced Kurdish politician Mehmet Varol to six years, 10 months and 15 days in prison on terrorism-related charges.

December 14: The police in Mersin detained nine people, including HDP executives, on terrorism-related charges.

December 17: The police in Diyarbakır detained Kurdish activists Jiyan Timurtaş and Şerzan Kılıçarslan due to an event about the flag of Kurdistan.

December 17: The Küçükçekmece district governor's office in İstanbul banned a concert organized by a pro Kurdish association.

December 18: A plainclothes police officer in İstanbul slapped Kurdish politician Ferhat Encü during a scuffle at a protest.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

December 17: The police in Diyarbakır mistreated Suphi Orhan and Muhsin Acar during house raids.

December 18: A plainclothes police officer in İstanbul slapped Kurdish politician Ferhat Encü during a scuffle at a protest.

Issue 131¹³¹

19-25 December 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

December 19: The Muş Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 13 days.

December 23: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration against the detention of Kurdish politicians, detaining one activist.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 21: An Ankara court handed down a suspended prison sentence of two years, nine months and 22 days to Kurdish journalist Hayri Demir on terrorism-related charges.

December 21: The police in Tunceli detained a man named Gökhan Karakuş for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda on social media. Karakuş was arrested by a court on December 23.

December 23: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to at least three news reports on corruption allegations implicating Rifat Ural, the government-appointed trustee who replaced the elected Diyarbakır mayor.

December 24: An Ankara court blocked access to five tweets and a news reports on torture allegations against Abdulkadir Türkyılmaz, a police officer working at the counterterrorism branch of the Ankara police department.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 19: A Hakkari court sentenced Kurdish politicians Dilek Hatipoğlu and Nurullah Çiftçi to 11 years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges. Hatipoğlu and Çiftçi were retried after their earlier sentence was overturned by the Constitutional Court on the grounds that their right to a fair trial was violated.

¹³¹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 131 | December 19-25, 2022*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/131-EN.pdf>

December 21: An Ankara court handed down a suspended prison sentence of two years, nine months and 22 days to Kurdish journalist Hayri Demir on terrorism-related charges.

December 23: The police in nine provinces detained 14 people, including Kurdish politicians from the Democratic Regions Party (DBP).

December 23: The police in İstanbul detained six members and executives of the HDP.

December 23: The police in Muş detained four members of the HDP.

December 25: The Interior Ministry banned HDP MP Zeynel Özen from travelling abroad.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

December 22: Turkish authorities decided to deport Hossein Manbari and Shugar Mohammadi, two Iranian Kurds who reportedly face execution in Iran for having taken part in protests against the government several years ago.

2023

Issue 132¹³²

26 December 2022 – 1 January 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

December 26: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration staged outside the French consulate to protest an armed attack on a Kurdish association in Paris, briefly detaining 14 people.

December 29: The authorities in Van imposed monetary fines on at least 25 people for attending a women's rights march in November 2022.

December 30: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 30: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 27: A Hatay court ruled to block access to the Twitter account of the Etkin news agency (ETHA).

December 28: A Van court handed down suspended prison sentences of 10 months to HDP executives Fikret Doğan, Dilgeş Aslan and Cengiz Acar on charges of inciting hatred and enmity among the public. The court also imposed a monetary fine on Yaver Kumli as part of the same trial. The local politicians were on trial for hanging a banner on a party building about a racist attack against a Kurdish family in Konya.

¹³² Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 132. *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/132-EN.pdf>

2025

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

December 27: Ankara prosecutors launched an investigation into leading human rights defender Şebnem Korur Fincancı on terrorism-related charges. Fincancı is already in pretrial detention and on trial for spreading terrorist propaganda due to her remarks calling for an investigation into allegations that Turkey's military used chemical weapons in northern Iraq.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 27: A court ruled to arrest Kurdish politicians Keskin Bayındır and Hayrettin Altun who were detained last week as part of an investigation into the Democratic Regions' Party (DBP). The other detainees taken into custody as part of the operation were released under judicial control.

December 29: An İstanbul court sentenced nine members and executives of the HDP on terrorism related charges while acquitting one who was on the same trial.

December 29: An Ankara prison rejected visitation applications of several people who were planning to visit nine jailed Kurdish journalists. The rejection was reportedly based on background checks conducted on the visitors by the provincial gendarmerie command.

PRISON CONDITIONS

December 28: A Diyarbakır prison did not deliver a book that was sent to jailed journalist Ramazan Geciken by his family.

December 29: An Ankara prison rejected visitation applications of several people who were planning to visit nine jailed Kurdish journalists. The rejection was reportedly based on background checks conducted on the visitors by the provincial gendarmerie command.

Issue 133¹³³

2-8 January 2023

¹³³ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/133-EN.pdf>

2025

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

January 3: The Kars Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

January 4: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 5: The police in Muş intervened in a funeral event, detaining 31 people.

January 6: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 5: The police in Muş physically assaulted HDP executive Sedat Düşünmez whom they intercepted at a checkpoint as he was on his way to a demonstration.

January 5: The Constitutional Court suspended funding for the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) over its alleged ties to terrorism. The party also faces dissolution as the country's next parliamentary elections draw closer.

PRISON CONDITIONS

January 3: A Diyarbakır prison refused to dispatch petitions that inmate Seda Baykan wrote to the Justice Ministry as well as the parliamentary human rights committee about the rights violations that she was subjected to.

January 6: A women's prison in Diyarbakır denied video calls to inmates.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 2: In a video that went viral on social media, special operations police in Diyarbakır were seen mistreating a man on the street. The authorities announced that two officers were under investigation about the incident.

January 3: The guards in an Antalya prison strip searched inmate Dilan Yürüklü.

January 5: The police in Muş physically assaulted HDP executive Sedat Düşünmez whom they intercepted at a checkpoint as he was on his way to a demonstration.

January 5: Special operations police in Mardin mistreated two people, one of them a minor.

Issue 134¹³⁴

9-15 January 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

January 13: Tunceli prosecutors indicted 19 people who were detained for participating in Newroz celebrations in the province.

January 13: The police in Van intervened in a folk celebration organized in a university campus, briefly detaining seven people.

January 13: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban has been held in effect in the province since January 2022.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 9: The Dicle Fırat Journalists Association (DFG) released a report which said that one Turkish journalist was killed and 65 others were physically assaulted in 2022. The report also noted that 39 journalists were sent to jail throughout the year.

January 10: The police in Istanbul detained journalist Sezgin Kartal. On January 13, Kartal was arrested by a court on terrorism-related charges.

January 11: A court sentenced human rights defender Şebnem Korur Fincancı to two years, eight months and 15 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda in remarks where she urged an investigation into allegations that the Turkish military had used chemical weapons in northern Iraq. The court also ruled to release Fincancı from prison.

January 11: German prosecutors in Darmstadt rejected a Turkish court's request for judicial assistance in the trial of singer Ferhat Tunç, on the grounds that it would violate his right to freedom of expression. Tunç is on trial for insulting the Turkish president due to his social media posts in 2018.

¹³⁴ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 134 | January 9-15, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/134-EN.pdf>

January 12: An appellate court in Diyarbakır upheld the conviction of photojournalist Abdurrahman Gök, who stood trial on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda for taking pictures of a university student being shot to death by the police in 2017.

January 13: An Aydın court ruled to acquit musician Kadir Çat, who stood trial on terrorism-related charges over a song that he sang at a HDP rally.

January 14: The police in Van summoned journalist Oktay Candemir for a questioning as part of an investigation launched into him due to his news reporting.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

January 13: Airport police in Istanbul prevented HDP MP Kemal Bülbul from travelling abroad, citing an administrative measure against him.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 9: An Ankara prison imposed disciplinary sanctions on inmates Rojdan Eraz and Ayşe Yağcı, suspending their visitation rights for a month for chanting Kurdish-language slogans about women's rights.

January 13: Airport police in Istanbul prevented HDP MP Kemal Bülbul from travelling abroad, citing an administrative measure against him.

January 13: Tunceli prosecutors indicted 19 people who were detained for participating in Newroz celebrations in the province.

January 13: The police in Izmir intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, briefly detaining two party executives.

January 13: An Aydın court ruled to acquit musician Kadir Çat, who stood trial on terrorism-related charges over a song that he sang at a HDP rally.

PRISON CONDITIONS

January 9: An Ankara prison imposed disciplinary sanctions on inmates Rojdan Eraz and Ayşe Yağcı, suspending their visitation rights for a month for chanting Kurdish-language slogans about women's rights.

January 12: A Bursa prison imposed disciplinary sanctions on inmates Abdullah Ocalan, Omer Hayri Konar, Veysi Aktaş and Hamili Yıldırım, suspending their visitation rights for three months.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

2025

January 9: Kurdish singer Hozan Canê gave an interview in which she recounted the mistreatment she faced during her imprisonment in Turkey. She also revealed the mistreatment of jailed members of the Gülen movement, which she had witnessed during the same time.

January 12: The guards in an Elazığ prison physically assaulted inmate Mahsum Sarp, breaking his teeth.

Issue 135¹³⁵

16-22 January 2023

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

January 17: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit police of icer Yakup Şenocak who shot Kurdish university student Kemal Kurkut to death during Newroz celebrations in 2017.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 19: The police in Bitlis briefly detained journalist Sinan Aygöl due his reporting of a news story.

January 19: A Tunceli court banned the publication and sale of two books of author Murat Kahraman.

January 19: An Istanbul court ruled to acquit journalist Nişmiye Güler who stood trial on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda on social media.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

January 17: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit police of icer Yakup Şenocak who shot Kurdish university student Kemal Kurkut to death during Newroz celebrations in 2017.

KURDISH MINORITY

¹³⁵ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 135 | January 16-22, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/135-EN.pdf>

January 17: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit police officer Yakup Şenocak who shot Kurdish university student Kemal Kurkut to death during Newroz celebrations in 2017.

January 18: A Diyarbakır prison imposed a disciplinary sanction on inmate Ihsan Uğur for speaking in Kurdish during a hospital visit, suspending his sportive and social activities for a month.

January 18: Gençlerbirliği, an Ankara-based football club, terminated its contract with footballer Rodin Cem Deprem a day after it was concluded, reportedly after finding out that the Swedish club where he previously played was founded by the Kurdish diaspora in Sweden.

January 19: A Diyarbakır court sentenced HDP executive Bahar Karakaş Uluğ to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges. Uluğ was previously expelled from a local city council by the Interior Ministry.

PRISON CONDITIONS

January 16: An Ağrı prison denied hospital referrals to inmates who refused to undergo mouth searches.

January 18: A Diyarbakır prison imposed a disciplinary sanction on inmate Ihsan Uğur for speaking in Kurdish during a hospital visit, suspending his sportive and social activities for a month.

January 21: An Ağrı prison restricted inmates' access to books. Prosecutors in the province reportedly did not respond to inmates' petitions. The prison administration also did not provide sick inmate Abidin İnci his medication at the required frequency of once a month.

January 22: A Van prison reportedly obstructed sick inmate Gıyasettin Sevmiş's treatment.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 21: Media reports revealed that a Diyarbakır prison imposed on inmate Derya Ren a disciplinary sanction of three days in solitary confinement due to her resistance to a strip-search.

January 22: The guards in an Elazığ prison physically assaulted 15 inmates.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

January 16: The German Foreign Ministry announced that it had summoned the Turkish ambassador to issue a warning after ruling party MP Mustafa Açıkgöz was seen engaging in hate speech in a video that widely circulated on social media. In the video, Açıkgöz called for the “destruction” of the supporters of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) as well as the members of the Gülen movement.

Issue 136¹³⁶

23-29 January 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

January 27: The Çanakkale Governor’s Office banned a concert organized by the HDP.

January 28: Governorates of Hakkari, Siirt and Mardin issued 15-day-long bans on all outdoor gatherings.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 23: The police in Kocaeli detained Kurdish musicians Gencay Malkoç and Yusuf Keleş on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, due to songs they sang during an event organized by the HDP.

January 26: A Zonguldak court ruled to block access to a domain used by the pro-Kurdish Jinnews website to publish news.

January 28: The police in Istanbul detained Kurdish journalist Rojin Altay.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

January 28: Ağrı prosecutors dismissed a complaint filed by an inmate named Zülküf Kaya who was reportedly mistreated by prison guards.

KURDISH MINORITY

¹³⁶ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 136 | January 23-29, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/136-EN.pdf>

January 23: The police in Kocaeli detained Kurdish musicians Gencay Malkoç and Yusuf Keleş on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, due to songs they sang during an event organized by the HDP.

January 24: Former HDP executive Mehmet Sayit Demir was reportedly pushed back by Greek forces after leaving Turkey, and was subsequently arrested and sent to jail for violating parole.

January 26: A Hakkari court sentenced former mayor Cihan Karaman to 10 years, six months in prison on terrorism charges. Karaman was one of the mayors elected from the ranks of the HDP and subsequently removed from office by the Interior Ministry.

January 26: A Zonguldak court ruled to block access to a domain used by the pro-Kurdish Jinnews website to publish news.

January 27: A Mersin prosecutor demanded up to 15 years in prison for Osman Şiban, a Kurdish villager who in September 2020 was allegedly tortured by a group of soldiers and who is accused of membership in the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

January 27: The Çanakkale Governor's Office banned a concert organized by the HDP.

January 28: The police in Istanbul detained Kurdish journalist Rojin Altay.

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PRISON CONDITIONS

January 27: Reports indicated that security cameras were installed in the wards and bathrooms of a women's prison in Diyarbakır and that sick inmates were not provided with meals compatible with their medically prescribed diets. The same prison facility also denied inmates' request for a Kurdish-language newspaper, restricted their right to have books with them and limited their social and collective activities.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 27: Inmates in a women's prison in Diyarbakır are reportedly strip-searched during their transfer to courts and hospitals. Their relatives who came to visit are also subjected to strip-searches. Reports also indicated that those who objected to the practice faced visitation bans as disciplinary sanction.

January 27: A Mersin prosecutor demanded up to 15 years in prison for Osman Şiban, a Kurdish villager who in September 2020 was allegedly tortured by a group of soldiers and who is accused of membership in the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Issue 137¹³⁷

30 January – 5 February 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

February 3: The Mardin Governor's Office banned a concert by musician Azad Bedran, citing a blanket ban on outdoor events it previously issued.

February 4: Governorates of Van and Şırnak issued blanket bans on all outdoor gatherings for four days and 10 days respectively.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 31: Bitlis prosecutors indicted journalist Sinan Aygün on charges of disinformation over his reporting on an alleged child abuse case in the province. Reports highlighted that Aygün became the first person in Turkey to be indicted under a controversial law which criminalizes the dissemination of "false or misleading information" and stipulates prison sentences of up to three years for those who are found guilty of it.

January 31: Istanbul prosecutors indicted journalist Sezgin Kartal on terrorism-related charges. Kartal was arrested on January 13.

February 2: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit reporter Ramazan Akoğul, who stood trial due to his work for the Dicle news agency (DIHA).

February 2: An appeals court in İzmir overturned a prison sentence previously handed down to Mezopotamya news agency reporter Ahmet Kanbal. The court ruled to acquit Kanbal, who stood trial due to a complaint filed against him by a high-ranking military officer.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

¹³⁷ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 137 | January 30-February 5, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/137-EN.pdf>

February 4: Bingöl prosecutors declined to investigate a complaint filed by a person named Sonuç Gürdeğer who claimed to be tortured while in police custody in August 2021.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 2: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit reporter Ramazan Akoğul, who stood trial due to his work for the Dicle news agency (DIHA).

February 2: An appeals court in İzmir overturned a prison sentence previously handed down to Mezopotamya news agency reporter Ahmet Kanbal. The court ruled to acquit Kanbal, who stood trial due to a complaint filed against him by a high-ranking military officer.

February 3: A Mardin court sentenced district mayors Nilüfer Elik Yılmaz and Gülistan Oncü to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

February 3: A Mardin court sentenced former district mayor Ahmet İnci and local Kurdish politician Mehmet Kılıç to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges due to their attendance in a political event.

February 3: The police in Van detained seven people, including local Kurdish politicians.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 3: Revealed video footage showed a police officer in Mardin physically assaulting a person on the street. The local governor's office announced that an investigation was launched into the incident.

February 3: The guards in an Elazığ prison physically mistreated and injured inmate Deniz Şah.

February 4: Bingöl prosecutors declined to investigate a complaint filed by a person named Sonuç Gürdeğer who claimed to be tortured while in police custody in August 2021.

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Issue 138¹³⁸

6-12 February 2023

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 8: The police in Şanlıurfa detained journalists Mahmut Altıntaş and Sema Çağlak for taking pictures of a collapsed building in the aftermath of the earthquake.

February 8: The police in Diyarbakır detained reporter Mehmet Güleş along with a person that he was interviewing. Güleş was released on probation the next day. He faces charges of disseminating misleading information.

February 8: The police in Van summoned journalist Oktay Candemir for a questioning after local prosecutors launched an investigation into him for allegedly insulting a local government agency on social media.

February 9: The authorities obstructed several members of the press who were reporting from areas hit by the earthquakes. Gendarmes in Hatay prevented reporter Fırat Fıstık from shooting videos. The police in Malatya physically assaulted reporter Ferit Demir who was covering news.

February 11: The police in Diyarbakır detained one person who protested the justice minister's visit to the province.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 6: The police in İzmir detained five people, including HDP executives and Jinnews reporter Nazlıcan Yıldız.

February 7: Local governors in several predominantly Kurdish provinces obstructed disaster relief efforts initiated by the HDP and confiscated vehicles carrying humanitarian aid.

PRISON CONDITIONS

February 11: A Şanlıurfa prison restricted visitations due to the earthquakes.

¹³⁸ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 138 | February 6-12, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/138-EN.pdf>

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 9: The police in Malatya physically assaulted reporter Ferit Demir who was covering news.

February 12: The police in Adıyaman physically assaulted five people who were assigned by a district governor's office in Diyarbakır to assist in disaster relief efforts in the province and who were detained by gendarmes on suspicion.

Issue 139¹³⁹

13-19 February 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

February 13: The governorates of Mardin, Hakkari and Siirt issued blanket bans on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

February 14: The police in Istanbul briefly detained NGO executive Mazlum Ortaç on charges of fomenting enmity and hatred among the public.

February 15: The police in Hakkari detained three people due to their social media posts.

February 17: Diyarbakır prosecutors launched an investigation into journalist Mir Ali Koçer on charges of spreading misinformation on social media. The journalist was summoned by the police for a questioning.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 16: Local authorities continued to obstruct earthquake relief efforts initiated by the HDP in predominantly Kurdish provinces and to seize humanitarian aid. On February 17, the party announced that the authorities had confiscated 1500 tents, eight trucks, 30 containers and 120 generators.

PRISON CONDITIONS

¹³⁹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 139 | February 13-19, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/139-EN.pdf>

February 17: A mouse was detected in the meals offered to inmates in a Diyarbakır prison. One inmate was briefly hospitalized.

Issue 140¹⁴⁰

20-26 February 2023

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

February 24: A Van court ruled to acquit two soldiers who shot dead a villager named Ibrahim Baykara on the grounds that they were acting in "self-defense."

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

February 23: The Constitutional Court ruled in favor of Saturday Mothers, a group of activists seeking the whereabouts of loved ones disappeared in police custody in the 1980s whose protest vigil in August 2018 was violently dispersed by the police.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 21: The police in Gaziantep detained Umut Polat, a socialist activist who was in the province to assist search and rescue efforts after the earthquakes, on charges of insulting the president. Polat was arrested by a court the next day.

February 21: Gaziantep prosecutors launched an investigation into NGO executive Mehmet Türkmen on charges of spreading misinformation. Türkmen was summoned by the police for a questioning.

February 22: A Hakkari court ruled to arrest Osman Arslan, a 76-year-old man, on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda.

February 24: A court handed down suspended sentences to six executives of the Chamber of Architects of Turkey, including its chairperson Tezcan Karakuş, on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda, due to an award granted to JIN TV, a women's TV station that broadcasts in Kurdish.

¹⁴⁰ *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 140 | February 20-26, 2023. (2023). [Report].*

<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/140-EN.pdf>

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JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

February 20: An Istanbul prosecutor demanded prison sentences of up to 15 years for four lawyers who previously represented Abdullah Ocalan, the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), on terrorism-related charges.

February 24: A Van court ruled to acquit two soldiers who shot dead a villager named Ibrahim Baykara on the grounds that they were acting in "self-defense."

KURDISH MINORITY

February 23: The gendarmes in Mardin detained former HDP executive Şiyar Koç. Koç was released the next day.

February 24: A court handed down suspended sentences to six executives of the Chamber of Architects of Turkey, including its chairperson Tezcan Karakuş, on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda, due to an award granted to JIN TV, a women's TV station that broadcasts in Kurdish.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 21: The guards in a Gaziantep prison physically assaulted and injured six inmates on the grounds that they showed "disrespect."

February 23: Ahmet Bugur, a man who was detained for arguing with an imam in Ağrı, lost his life in police custody.

Issue 141¹⁴¹

27 February-5 March 2023

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 28: A Bitlis court handed down a suspended prison sentence of 10 months to journalist Sinan Aygöl on charges of spreading "disinformation," due to his reporting on allegations of child abuse. Aygöl became the first member of the press in Turkey to be

¹⁴¹ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/141-EN.pdf>

convicted under a controversial law that criminalizes the dissemination of "false or misleading information."

February 28: The police in Elazığ detained academic Ovgün Ahmet Ercan on charges of fomenting hatred and enmity among the public, due to his social media posts about the earthquakes. Ercan was released under judicial control and with a travel ban the next day.

February 28: A Zonguldak court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA), citing national security and public order reasons.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 5: The squad and fans of Amedspor, a football club from the predominantly Kurdish province of Diyarbakır, were subjected to a number of racist attacks during an away game in Bursa.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 1: The police in Tunceli mistreated a man named Erkan Gü I during a house raid.

March 4: The Şanlıurfa Bar Association announced that two people (Mehmet Samur and Adle Samur) who were detained on March 2 were mistreated in police custody.

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Issue 142¹⁴²

6-12 March 2023

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

March 8: Azad Aktaş, a man living in Diyarbakır, was briefly abducted by plainclothes police officers and coerced into becoming an informant for the authorities.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 7: The police in Şanlıurfa briefly detained eight people protesting an incident of anti-Kurdish racism in a football game.

¹⁴² <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/142-EN.pdf>

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 7: Konya prosecutors indicted Kurdish journalists Dilan Babat and Firat Can Arslan on terrorism-related charges for covering the funeral of a colleague who was killed in Iraq.

March 9: The police in Istanbul briefly detained Germany based Kurdish musician Ali Baran on terrorism-charges upon his arrival at the airport. Baran was released with a travel ban.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 7: Konya prosecutors indicted Kurdish journalists Dilan Babat and Firat Can Arslan on terrorism-related charges for covering the funeral of a colleague who was killed in Iraq.

March 9: The Constitutional Court removed a freeze on state funds allocated to the pro-Kurdish HDP. The court had imposed the freeze in January on the grounds that the party has links to terrorism.

March 11: Former HDP MP Ibrahim Binici was detained and arrested in Ankara after his terrorism-related prison sentence of two years, six months was upheld by appeals courts.

PRISON CONDITIONS

March 8: The authorities charged inmate Ahmet Kaya an exorbitant amount of money for a needed surgery. Kaya's ribs were broken as a result of an incident of mistreatment in a Van prison.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 9: The guards in a Şanlıurfa prison strip-searched two elderly people (Mehmet Samur and Adle Samur) who were arrested.

March 9: The guards in a Gaziantep prison strip-searched Umut Polat, a socialist activist who was detained and arrested while assisting in disaster relief efforts after the earthquakes.

March 10: An Erzincan prison arbitrarily restricted the rights of political prisoners and refused to dispatch their letters to an MP complaining of the mistreatment they suffered.

Issue 143¹⁴³

13-19 March 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 13: The police in Izmir briefly detained 13 people, including members and executives of the HDP, due to their attendance in an event held at a party building.

March 19: The police in Istanbul, Mardin and Izmir intervened in Newroz celebrations, detaining 272 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 13: An administrative court in Ankara ruled for the reinstatement of five academics who were previously dismissed from their positions after signing a declaration criticizing the government's handling of the Kurdish conflict.

March 14: The police in Istanbul briefly detained Ferhat Çelik, an executive of the pro-Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency.

March 16: The police in Ankara detained Kurdish journalist Hamdullah Bayram, who is facing terrorism related charges. Bayram was later arrested by a court.

March 16: The police in Van detained nine people, including politicians and NGO executives, on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda.

March 17: The police in Şanlıurfa detained journalist Gülistan Dursun who was following a protest vigil.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 13: The police in Izmir briefly detained 13 people, including members and executives of the HDP, due to their attendance in an event held at a party building.

March 14: The police in Istanbul briefly detained Ferhat Çelik, an executive of the pro-Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency.

¹⁴³ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 143 | March 13-19, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/143-EN.pdf>

March 19: The police in Istanbul, Mardin and Izmir intervened in Newroz celebrations, detaining 272 people.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 16: An Ağrı prison imposed restrictions on the phone call rights of jailed religious community leader Alparslan Kuytul on the grounds that "he was the only one who spoke" during his phone calls. Kuytul was imprisoned following his outspoken criticism of the government.

Issue 144¹⁴⁴

20-26 March 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 20: The police in Kocaeli briefly detained two people following their attendance in a Newroz celebration.

March 21: The police in Diyarbakır detained 160 people who gathered to celebrate the Newroz.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 20: Istanbul prosecutors launched an investigation into journalist Mehmet Ali Erdoğan due to a news report which contained a reference to "Kurdistan." Erdoğan was summoned by the police for a questioning as part of the investigation.

March 23: Reports indicated that in the last month courts in blocked access to six websites used by pro-Kurdish or leftist news outlets.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 20: The police in Bursa briefly detained local HDP executive Mehmet Dilek.

¹⁴⁴ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 144 | March 20-26, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/144-EN.pdf>

March 20: The police in Kocaeli briefly detained two people following their attendance in a Newroz celebration.

March 21: The police in Diyarbakır detained 160 people who gathered to celebrate the Newroz.

March 22: The Diyarbakır Bar Association filed a criminal complaint against police officers who allegedly tortured a 14-year-old Kurdish boy during Newroz celebrations in the province.

March 22: The police in İzmir detained seven people, including HDP executive İdil Üçümlü.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 22: The Diyarbakır Bar Association filed a criminal complaint against police officers who allegedly tortured a 14-year-old Kurdish boy during Newroz celebrations in the province. Five of officers were suspended from their duties in connection with the incident.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

March 21: Turkey-backed fighters in northern Syria reportedly shot at a family of Kurds celebrating Newroz, killing at least four people.

2025

Issue 145¹⁴⁵

27 March – 2 April 2023

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

March 28: An Erzurum prison denied parole to journalist Abdulkadir Turay who was arrested in 2016 on terrorism related charges, postponing Turay's release for three months.

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

¹⁴⁵ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 145 | March 27-April 2, 2023*. [Report]. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/145-EN.pdf>

April 1: Zeki Oğuz, a Kurdish businessman, was reportedly abducted in İstanbul. His lawyer announced that they were told by a ruling party MP that Oğuz was held by the state.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 29: Gendarmes in Şanlıurfa intervened in a protest against plans to install solar panels in a rural area, detaining nine protesters.

March 31: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 10 days.

April 2: The Muş Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of five days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 28: An Erzincan prison denied parole to journalist Abdulkadir Turay who was arrested in 2016 on terrorism related charges, postponing Turay's release for three months.

March 29: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted a group of Kurdish journalists who were detained in June 2022 on terrorism charges. The indictment came 10 months after the journalists' detention.

March 30: Van prosecutors launched an investigation into journalist Ruşen Takva due to his social media posts about a political party that joined the ruling coalition. Takva was summoned by the police for a questioning.

March 31: The police in İzmir detained 11 people on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda due to slogans chanted during Newroz celebrations.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 27: The police in Şanlıurfa detained 25 local Kurdish politicians, including members of the HDP.

March 29: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted a group of Kurdish journalists who were detained in June 2022 on terrorism charges. The indictment came 10 months after the journalists' detention.

2025

March 30: Reports claimed that President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan telephoned some members of the Constitutional Court earlier in March to account for their decision to remove a freeze on state funds allocated to the HDP.

March 30: The police in Antalya briefly detained 10 people as part of an investigation into a Newroz celebration held in the province.

March 30: An İzmir court ruled to acquit local HDP executive Murat Tufan who was arrested on February 2023.

March 31: The police in İzmir detained 11 people on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda due to slogans chanted during Newroz celebrations.

April 1: Gendarmes in Diyarbakır shot dead Mikail Ekinci, a 28-year-old murder suspect. Ekinci was reportedly killed while trying to escape arrest.

PRISON CONDITIONS

March 30: A Malatya prison has reportedly been offering insufficient meals to inmates.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 29: The police in Diyarbakır physically assaulted a man named Şehmus Demir in a courthouse.

March 29: Gendarmes in Şanlıurfa mistreated nine people who were detained during a protest.

Issue 146¹⁴⁶

3-9 April 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

April 3: The Şırnak Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of two days.

¹⁴⁶ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/146-EN.pdf>

April 4: Gendarmes in Şanlıurfa intervened in the opening ceremony of the Green Left Party's (YSP) local branch, detaining seven people. Green Left Party is pro-Kurdish party, formerly known as HDP.

April 5: An Istanbul court ruled to acquit former HDP MPs Levent Tüzel and Sebahat Tuncel who stood trial due to a demonstration they attended.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA) to publish news.

April 7: Diyarbakır prosecutors launched an investigation into reporter Cengiz Ozbasar for reporting on a local energy distribution company. Ozbasar was summoned by the police for a questioning as part of the investigation.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 3: Three Kurdish construction workers were physically assaulted in Muğla for speaking in Kurdish among themselves. The victims were injured as a result.

April 3: A racist mob in Bursa physically assaulted a vehicle due to its license plate indicating the province of Diyarbakır.

April 6: HDP MP Remziye Tosun claimed in a parliamentary inquiry that three prisoners incarcerated in İzmir were placed in solitary confinement for writing books in Kurdish.

April 6: A Bursa court sentenced local HDP executive Ceylan Erol Erdoğan to one year, six months in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda.

April 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA) to publish news.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 6: HDP MP Remziye Tosun claimed in a parliamentary inquiry that three prisoners incarcerated in İzmir were placed in solitary confinement for writing books in Kurdish.

April 6: A prison administration in Diyarbakır confiscated a letter written by inmate Neşe Toprak on the occasion of the International Women's Day on the grounds that the letter was "objectionable."

April 8: The police in Van strip-searched a 17-year-old girl who was taken into custody.

Issue 147¹⁴⁷

10-16 April 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

April 11: Gendarmes in Şanlıurfa intervened in a protest against plans to build a solar power plant, detaining three people.

April 14: The police in Hakkari briefly detained 15 people due to their attendance in a demonstration.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 14: The police in Antalya briefly detained Kurdish journalist Dilan Akyol on terrorism-related charges.

April 14: An Ankara court issued an injunction on a fine and broadcasting ban imposed on the Halk TV channel for promoting a book written by jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş.

April 15: The police in Istanbul briefly detained human rights defender Eren Keskin due to her social media posts.

April 15: Mardin prosecutors launched an investigation into Kurdish journalist Ahmet Kanbal due to news reports he published. Kanbal was summoned by the police for a questioning as part of the investigation.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 11: A Mersin court handed down a terrorism-related prison sentence of seven-and-a-half years to Kurdish villager Osman Şiban who was allegedly dumped off a military helicopter and beaten by security forces in 2020.

April 11: The police in Tekirdağ briefly detained 10 people due to the slogans they chanted and the scarves that they carried during Newroz celebrations in March.

¹⁴⁷ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 147 | April 10-16, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/147-EN.pdf>

April 13: The police in Antalya detained four people due to the slogans they chanted during the Newroz celebrations in March.

April 14: The police in Antalya briefly detained Kurdish journalist Dilan Akyol on terrorism-related charges.

April 14: An Ankara court issued an injunction on a fine and broadcasting ban imposed on the Halk TV channel for promoting a book written by jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş.

April 15: Mardin prosecutors launched an investigation into Kurdish journalist Ahmet Kanbal due to news reports he published. Kanbal was summoned by the police for a questioning as part of the investigation.

PRISON CONDITIONS

April 13: An Ağrı prison restricted visitation rights for political prisoners and denied them video calls. Reports also revealed that the prison was providing low quality meals and restricting access to hot water. Prison officials confiscated inmates' books and written drafts.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 10: The police in Osmaniye physically assaulted a person named Ganivar Eye over a discussion.

April 11: The police in Şırnak physically mistreated a man named Faruk Iverendi during a house raid.

April 11: A Mersin court handed down a terrorism-related prison sentence of seven-and-a-half years to Kurdish villager Osman Şiban who was allegedly dumped off a military helicopter and beaten by security forces in 2020.

April 14: Reports revealed that an Ağrı prison is keeping political prisoner Alpaslan Kuytul in a one-person cell and depriving him of social and sportive contact with other inmates. The leader of a religious group, Kuytul was imprisoned following his outspoken criticism of the government.

Issue 148¹⁴⁸

17-23 April 2023

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 18: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Ismail Çoban to one year, six months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda.

April 18: An Elazığ court sentenced journalist Mehmet Güleş to one year, nine months, 25 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda on social media.

April 20: The authorities blocked access to the YouTube account of a Kurdish businessman who has recently been making allegations about the ruling party.

April 22: The police in Van briefly detained Kurdish journalist Gülşen Konuk over news reports and social media posts.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 18: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Ismail Çoban to one year, six months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda.

April 18: The police in Şırnak detained former district co mayor Berivan Kutlu. Kutlu was released the next day.

April 19: A court sentenced Kurdish politician Ayşe Gökkan to three years, nine months in prison on terrorism related charges.

April 22: The police in Van briefly detained Kurdish journalist Gülşen Konuk over news reports and social media posts.

April 23: A racist mob in Antalya attacked a passenger bus to a predominantly Kurdish province, injuring three people.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

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¹⁴⁸ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 148 | April 17-23, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/148-EN.pdf>

April 18: Mardin prosecutors dismissed a complaint against police officers who physically assaulted a person during Newroz celebrations on the grounds that the officers involved in the incident were not identified.

Issue 149¹⁴⁹

24-30 April 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

April 25: The police in Istanbul intervened in Green Left Party (YSP) election events, detaining at least 22 people. YSP (Green Left Party) is the pro-Kurdish party, also known as HDP.

April 25: The police in Diyarbakır intervened in a protest about the widespread detention of Kurdish politicians and activists, detaining two people.

April 27: The police in Muş detained 10 people after their attendance in a Green Left Party (YSP) rally.

April 28: The police in Diyarbakır detained five opposition party members and executives who were carrying out an election campaign event.

April 30: The police in Istanbul detained 13 people after their attendance at a Green Left Party (YSP) rally.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 27: The police detained journalists Beritan Canözer, Mehmetşah Oruç, Abdurrahman Gök and Mikail Bulut as part of a Diyarbakır-based investigation into the Kurdish political movement. The operation, carried out across several provinces, led to the detention of at least 141 people including lawyers, activists and politicians.

April 29: The police in Diyarbakır detained journalists Sedat Yılmaz and Dicle Müftüoğlu as part of an investigation into Kurdish political movements.

¹⁴⁹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 149 | April 24-30, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/149-EN.pdf>

April 30: The police detained journalist Nadiye Namoğlu Gürbüz as part of an operation against Kurdish political movements.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 27: The police in 21 provinces detained at least 141 people, including activists, lawyers, politicians and journalists, as part of a Diyarbakır-based investigation into the Kurdish political movement.

April 27: The police detained Kurdish parliamentary candidate Ayten Dönmez on terrorism-related charges. The detention came after Dönmez was verbally targeted by Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu.

April 29: The police in 15 provinces carried out house raids to detained 17 people as part of an investigation into Kurdish political movements.

April 30: A man named Ali Kaya was injured while beet picking in Hakkari due to a land mine explosion. Reports indicated that security forces put up warning signs about the mine field after the incident.

April 30: The police in eight provinces carried out house raids to detain 23 people, including parliamentary candidates from and journalists, as part of an investigation into Kurdish political movements.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 29: The police in Diyarbakır physically assaulted journalist Sedat Yılmaz who was in custody.

April 30: The police in Istanbul sprayed tear gas into the eyes of HDP MP Züleyha Gülüm during an intervention in an election rally.

Issue 150¹⁵⁰

1-7 May 2023

¹⁵⁰ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 150 | May 1-7, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/150-EN.pdf>

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FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

May 2: The police in Edirne intervened in an election event organized by the Green Left Party (YSP), detaining seven party members.

May 4: The police in Istanbul intervened in a demonstration staged to protest the murder of a Kurdish street musician, detaining two people.

May 4: The police in Adana intervened in an election event held by the Green Left Party (YSP), detaining 14 people. The detainees were released the next day.

May 4: The police in Istanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the Green Left Party (YSP), detaining 15 people.

May 7: The police in Istanbul detained four people following their attendance at a rally, for wearing bracelets colored yellow, red and green – colors associated with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 3: An Ankara court ruled to arrest journalists Dicle Müftüoğlu, Sedat Yılmaz, Erol Balcı, Abdurrahim Tanyeli and Ramazan Debe who were detained last week as part of widespread detentions against pro-Kurdish political networks.

May 3: The police in Şırnak detained seven people, including a 15-year-old minor, on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda.

May 4: A Bitlis court sentenced Kurdish journalist Sinan Aygöl to four months, 15 days in prison over his reporting on the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay) in 2020.

May 5: A Van court sentenced journalists Ferhat Çelik and Idris Yayla to one year, three months in prison for reporting on allegations that two Kurdish villagers were tortured by soldiers in the province in 2021.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

May 5: Media reports indicated that four lawyers were among those who were detained as part of the large-scale investigations carried out against pro-Kurdish political networks.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 2: The police in Istanbul detained 32 people as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political networks.

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May 3: An Ankara court ruled to arrest journalists Dicle Müftüoğlu, Sedat Yılmaz, Erol Balcı, Abdurrahim Tanyeli and Ramazan Debe who were detained last week as part of widespread detentions against pro-Kurdish political networks.

May 4: Cihan Aymaz, a Kurdish street musician, was stabbed to death in Istanbul after he refused to sing a nationalist song.

May 4: A Bitlis court sentenced Kurdish journalist Sinan Aygü I to four months, 15 days in prison over his reporting on the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay) in 2020.

May 5: A Van court sentenced journalists Ferhat Çelik and Idris Yayla to one year, three months in prison for reporting on allegations that two Kurdish villagers were tortured by soldiers in the province in 2021.

May 5: Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu said in an interview that the practice of removing elected mayors from office in predominantly Kurdish provinces and replacing them with pro-government trustees was carried out upon instructions from President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

May 7: The police in Istanbul detained four people following their attendance at a rally, for wearing bracelets colored yellow, red and green – colors associated with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

May 4: The police in Istanbul physically mistreated Aydın Koçuk and Mehmet İkto who were detained during a demonstration to protest the murder of a Kurdish street musician. The victims were reportedly injured as a result of the violence.

Issue 151¹⁵¹

8-14 May 2023

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

¹⁵¹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 151 | May 8-14, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/151-EN.pdf>

May 8: A spokesperson for the HDP announced that 295 people were detained and 61 were arrested as part of several investigations launched into Kurdish political networks over the course of a month.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 8: A spokesperson for the HDP announced that 295 people were detained and 61 were arrested as part of several investigations launched into Kurdish political networks over the course of a month.

May 9: Imprisoned Kurdish politician Ayşe Gökkan iled a criminal complaint against law enforcement of icials involved in her transfer from a Diyarbakır prison to Ankara prison in March, alleging mistreatment.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

May 9: Imprisoned Kurdish politician Ayşe Gökkan iled a criminal complaint against law enforcement of icials involved in her transfer from a Diyarbakır prison to Ankara prison in March, alleging mistreatment.

May 11: The police in Diyarbakır physically assaulted a man named Şeyhmus Eşen who they intercepted in traf ic.

May 14: The police in Mardin physically assaulted two people on the street.

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Issue 152¹⁵²

15-21 May 2023

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 18: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to three news reports covering allegations that a religious extremist was hired by the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay).

KURDISH MINORITY

¹⁵² Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 152 | May 15-21, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/152-EN.pdf>

May 17: The police in Batman physically mistreated local HDP executive Yakup Orak on the street.

May 18: The police in Istanbul physically mistreated local HDP executive Yavuz Kahraman and Green Left Party (YSP) executive Cemal Korkmaz.

May 21: The police in Istanbul detained four young Kurdish men for publicly playing music and doing traditional dance. The detainees were seen forced to lie on the ground in handcuffs.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

May 17: The police in Batman physically mistreated local HDP executive Yakup Orak on the street.

May 21: The police in Istanbul detained four young Kurdish men for publicly playing music and doing traditional dance. The detainees were seen forced to lie on the ground in handcuffs.

May 21: The police in Şanlıurfa physically mistreated an individual named Ceylan Demir.

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Issue 153¹⁵³

22-28 May 2023

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

May 23: The police detained 65 people across the country as part of investigations into Kurdish political networks. On May 25, the police detained 32 more.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

May 22: The police in five provinces detained 17 people, including executives of the HDP, as part of an Ankara-based investigation into Newroz celebrations.

¹⁵³ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 153 | May 22-28, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/153-EN-1.pdf>

May 23: The police in five provinces detained 24 people as part of an investigation into a Kurdish NGO for solidarity with the families of political prisoners.

May 24: The police in Izmir detained 11 people on terrorism-related charges due to their attendance in a Green Left Party (YSP, aka former HDP) election event.

May 24: The police in Mardin detained four people, including members of the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions of Turkey (DISK), on terrorism-related charges.

May 26: The police in Ağrı briefly detained 35 people due to their attendance in a demonstration in 2014.

May 26: An Istanbul court sentenced HDP executive Koray Türkay to pay a fine due to a demonstration.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 23: Prosecutors indicted former HDP MP Selma Irmak on charges of insulting the president in remarks on a TV program in 2015, seeking up to eight years in prison.

May 24: The police detained Kurdish journalist Ferhat Çelik.

May 25: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to three news reports covering allegations that a number of election observers were not provided with necessary documentation.

May 26: The police in Bingöl detained six people on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda on social media.

May 28: The police in Batman detained at least 20 people for doing victory sign to ruling party supporters who were celebrating the election results.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 22: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish politician Gülşen Ozer to 15 years in prison on two separate terrorism-related charges.

May 22: The police in five provinces detained 19 people, including executives of the HDP, as part of an Ankara-based investigation into Newroz celebrations.

May 23: The police detained 65 people across the country as part of investigations into Kurdish political networks. On May 25, the police detained 32 more.

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May 23: Prosecutors indicted former HDP MP Selma Irmak on charges of insulting the president in remarks on a TV program in 2015, seeking up to eight years in prison.

May 23: Airport police in Diyarbakır detained Kurdish musician Şêrko Kanîwar upon his arrival from Germany. Kanîwar was released the next day.

May 24: The police in Mardin detained 11 people as part of an investigation into the HDP's youth network.

May 24: The police in Manisa carried out house raids to detain local Kurdish politicians Gülsüm Tozan, Ayşe Karagöz and Kardelen Çetin. The detainees were released on May 26.

May 24: The police in İzmir detained 11 people on terrorism-related charges due to their attendance in a Green Left Party (YSP) election event.

May 24: The police in Gaziantep detained four people, including local Kurdish politicians.

May 24: The police detained Kurdish journalist Ferhat Çelik.

May 26: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish politician Feridun Çelik to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

May 26: A Van court sentenced Kurdish politician Rojbin Çetin to 10 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

May 28: Ruling party supporters who gathered outside the presidential palace for the president's election victory speech shouted slogans demanding the execution of jailed Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtaş.

May 28: A HDP district office was vandalized by unidentified individuals who wrote racist slogans on the walls.

PRISON CONDITIONS

May 23: Kamil Turanoğlu, an inmate incarcerated in Elazığ, lost his life at the hospital after suffering a heart attack behind bars.

Issue 154¹⁵⁴

29 May -4 June 2023

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 1: An Izmir court ruled to acquit human rights activist Eren Keskin who stood trial due to her social media commentary about an armed attack targeting the HDP.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 30: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Fethi Gümüş, the former chair of the Diyarbakır bar association, to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges due to his alleged involvement in pro-Kurdish political networks.

May 31: Zeynel Bulut, a Kurdish journalist imprisoned on terrorism-related charges, was forced to speak in Turkish by soldiers during his hospital visit.

June 1: The police in Izmir detained six members of the HDP's youth network.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

May 29: The police in Hakkari physically mistreated eight people during house raids.

May 31: Zeynel Bulut, a Kurdish journalist imprisoned on terrorism-related charges, was forced to speak in Turkish by soldiers during his hospital visit.

June 3: The guards in a Mersin prison strip-searched Azat Taş, a mentally handicapped man who was arrested as part of an investigation into a Kurdish NGO.

Issue 155¹⁵⁵

5-11 June 2023

¹⁵⁴ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 154 | May 29-June 4, 2023* [Report]. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/154-EN-1.pdf>

¹⁵⁵ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 155 | June 5-11, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/155-EN.pdf>

2025

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

June 5: A prison administration in Ankara has reportedly been denying parole to several political prisoners on arbitrary grounds such as "reading too many books," "consuming too much water," "meeting with the prison imam," "not expressing regret for alleged crimes," or "attending the open university while in prison." The practice concerned inmates convicted due to their involvement in the Gülen movement or Kurdish political organizations.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

June 6: A Batman court ruled to acquit jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş of charges related to his attendance in a Newroz event in 2016.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 7: The police in Ankara detained Kurdish journalist Fırat Can Arslan on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda. Arslan was released on June 10.

June 8: A Şanlıurfa court sentenced activist Emine Şenyaşar to pay a monetary fine on charges of insulting ruling party member Ibrahim Halil Yıldız. Şenyaşar is known for her protests to seek justice for family members who were killed by Yıldız and his bodyguards.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

June 6: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that Turkey violated the rights of imprisoned Kurdish politicians Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ by failing to respect the confidentiality of their meetings with their lawyers.

KURDISH MINORITY

June 5: A Şanlıurfa court ruled to acquit local Kurdish politician Vahit Akgün who stood trial due to his involvement in pro-Kurdish political networks.

June 6: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that Turkey violated the rights of imprisoned Kurdish politicians Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ by failing to respect the confidentiality of their meetings with their lawyers.

June 7: The police in Ankara detained Kurdish journalist Fırat Can Arslan on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda. Arslan was released on June 10.

June 7: A real estate agency in Antalya annulled the tenancy agreement of two Kurdish university students after the police called their bureau and threatened.

June 8: A military vehicle in Hakkari fatally struck Erdem Aşkan, a five-year-old child. Such armored vehicle collisions are a frequent problem in the predominantly Kurdish provinces with more than 20 children losing their lives over the past 10 years.

June 8: The police in Izmir detained Dilan Karakoç, a member of the HDP's youth network.

June 10: The police in Ağrı detained Müşerref Geçer and Emrah Kılıç, the co-mayors of a district in the province, as well as a municipal employee.

PRISON CONDITIONS

June 9: A Diyarbakır prison denied hospitalization to Fırat Nebioğlu, an inmate suffering from kidney failure, despite the availability of a donor.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 6: The police in Diyarbakır physically assaulted a 16 year-old minor who was in custody.

June 8: A prison doctor in Erzurum reportedly refused to refer sick inmate Serhat Karsu to the hospital and verbally assaulted him with the words "I am not sending you anywhere. If you will die, you will die here."

June 9: The police in Şırnak mistreated a person during a house raid.

June 11: The police in Diyarbakır physically mistreated a man named Ali Çetinkaya who was taken into custody.

Issue 156¹⁵⁶

12-18 June 2023

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

¹⁵⁶ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 156 | June 12-18, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/156-EN.pdf>

June 12: Kurdish musician Dildar Didêrî announced that he was briefly abducted in Diyarbakır by individuals who introduced themselves as police officers and taken to a remote location in a vehicle without a license plate. Didêrî said he was left on the side of a road four hours later.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

June 12: The police in Muş detained 18 people over their attendance in the funeral of a man who died in an armed attack against a Kurdish cultural center in Paris. On June 15, the police intervened in a demonstration held to protest the detentions, briefly detaining four others.

June 13: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 16: A district governor's office in Istanbul banned a cultural event organized by a Kurdish NGO.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 12: An Ankara court ruled to acquit Kurdish journalist Ceylan Şahinli who stood trial on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda over her attendance in events.

June 13: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) faulted Turkey in the case of former MP Osman Baydemir who was disciplined for referring to "Kurdistan" during a parliamentary session. The ECtHR ruled that the parliament's disciplinary sanction was in violation of freedom of expression.

June 14: A Van court handed down a suspended prison sentence of more than four months to journalist Idris Yılmaz for "intentional injury" over his attempt to defend himself when he was assaulted by a contractor while reporting on a construction project.

June 16: An Adana court sentenced Kurdish musician Ilyas Arzu to six years, three months in prison on terrorism related charges due to music lessons he gave. Musician Jiyan Savcı who also stood trial in the same case was acquitted.

June 16: Sa iye Alagaş, one of the Kurdish journalists who were arrested in June 2022, was released under judicial control after the first hearing of her trial.

June 17: Journalist Sinan Aygöl announced that he was physically assaulted by the security team of Mehmet Emin Geylani, the ruling party mayor of a district in the province of Bitlis. The incident occurred after Aygöl reported on alleged municipal irregularities

implicating Geylani. Aygü I said the attackers also verbally threatened him, saying "If you write about the mayor again, you'll die."

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

June 14: The police in Diyarbakır detained lawyer Süleyman Şahin at the instruction of local prosecutors. Şahin was released under judicial control two days later.

June 15: An Ankara court ruled to acquit Aslı Saraç, a former executive of the Human Rights Association (IHD) who stood trial on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda due to her social media posts.

KURDISH MINORITY

June 12: Kurdish musician Dildar Didêrî announced that he was briefly abducted in Diyarbakır by individuals who introduced themselves as police officers and taken to a remote location in a vehicle without a license plate. Didêrî said he was left on the side of a road four hours later.

June 12: The police in Şırnak detained 12 people, including local HDP executives.

June 12: The police in Muş detained 18 people over their attendance in the funeral of a man who died in an armed attack against a Kurdish cultural center in Paris.

June 12: An Ankara court ruled to acquit Kurdish journalist Ceylan Şahinli who stood trial on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda over her attendance in events.

June 13: The police in Bitlis detained local Kurdish politicians Berivan Birlik and Mahmut Arıkbağ.

June 13: The police in Ankara detained HDP executive Doğan Erbaş on account of an upheld prison sentence of 14 years, nine months and 22 days handed down to him on terrorism-related charges.

June 13: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) faulted Turkey in the case of former MP Osman Baydemir who was disciplined for referring to "Kurdistan" during a parliamentary session. The ECtHR ruled that the parliament's disciplinary sanction was in violation of freedom of expression.

June 14: The police in Tekirdağ detained five people, including local Kurdish politicians, on terrorism-related charges. The detainees were arrested by a court two days later.

June 15: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit Kurdish politician Mehmet Şirin Tunç who stood trial as part of an investigation into the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), an umbrella organization for several pro-Kurdish political networks.

June 16: An Adana court sentenced Kurdish musician Ilyas Arzu to six years, three months in prison on terrorism related charges due to music lessons he gave. Musician Jiyan Savcı who also stood trial in the same case was acquitted.

June 16: The police in Tunceli detained former HDP executive Hıdır Çiçek.

June 16: The police in Istanbul raided a district office of the HDP, confiscating printed materials.

June 16: A district governor's office in Istanbul banned a cultural event organized by a Kurdish NGO.

June 16: Safiye Alagaş, one of the Kurdish journalists who were arrested in June 2022, was released under judicial control after the first hearing of her trial.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 12: The guards in an İğdır prison mistreated inmates and threatened lawyers who visited to meet with their clients.

June 14: An Erzurum prison restricted the communication privileges of sick inmate Sinan Karaer for 16 months on account of disciplinary investigations against him.

Issue 157¹⁵⁷

19-25 June 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

June 19: A district governor's office in Bitlis banned a Kurdish-language theater play without a justification. June 21: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

¹⁵⁷ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 157 | June 19-25, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/157-EN.pdf>

June 22: A Batman court ruled to acquit 25 people who stood trial over their attendance in a protest against the removal of elected Kurdish mayors from office.

June 23: An Istanbul court sentenced eight people, including a former HDP MP, to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges due to their attendance in protests and events, while acquitting nine others who were tried in the same case.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 21: A Bursa court sentenced musician Cafer Alp to one year, eight months in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, due to songs he sang at a HDP event in 2017.

June 23: Imprisoned journalist Sezgin Kartal was released from pre-trial detention under judicial control. Arrested in January 2023, Kartal faces terrorism-related charges due to a photo allegedly depicting him with a member of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

KURDISH MINORITY

June 19: A district governor's office in Bitlis banned a Kurdish-language theater play without a justification.

June 20: The guards in a women's prison in Ankara verbally assaulted inmates for speaking in Kurdish among themselves, saying "If you are going to live in Turkey you will speak in Turkish."

June 20: The guards in a Tekirdağ prison physically assaulted jailed HDP executive Seyithan Kirmızı.

June 21: A Bursa court sentenced musician Cafer Alp to one year, eight months in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, due to songs he sang at a HDP event in 2017.

June 21: A racist mob in Trabzon physically assaulted Kurdish construction workers, causing injury to six people and leaving two of them in critical condition.

June 21: Media reports indicated that a prison administration in Izmir was imposing visitation bans on inmates for speaking in Kurdish.

June 22: A Batman court ruled to acquit 25 people who stood trial over their attendance in a protest against the removal of elected Kurdish mayors from office.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 19: A prison administration in Şanlıurfa destroyed petitions where inmates reported rights violations they suffered behind bars.

June 20: The guards in a women's prison in Ankara verbally assaulted inmates for speaking in Kurdish among themselves, saying "If you are going to live in Turkey you will speak in Turkish."

June 20: The guards in a Tekirdağ prison physically assaulted jailed HDP executive Seyithan Kırmızı.

June 21: Media reports indicated that a prison administration in İzmir was regularly subjecting inmates' visitors to strip-searches, imposing visitation bans on inmates for speaking in Kurdish, restricting the communication privileges of inmates and failing to deliver print materials sent to inmates by their families.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

June 20: Turkish airstrikes in northern Syria reportedly killed local Kurdish politicians Yusra Derwêş and Lîman Şiwêş as well as another civilian.

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Issue 158¹⁵⁸

26 June -2 July 2023

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 26: The police in Istanbul detained journalist Merdan Yanardağ due to his televised remarks criticizing the "isolation" imposed on the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party's (PKK) jailed leader Abdullah Ocalan. Charged with disseminating terrorist propaganda, Yanardağ was arrested by a court the next day.

June 27: The police in Şanlıurfa detained local journalist Mehmet Yetim for sharing a video of an elderly man sexually harassing a two-year-old girl. Yetim was released the same day.

¹⁵⁸ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/158-EN.pdf>

PRISON CONDITIONS

July 1: A prison administration in Diyarbakır did not respond to a request for a kidney transplant for sick inmate Fırat Nebioğlu, despite the availability of an organ donor.

Issue 159¹⁵⁹

3-9 July 2023

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

July 7: The authorities did not allow jailed Kurdish politician Doğan Erbaş to attend his mother's funeral.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

July 6: A Van court handed down a suspended prison sentence of eight months to a man named Bedir Yamaç who was detained during a demonstration in 2018, while acquitting 14 others who stood trial in the same case.

July 7: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 9: The police in Şanlıurfa intervened in a protest against power outages, detaining 20 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 4: An Ankara court handed down a suspended prison sentence of 10 months to poet Ahmet Telli on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda due to his participation in a press statement in 2017.

July 4: The police in Diyarbakır detained journalist Kadir Bayram.

July 4: Van prosecutors launched an investigation into local journalist Sıddık Güler on disinformation charges due to his reporting on an alleged incident of physical violence

¹⁵⁹ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/159-EN.pdf>

in an government building in the province. Güler was summoned by the police for a questioning as part of the investigation.

July 5: A secret witness testifying in the trial of 11 Kurdish journalists admitted that they worked for the Kurdish media outlets on behalf of the authorities. In politically motivated prosecution of government critics, Turkish courts regularly rely on secret witness testimonies as evidence of the defendants' purported links to terrorism.

July 6: The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTUK), the broadcasting regulator, imposed a monetary fine and a seven-day broadcasting ban on the TELE1 TV station for remarks of journalist Merdan Yanardağ on the air. Yanardağ himself was previously arrested due to his comments about the isolation imposed on Abdullah Ocalan, the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

July 5: A secret witness testifying in the trial of 11 Kurdish journalists admitted that they worked for the Kurdish media outlets on behalf of the authorities. In politically motivated prosecution of government critics, Turkish courts regularly rely on secret witness testimonies as evidence of the defendants' purported links to terrorism.

July 5: An Istanbul court ruled to acquit eight lawyers who stood trial on terrorism-related charges over their meetings with Abdullah Ocalan, the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

KURDISH MINORITY

July 7: The authorities did not allow jailed Kurdish politician Doğan Erbaş to attend his mother's funeral.

July 7: A prison administration in Ankara did not deliver Kurdish-language books that were sent to inmate Ozan Alpkaya on the grounds that they were not able to review the books that are not in Turkish. The prison administration said that the inmate must request a translator and pay for the fees.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 9: The police in Adana physically assaulted Green Left Party (YSP) MP Perihan Koca during an intervention in a pride event.

Issue 160¹⁶⁰

10-16 July 2023

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

July 14: A man named Mazlum Çelik announced that he was briefly abducted in Şanlıurfa by three people who took him to a remote location where he was interrogated under torture and coerced into becoming an informant for the authorities.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

July 12: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 15: Gendarmes in Şanlıurfa intervened in a demonstration about power outages, detaining 20 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 12: A Diyarbakır court ruled to release pending trial 15 Kurdish journalists who were arrested in June 2022 on terrorism-related charges.

July 13: An Elazığ court ruled to block access to 225 tweets, 165 news articles, 24 Facebook posts, three Reddit posts, two YouTube videos, two Instagram posts and one forum page on allegations that Gıyas Güven, a senior official of a government agency, deceived women with promises of job opportunities to engage in sexual relations with them.

July 14: Istanbul prosecutors indicted journalist Merdan Yanardağ who was arrested on June 27 over televised remarks about the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), demanding up to 10 years, six months in prison.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 10: A prison administration in Antalya restricted inmates' social privileges.

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¹⁶⁰ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 160 | July 10-16, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/160-EN.pdf>

July 11: The police in Balıkesir detained four members and executives of the HDP. Two of the detainees were arrested by a court on July 13 while the other two were released under judicial control.

July 12: A Diyarbakır court ruled to release pending trial 15 Kurdish journalists who were arrested in June 2022 on terrorism-related charges.

July 13: Video footage circulating on a social media platform showed a group of soldiers engaged in violent behavior toward four shepherds in Diyarbakır.

July 14: The police in Mersin detained 11 people as part of an investigation into Newroz celebrations held in the province.

PRISON CONDITIONS

July 15: A women's prison in Istanbul denied medical care to sick inmate Şivekar Ataş.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 10: Rangers in Diyarbakır physically assaulted three shepherds.

July 12: The police in Kars physically assaulted local journalist Serkan Çağlar over a parking dispute.

July 13: Video footage circulating on a social media platform showed a group of soldiers engaged in violent behavior toward four shepherds in Diyarbakır.

July 14: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison confiscated the letters, diaries and notebooks of jailed journalists Abdurrahman Gök and Mehmet Şah Oruç.

Issue 161¹⁶¹

17-23 July 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

¹⁶¹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 161 | July 17-23, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/161-EN.pdf>

July 22: The police in Istanbul and Tunceli intervened in demonstrations about those who disappeared in police custody in the 1990s, briefly detaining a total of 30 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 17: The police in Diyarbakır detained three distributors of the Kurdish-language Azadî newspaper. The detainees were released the next day.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 17: The police in Diyarbakır detained three distributors of the Kurdish-language Azadî newspaper. The detainees were released the next day.

Issue 162¹⁶²

24-30 July 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

July 24: The Istanbul Governor's Office banned a march aimed at drawing attention to the suppression of the Kurdish language and Kurds' longstanding demand for access to education in their mother tongue.

July 28: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a day.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 25: The police across the country detained journalists Delal Akyüz, Firat Can Arslan, Sibel Yüklér, Evrim Kepenek, and Evrim Deniz on charges of "targeting a public official involved in the fight against terrorism," due to their social media posts about a judge-prosecutor couple who were involved in the investigation and prosecution of Kurdish journalists. Arslan was arrested after appearing in court the same day while the other four were released on judicial probation.

¹⁶² Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 162 | July 24-30, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/162-EN.pdf>

July 28: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a news report about the replacement of a judge and her prosecutor husband that led to the detention of five journalists on July 25.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 24: The Istanbul Governor's Office banned a march aimed at drawing attention to the suppression of the Kurdish language and Kurds' longstanding demand for access to education in their mother tongue.

July 25: The police across the country detained journalists Delal Akyüz, Fırat Can Arslan, Sibel Yüklér, Evrim Kepenek, and Evrim Deniz on charges of "targeting a public official involved in the fight against terrorism," due to their social media posts about a judge-prosecutor couple who were involved in the investigation and prosecution of Kurdish journalists. Arslan was arrested after appearing in court the same day while the other four were released on judicial probation.

July 25: A Şanlıurfa court acquitted former district co mayor Hatice Çevik of terrorism-related charges. Elected from the ranks of the HDP, Çevik was one of the dozens of Kurdish mayors who was summarily removed from office by the Interior Ministry.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 25: Soldiers in Hakkari physically mistreated four people grazing their sheep in a rural area.

Issue 163¹⁶³

31 July – 6 August 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

¹⁶³ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 163 | July 31-August 6, 2023* [Report]. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/163-EN.pdf>

August 1: The Tunceli Governor's Office banned three concerts that were planned as part of a local cultural festival. Several band members were detained after the announcement of the ban.

August 1: An Istanbul court ruled that a ban on a 2021 cultural event organized by a Kurdish NGO was unlawful

August 2: Gendarmes in Mardin and Şanlıurfa intervened in protests against a local electricity supplier, detaining a total of seven people.

August 5: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of two days.

KURDISH MINORITY

August 1: An Istanbul court ruled that a ban on a 2021 cultural event organized by a Kurdish NGO was unlawful.

August 2: A women's prison in Ağrı sent several inmates to one-person cells as a disciplinary punishment for singing in Kurdish and performing a folk dance.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

August 1: Burhan Barut, an inmate incarcerated in Antalya, went on a hunger strike alleging that he was subjected to severe torture including being hogtied. August 2: A women's prison in Ağrı sent several inmates to one-person cells as a disciplinary punishment for singing in Kurdish and performing a folk dance.

Issue 164¹⁶⁴

7-13 August 2023

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

¹⁶⁴ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 164 | August 7-13, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/164-EN.pdf>

August 13: Pro-Kurdish media reported that an Ankara prison has not released 14 female inmates who are eligible for parole, citing as grounds their alleged lack of remorse.

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

August 8: Two inmates in an Elazığ prison stabbed eight political prisoners arrested or convicted on charges of affiliation with the Gulen movement or the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The assailants reportedly identified themselves as "men of the deep state." One of the victims was severely injured as a result of the assault. The incident drew widespread public outcry as it took place in a high-security prison and was perceived as possibly deliberate negligence threatening the safety of political prisoners.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

August 8: The Tunceli Governor's Office banned a concert that was planned to be held in the province.

August 11: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for two days.

August 12: The police in Gaziantep briefly detained labor union leader Mehmet Turkmen Şireci over a protest march against low wages.

August 12: The police in Muş briefly detained 20 people who joined a campaign event organized by the HDP.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

August 10: Bitlis prosecutors indicted jailed Kurdish journalist Mehmet Şah Oruç on terrorism-related charges.

August 11: The family members of Kurdish journalist Ruken Tuncel suffered racist assault and harassment near their home in Istanbul.

KURDISH MINORITY

August 10: Bitlis prosecutors indicted jailed Kurdish journalist Mehmet Şah Oruç on terrorism-related charges.

August 11: The family members of Kurdish journalist Ruken Tuncel suffered racist assault and harassment near their home in Istanbul.

August 11: The Mersin police detained 11 people for spreading terrorist propaganda during Newroz celebrations.

August 12: The police in Muş briefly detained 20 people who joined a campaign event organized by the HDP.

August 13: Pro-Kurdish media reported that an Ankara prison has not released 14 female inmates who are eligible for parole, citing as grounds their alleged lack of remorse.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

August 8: Two inmates in an Elazığ prison stabbed eight political prisoners arrested or convicted on charges of affiliation with the Gulen movement or the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The assailants reportedly identified themselves as "men of the deep state." One of the victims was severely injured as a result of the assault. The incident drew widespread public outcry as it took place in a high-security prison and was perceived as possibly deliberate negligence threatening the safety of political prisoners.

August 12: Soldiers in Bitlis tortured a villager named Kerem Arvas who was detained during a military operation.

Issue 165¹⁶⁵

14-20 August 2023

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ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

August 22: Emel Çiftçi, a Kurdish musician who is undergoing treatment for cancer was arrested on terror related charges in southeastern Turkey despite medical reports confirming her condition.

August 23: Prison Administration and Observation Board postponed the release of Mehmet Hüseyin Öz, a prisoner in Gaziantep H Type Prison, for 6 months on the grounds of "high potential to reoffend".

¹⁶⁵ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 166*.

<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/166-EN.pdf>

August 25: Human Rights Association (IHD) Diyarbakır Branch Co-Chair Ercan Yılmaz revealed that the release of at least 271 prisoners in prisons across Turkey is postponed by the decisions of Administration and Observation Boards in prisons.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

August 27: The Şanlıurfa 2nd Criminal Judicature of Peace ruled to block access to 3 news about the arrest of the father and uncle who allegedly tortured a 15-year-old boy in Şanlıurfa on the grounds of violation of personal rights upon the request of the Ministry of Family and Social Services.

Issue 167¹⁶⁶

28 August – 3 September 2023

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

August 30: Şakir Turan, 70, a Kurdish inmate who was suffering from throat cancer, passed away while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Turkey's Erzincan province.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 1: Activist, writer, and journalist Celalettin Can was sent to prison to serve a 15-month sentence on conviction of disseminating terrorist propaganda for acting as the symbolic editor-in-chief of a now-closed Kurdish newspaper.

KURDISH MINORITY

August 28: Amedspor fans who were detained for not standing up during the singing of the National Anthem were referred to the courthouse on charges of "insulting the signs of the sovereignty of the state".

August 31: In Şırnak, a 12-year-old boy hit by an armored police vehicle was seriously wounded.

¹⁶⁶ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 167*.

<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/167-EN.pdf>

September 1: It is learned that Doğukan Yen, a member of Green Left Party Youth Assembly, was kidnapped and forced into a car by two people claiming themselves to be police officers in Ataşehir district of Istanbul on August 25, 2023. Doğukan Yen was threatened while he was in the car and was released on the same day.

Issue 168¹⁶⁷

4-10 September 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

September 8: The police intervened with the people protesting the demolition of 411 workplaces in Suruç district of Sanliurfa by the municipality appointed with trustees and detained 4 people.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 5: 5 Amedspor fans, including a disabled child, who came to the stadium with their uniforms to watch the Sarıyerspor-Amedspor match in Istanbul were attacked by a racist group. September 8: Kurdish political activist Amir Kahrizi faced a deportation threat to Iran despite being entitled to protection as a refugee.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 6: Celalettin Can, a writer incarcerated in an Istanbul prison, was not given food or water for two days.

September 8: Fevzi Arslan, an ill prisoner in Urfa T Type Prison No 1, was not given a corset which is mandatory for him to use, and was not referred to hospital.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 5: A Kurdish farmer in southeast Turkey's Muş province on Monday was allegedly severely beaten by soldiers in a detention center.

¹⁶⁷ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 168* [Report].
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/168-EN.pdf>

Issue 169¹⁶⁸

11-17 September 2023

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 13: Şener Levent, the editor-in-chief of the daily newspaper Avrupa in Cyprus, was sentenced to 11 months and 20 days in prison in Turkey for insulting the Turkish President for his article titled "Kurds and us".

September 14: A Kurdish journalist, Abdurrahman Gök, who has been the subject of frequent judicial harassment since he photographed the killing of a Kurdish university student by a police officer in 2017 has not been released from prison after five months in pretrial detention.

September 14: A Turkish court has handed down a suspended 15-month sentence to a Kurdish journalist, Rojin Altay, on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda in her social media posts.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

September 13: Former HDP MP Hüda Kaya was sentenced to pay compensation for 'attacking SADAT's personal rights' due to a parliamentary question.

September 15: Y.B., a municipality employee who attacked Bitlis Journalists' Association President Sinan Aygöl on in Tatvan Municipality, and police officer E.K. who prevented bystanders from intervening were released.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 12: A Diyarbakır court has sentenced Narin Gezgör, a founding member of the Rosa Women's Association, a Kurdish women's rights group, to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

¹⁶⁸ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 169*.

<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/169-EN.pdf>

September 14: Afyon Prison refused to give writer Rizgar Turhan, who has been imprisoned since 1995, the books "Cangoriyên Mişarê" and "Dilopek Ji Ava Jînê", which he wrote in prison.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 13: It was reported that a prisoner named H. B. A. in Diyarbakır Prison was subjected to physical violence by the wardens and was wounded in various parts of his body.

Issue 170¹⁶⁹

18-24 September 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

September 18: The police in İzmir intervened in a demonstration against military clashes in northern Iraq, briefly detaining 12 people.

September 18: A Van court ruled to acquit human rights defenders Huseyin Yaviç and Sevim Çiçek who stood trial over their attendance at a demonstration in 2021.

September 22: A Şanlıurfa court ruled to acquit lawyers Hidayet Enmek, Eyup Sabri Tinaş, and Mehmet Emin Uyguner who stood trial over their detention during a Newroz celebration in 2012.

September 22: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for two days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 20: A Bitlis court sentenced journalist Sinan Aygöl to six months in prison on trespassing charges due to a 2020 report about misused charity donations implicating a ruling party lawmaker.

¹⁶⁹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 170 | September 18-24, 2023*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/170-EN.pdf>

September 21: A Tunceli court ruled to acquit journalist Ruken Tuncel who stood trial for sharing a video of an academic.

September 22: The police in Şanlıurfa briefly detained Kurdish politician Kamil Göktaş on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda in a speech.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 19: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local politician Seyit Narin to one year in prison.

September 22: The police in Şanlıurfa briefly detained Kurdish politician Kamil Göktaş on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda in a speech.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 22: Prison guards in Ağrı physically assaulted and hogtied two female inmates for four hours.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

September 19: An Iraqi military official announced that a drone that killed three Kurdish counterterrorism officers had originated in Turkey.

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Issue 171¹⁷⁰

25 September – 1 October 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

September 29: Governorate of Van made a declaration on September 28, 2023 and banned all activities such as press declarations, sit-ins and surveys, setting up/opening tents and stands, organizing petitions, distributing leaflets, brochures and flyers and all kinds of protest actions for 2 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

¹⁷⁰ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 171* [Report].
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/171-EN.pdf>

September 27: A Turkish court has sentenced Kurdish politician and former MP Selma Irmak to four years, two months in prison on charges of insulting President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and denigrating the government.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 27: Isa Kaya, a prisoner in Kayseri T Type Prison, was not given his Kurdish book "Mirxas" for 3 months on the grounds that it is "under review".

September 29: Selver Yıldırım, an ill prisoner in Ankara Sincan Women's Prison, was not being treated and was at risk of losing her eyesight.

Issue 172¹⁷¹

2-8 October 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

October 6: The Governorate of Van banned all activities such as press declarations, sit-ins and surveys, setting up/opening tents and stands, organizing petitions, distributing leaflets, brochures and flyers and all kinds of protest actions for 4 days as of October 6, 2023.

October 6: Şırnak Governorate announced a ban on demonstrations, marches, and open-air meetings for 10 days starting from October 6.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 3: As part of a Tunceli based investigation against Partizan magazine and Yeni Demokrasi newspaper, 6 people including a reporter of Yeni Demokrasi newspaper were detained in house raids in Tunceli and Istanbul.

October 5: Etkin Haber, Komun Dergi, Gazete Patika and Kızıl Bayrak were blocked on the grounds of national security and protection of public order.

¹⁷¹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 172* [Report].
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/172-EN.pdf>

October 6: Mezopotamya Agency (MA) reporter Ahmet Kanbal was detained on charges of "making illegal organization propaganda" in a raid on his house in central Mardin, based on his social media posts and news reports.

Issue 173¹⁷²

9-15 October 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

October 11: During the closing concert of the 3rd International Refugee Film Festival organized by the Peoples' Bridge Association, held at Izmir Ahmet Adnan Soygun Art Center, a demand was made to stop the concert on the grounds that while Bajar was on stage, a traditional Kurdish dance, halay, was being performed in the hall.

October 12: The governorate of Mardin made a declaration on October 12, 2023 and announced that all meetings, demonstrations, press declarations, open and closed meetings and similar events and activities are banned for 7 days as of October 13, 2023.

October 14: The gendarmerie intervened in the protest against the dismantling of horse transformers in Dilimli rural neighborhood of Eyyübiye district of Şanlıurfa and detained 6 people, including the headman of the neighborhood, using physical violence.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 9: At least 1 news article on the torture of minors during "zikir" in Şanlıurfa was blocked by Şanlıurfa 1st Criminal Judicature of Peace on the grounds of violation of personal rights.

October 11: A Turkish court has ordered Kurdish politician and former member of parliament Sebahat Tuncel to pay damages to a paramilitary organization with alleged ties to the country's president due to a speech she made in 2016.

KURDISH MINORITY

¹⁷² Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 173*.
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/173-EN.pdf>

October 10: On the eighth anniversary of the biggest terrorist attack in the history of the Turkish Republic, lawyers for the victims' families are still demanding accountability for the lack of transparency in the case, the failure to arrest the main suspects, the ignoring of earlier leads and the withholding of evidence and intelligence reports from the court.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 13: The guards in a prison in western Turkey allegedly strip-searched and verbally assaulted Berna Çelik, a provincial executive of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) who was recently arrested on terrorism-related charges.

Issue 174¹⁷³

16 – 22 October 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

October 20: Tunceli Governorate made a declaration on October 19, 2023 and announced that press declarations, meetings, demonstrations, rallies, protests, sit-ins, commemorations, hunger strikes, opening stands, petitions, concerts, festivals, distributing flyers, leaflets, brochures and similar actions and activities throughout the province are subject to the permission of the local administrative chief for 5 days as of October 20, 2023.

October 21: Police detained 26 people, including activists and family members of the Saturday Mothers, during the group's 969th weekly demonstration in Istanbul's Galatasaray Square, where they were demanding justice for their loved ones who disappeared in police custody in the 1990s.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 16: At least 2 news articles on the torture of children during "zikir" in Şanlıurfa were blocked from access by the Şanlıurfa 2nd Criminal Judgeship of Peace on the grounds of violation of personal rights.

¹⁷³ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 174* [Report].
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/174-EN.pdf>

October 16: At least 3 news articles on the allegation that Mehmet Sait D., a public prosecutor in Mardin's Midyat district, beat Dr. Gözde Bağcı, the director of the Forensic Medicine Branch in the district, were blocked from access by the Midyat Criminal Judgeship of Peace on the grounds of violation of personal rights.

October 17: At least 3 news articles about the engagement ceremony for an 8-year-old girl and her 9-year-old uncle's son in Mardin's Kızıltepe district were blocked from access after the Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Services launched an investigation.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

October 19: Greens and Left Party for the Future (Green Left Party) Diyarbakır MP Ceylan Akça Cupolo submitted the Law on the Recognition and Protection of Human Rights Defenders to the Parliament.

October 19: Green Left Party Diyarbakır MP Serhat Eren demanded an investigation into the deaths of children hit by armored vehicles in Kurdish provinces in the Child Rights Sub-Committee of the Human Rights Investigation Commission of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, but the AKP and İYİ Party opposed the request.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 21: Wedding singers and 23 people were detained in Eskişehir on the allegation that 4 songs sung by 2 wedding singers at a wedding in Eskişehir contained lyrics containing "illegal organization propaganda".

Issue 175¹⁷⁴

23-29 October 2023

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 23: Naiye Bal, editor of the weekly Kurdish language newspaper Xwebûn, was detained in a raid on his house.

¹⁷⁴ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 175*.
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/175-EN.pdf>

October 24: A court in southeastern Turkey ruled to arrest Selahattin Kaygusuz, a Kurdish journalist who was detained last week for alleged membership in a terrorist organization.

October 26: A prosecutor in southeastern Turkey requested up to 15 years in prison for Beritan Canözer, a journalist accused of membership in a terrorist organization due to her involvement in pro-Kurdish media.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 23: Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Party Assembly member Ali Gültepe and HDP member Cüneyt Yeşilyurt were detained in house raids in Istanbul. The reason for the detentions could not be learned.

October 26: A court in Turkey ruled for the arrest of Emin Soyal, a 78-year-old man with documented disabilities and health issues who was detained for alleged links to terrorism.

October 27: Gültan Kışanak, a Kurdish politician and the former co-mayor of the southeastern Turkish province of Diyarbakır incarcerated in Turkey, was denied release by the authorities despite her eligibility to be freed.

October 27: Drone strikes by the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) on Kurdish-held areas of northeast Syria between Oct. 5 and 10 damaged critical infrastructure and resulted in water and electricity disruptions for millions of people.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 26: A disciplinary investigation was launched against 10 prisoners in Diyarbakır High Security Prison No 2 on the grounds of "creating fear by banging on the doors" and the prisoners were sentenced to 'deprivation of visitation for 3 months' at the end of the investigation.

Issue 176¹⁷⁵

30 October – 5 November 2023

¹⁷⁵ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 176*.
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/176-EN.pdf>

2025

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

November 1: The police intervened the "Peoples resist from Palestine to Rojava" demonstration in Sultangazi district of Istanbul and detained 17 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 2: A Kurdish writer, Dilşah Kocakaya, was sent to prison to serve a 15-month sentence on conviction of disseminating terrorist propaganda when acting as the symbolic editor-in-chief of a now-closed Kurdish newspaper.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

October 30: Lawyers for a Kurdish politician, Gültan Kışanak, who has been jailed for seven years called on Turkish judicial authorities to release her as she has spent the maximum amount of time behind bars without a conviction upheld by an appeals court.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 1: Former HDP Istanbul MP Hüda Kaya, who was detained at Istanbul Airport after Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation against her, was arrested on charges of participating in unlawful meetings or demonstrations and insisting on dispersing despite warnings and use of force, and resisting with more than one person to prevent the execution of duty.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 2: Selami Ustündağ , a prisoner in Erzincan T Type Prison was subjected to physical violence because he rejected strip search and was transferred to Samsun Kavaklı S Type Prison.

Issue 177¹⁷⁶

6-12 November 2023

¹⁷⁶ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 177*.
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/177-EN.pdf>

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

November 9: Private security units and the police intervened the protest organized by the Federation of Socialist Youth Associations (SGDF) at Diyarbakır Dicle University campus and detained 2 people using physical violence.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 6: Fatma Aydın, the mother of Kurdish professional soccer player Oktay Aydın, was briefly detained on Sunday for failing to stand during the national anthem at a stadium in Diyarbakır.

November 6: The indictment prepared against 11 people detained in May accused them of "membership in a terrorist organization" because they were HDP members and listened to Kurdish songs.

November 8: The response to a written parliamentary question revealed that the district governorship had not issued a ban on the play "Haylo Dîsa Tevlihev bû", which was banned in June on the grounds of a decision by the Tatvan District Governorate.

November 8: A Kurdish politician, Aysel Tuğluk, who was released from prison last year following a long-awaited medical report stating that her dementia did not allow her to remain behind bars has been detained in Istanbul.

November 11: Mizgin Yalçın, a teacher of the Kurdish language based in Diyarbakır, received numerous insulting and threatening messages on social media after she shared a video in which she mentioned the Kurdish names of provinces.

PRISON CONDITIONS

November 10: Sick prisoners in Adana Kürkçüler T Type Prison No 1 and Ağrı Patnos L Type Prison were not referred to infirmary and hospital.

Issue 178¹⁷⁷

13-19 November 2023

¹⁷⁷ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 178* [Report].
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/178-EN.pdf>

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FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

November 18: The Diyarbakır leg of the march to Gemlik against the isolation of PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan started under police blockade. Citing the governorate's ban, the police detained at least 30 people.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

November 15: Notorious Turkish crime boss Alaattin Çakıcı threatened pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (HEDEP) lawmaker and rights advocate Omer Faruk Gergerlioğlu on social media over his criticism of Devlet Bahçeli, leader of the far-right Nationalist Movement Party (MHP).

KURDISH MINORITY

November 16: Reber Dosky, a Dutch-Kurdish journalist, producer and director, was detained on November 8 in Turkey, where he had arrived for a new project, and deported after being taken to the Repatriation Center (GGM) in Urfa.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 14: Prisoners in Ankara Sincan High Security Prison No 1 were asked to pay for translation of Kurdish books.

November 15: Aziz Beyaztaş and Dilber Beyaztaş were subjected to physical violence of a police of icer in Eyyübiye district of Şanlıurfa. Aziz Beyaztaş was hit on his head with the butt of a gun and got wounded.

Issue 179¹⁷⁸

20-26 November 2023

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

¹⁷⁸ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 179* [Report].
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/179-EN.pdf>

November 20: Pro-government media targeted main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Ozgür Ozel for attending the recent performance of a Kurdish opera singer along with Pervin Buldan, an MP from the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (HEDEP) and other politicians from both parties.

November 23: Courts in eastern Turkey have convicted and handed down sentences to Kurdish journalists Hacı Boğatekin and Ozgür Boğatekin.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 21: Turkey's Justice Ministry sought an INTERPOL Red Notice for famous Kurdish singer and activist Ferhat Tunç, who lives in exile in Germany, in line with an arrest warrant issued for him in 2021 for failing to attend court hearings.

November 24: Halil Aksoy, former Ağrı MP of Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), was detained in Istanbul on the grounds that he had a finalized prison sentence of 8 years and 9 months for 'being an illegal organization member' and was arrested by the court.

Issue 180¹⁷⁹

27 November – 3 December 2023

2025

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

December 1: Turkey's Council of Forensic Medicine (ATK) issued a report that finds Makbule Ozer, an 81-year-old Kurdish woman with serious disabilities and health problems, it to serve her prison sentence.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

November 30: Urfa Governorate made a declaration on November 29, 2023 and banned press declarations, meetings, marches, hunger strikes, sit-in protests, rallies, opening stands, setting up tents, distributing leaflets, hanging banners and similar actions and activities for 3 days as of November 29, 2023.

¹⁷⁹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 180* [Report].
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/180-EN.pdf>

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 27: 17 people were detained in house raids in Derik and Kızıltepe districts of Mardin on the grounds of making illegal organization propaganda in their social media posts.

November 27: During house raids in Sanliurfa, 1 person was detained on the grounds of making illegal organization propaganda in social media posts.

December 1: Emine Şenyaşar, a woman who has been demanding justice for three of her family members murdered by people connected to a lawmaker from Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), faced up to two years in prison for allegedly insulting the MP Ibrahim Halil Yıldız.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 30: The Turkish court that retried Selçuk Mızraklı, the former co-mayor of the predominantly Kurdish province of Diyarbakır in southeastern Turkey who was dismissed and replaced by a trustee, handed down the same sentence of more than nine years to the politician.

December 1: Former Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) district co-chairs Şiyar Koç and Dilan Çıtanak were detained in Nusaybin district of Mardin by the police who stopped the car they were in through a Muş based investigation.

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Issue 181¹⁸⁰

4-10 December 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

December 8: The police intervened the demonstration organized by Anatolian Association for Assistance and Solidarity with Families who Lost Their Relatives (ANYAKAYDER) in Bahçelievler district of Istanbul on December 7, 2023 to protest in the delivery of PKK militants' bodies to their families in cardboard boxes. 46 people including

¹⁸⁰ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 181*.

<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/181-EN.pdf>

Istanbul Co-Chair of Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (HEDEP) were detained by the police using physical violence and handcuffing them behind their backs.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

December 8: The Council of Europe's (CoE) Committee of Ministers, in its quarterly meeting December 5-7, addressed Turkey's non-compliance with European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) rulings in the cases of jailed Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtaş and Osman Kavala.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 5: A court in central Turkey ruled to conclude the trial in absentia of a gendarme charged with the mass murder a Kurdish family in a deliberately lit fire in October 1993 due to the expiration of the statute of limitations.

December 8: Lawyer Ahmet Atış, who went to Urfa Organized Industrial Zone Gendarmerie Station to meet his client who was detained during a protest in Urfa Organized Industrial Zone, was subjected to physical and verbal violence of soldiers, including a person reported to be the station commander, for speaking Kurdish with his client.

PRISON CONDITIONS

December 8: Imprisoned writer, activist and journalist Celalettin Can sent an open letter addressed to members of parliament in which he detailed the mistreatment of political prisoners and the denial of probation.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

December 8: Edanur Ibrahimoğlu, a youth spokesperson for the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (HEDEP), was physically assaulted by police who intervened in a press conference organized by the party.

Issue 182¹⁸¹

¹⁸¹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 182* [Report].
https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/182_EN.pdf

11-17 December 2023

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

December 13: Mehmet Güvcin, a prisoner in Şırnak T Type Closed Prison, died in Diyarbakır hospital.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 12: DEM Party Co-Chair Tuncer Bakırhan, who started his speech at the budget talks in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) with a greeting in Kurdish, was told by GNAT Speaker Numan Kurtulmuş: "Mr. Bakırhan, as the GNAT, we would like you to explain what you said in Turkish. This is the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Turkish will be spoken here, and since our official language is Turkish, we expect it to be spoken in Turkish. On behalf of our friends, we ask you to explain it in Turkish." It is also stated in the news reports that Tuncer Bakırhan's Kurdish remarks were censored in the minutes.

December 12: Democratic Regions Party (DBP) District Co-Chair Remziye Bayhan was detained in a house raid in Nusaybin district of Mardin.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

December 12: Books and blankets of some prisoners in Şırnak T Type Prison were seized by the wardens.

Issue 183¹⁸²

18-24 December 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

December 24: 60 people including 5 children were detained by physical violence after DEM Party 1st Youth Assembly Congress in Diyarbakır and Diyarbakır Public Prosecutor's

¹⁸² TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 183*.

https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/183_EN.pdf

Office initiated an investigation on the congress. DEM Party is the pro-Kurdish party previously known as HDP.

Issue 184¹⁸³

25-31 December 2023

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 26: An investigation was launched into veteran journalist Can Ataklı due to his statements targeting the father of a Turkish soldier who was recently killed in an attack by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in northern Iraq.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

December 27: It was learned that 2 people were detained in house raids on December 26, 2023 through the investigation of Diyarbakır Public Prosecutor's Office on Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) 1st Youth Assembly Congress held in Diyarbakır on December 24, 2023 and detention period was extended for 1 more day on December 27, 2023.

December 27: Governorates of Bingöl and Siirt announced on December 26, 2023 that all events such as demonstrations, marches, press declarations, hunger strikes, sit-in protests, rallies, opening stands, setting up tents, distributing leaflets, hanging banners and similar activities are banned for 6 days from December 26, 2023 until January 1, 2024.

December 28: The police intervened the press declaration of Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Tunceli Provincial Organization and DEM Party Dersim Provincial Organization against the operations in Northeast Syria and detained 6 people. The police intervened the press declaration in front of DEM Party Ceylanpınar District Organization in Ceylanpınar district of Urfa for the same reason and detained 10 people.

¹⁸³ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 184. In *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR* (Issue 184, pp. 1–3). https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/184_EN.pdf

KURDISH MINORITY

December 28: On the 12th anniversary of the 2011 Roboski massacre, the families who gathered to commemorate the 34 Kurdish civilians killed in a Turkish military airstrike are still demanding accountability for the killings, the perpetrators of which have not been disclosed by the Justice and Development Party (AKP) government.

December 28: A granddaughter of Sheikh Said, an iconic Kurdish figure who led a Kurdish nationalist rebellion against the new Republic of Turkey in 1925, was ordered to post a photo of a Turkish flag on her social media accounts for 30 days as part of punitive measures following her release from detention.

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Issue 185¹⁸⁴

1-7 January 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 5: At least 3 news articles on the allegation that a judge in Mardin detained three students who allegedly swore at his wife, a teacher, when he came to the school with five police cars, were blocked from access by the Mardin 1st Criminal Judgeship of Peace on the grounds of violation of personal rights.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 4: A university student F.B. in Istanbul was allegedly brutalized by roommates due to his Kurdish and Alevi identities.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 4: Prisoners in Ağrı Patnos L Type Prison were not given hot water, the drinking water given to prisoners was contaminated and books belonging to prisoners were seized during ward searches.

January 4: Mehmet Ali Uğur, an ill prisoner in Ağrı Patnos L Type Prison, was not given food suitable for his diet.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

January 6: The Mesopotamia Women Journalists Association (MKG) released a report focusing on alleged rights violations of female journalists in Turkey in 2023, which found that 168 of them stood trial throughout the year.

¹⁸⁴ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 185* [Report].
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/185-EN.pdf>

Issue 186¹⁸⁵

8-14 January 2024

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 9: Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) MP Hüda Kaya has been kept in solitary cell in Istanbul Marmara (Silivri) Prison since November 1, 2023.

January 10: 4 people (Idris Kurt, Sitar Kurt, Canan Kurt, Sabiha Kurt) were subjected to torture and ill-treatment in a house raid in Yüksekova district of Hakkari.

Issue 187¹⁸⁶

15-21 January 2024

2025**ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE**

January 18: Abdullah Varışlı, an ill prisoner in Erzurum Oltu Prison who was being treated for cancer, died in hospital on January 16, 2024.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 18: A court in the southeastern Turkish province of Diyarbakır has decided to keep a Kurdish journalist, Dicle Müftüoğlu, co-chairperson of the Dicle Fırat Journalists' Association and an editor at the Mezopotamya news agency, who was arrested in May on terrorism related charges in jail.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

¹⁸⁵ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 186* [Report].
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/186-EN.pdf>

¹⁸⁶ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 187* [Report].
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/187-EN.pdf>

January 15: Turkish prosecutors have found no grounds to investigate public broadcaster Turkish Radio and Television (TRT) for airing an interview with the brother the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in the run-up to a critical election in Istanbul in 2019 although the man had been sought by Turkey on terrorism charges.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 15: A Turkish prosecutor has demanded the continued pretrial detention of Gültan Kışanak, a Kurdish politician and the former co-mayor of Diyarbakır who has been behind bars on terrorism-related charges since October 2016.

January 16: Turkish police on Tuesday conducted raids across 28 provinces and detained a total of 165 people, including peace activists and members of the Peoples' Democracy and Equality (DEM) Party, for alleged ties to terrorism.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 15: Emin Güler, a 94 percent disabled seriously ill prisoner in Sanliurfa T Type Prison No 2, was transferred to Erzincan L Type Prison against his will.

2025

Issue 188¹⁸⁷

22-28 January 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 24: Gendarmes in southeastern Turkey have detained three school principals over their WhatsApp stories commemorating the victims of the 2011 Roboski massacre.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 22: Prison guards in Diyarbakır allegedly beat six inmates for greeting a fellow inmate on his way back to his cell from seeing visitors.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

¹⁸⁷ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 188* [Report].
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/188-EN.pdf>

January 25: According to a Freedom House report on global transnational repression cited by the Stockholm Center for Freedom (SCF), Ankara's campaign primarily targets people affiliated with the Gülen movement, but the efforts of the government have expanded to include Kurds and leftists as well. Turkish authorities have committed 132 incidents, or 15 percent of the total, of direct, physical transnational repression since 2014.

Issue 189¹⁸⁸

29 January – 4 February 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

February 1: Governorate of Bitlis made a declaration on February 1, 2024 and announced that demonstrations, outdoor and indoor meetings, press declarations, sit-ins and polls, setting up/opening tents and stands, organizing petitions, distributing leaflets and flyers and all kinds of protest activities are banned for 4 days between February 1, 2024 and February 4, 2024.

February 2: Hakkari Governorate made a declaration on February 1, 2024 and announced that all events such as demonstrations, sit-ins, press declarations, protests, demonstrations, sit-ins, press statements, protests etc. are banned for 4 days between February 1, 2024 and February 4, 2024.

February 2: Ağrı Governorate made a declaration on February 1, 2024 and announced that demonstrations, outdoor and indoor meetings, press declarations, sit-in protests and surveys, setting up/opening tents and stands, organizing petitions, distributing leaflets, brochures and flyers and all kinds of protest activities are banned for 4 days between February 2, 2024 and February 5, 2024.

KURDISH MINORITY

¹⁸⁸ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 189* [Report].
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/189-EN.pdf>

January 29: Dicle Müftüoğlu, a Kurdish journalist who was arrested in May on terrorism-related charges, has gone on a hunger strike to draw attention to the criminalization of journalistic activities in Turkey.

Issue 190¹⁸⁹

5-11 February 2024

No issues related to Kurdish population reported.

Issue 191¹⁹⁰

12-18 February 2024

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

February 14: The Governorate of Tunceli announced that the exit from Tunceli to Erzincan is banned for 5 days between February 14, 2024 and February 18, 2024.

Issue 192¹⁹¹

19-25 February 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

¹⁸⁹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 190* [Report].
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/190-EN.pdf>

¹⁹⁰ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 191*.
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/191-EN.pdf>

¹⁹¹ Human Rights Watch. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 192*.
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/192-EN.pdf>

February 22: Metin and Kemal Kahraman's concert planned by Eğitim-Sen in Bingöl for February 21, World Mother Language Day, was banned by the governorship and police.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 19: the billboards prepared by Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) and Democratic Regions Party (DBP) for February 21, World Mother Language Day and local elections with the slogan "Dem dema zimanê Kurdî ye" were prevented by the trustee from being hung on billboards.

February 22: A court in southeast Turkey has announced its verdict in the trial of 15 local Kurdish politicians accused of terrorism, handing down sentences totalling close to 104 years in prison in total.

Issue 193¹⁹²

26 February – 3 March 2024

2025

February 27: Human Rights Association (IHD) Prison Commission member Mehmet Acettin, Socialist Assemblies Federation (SMF) Term Spokesperson Barış Kayaoğlu and SMF member Metin Keleş, Partizan magazine reader Ibrahim Hakkı Eren, ESP members Ali Haydar Keleş, Ali Karaçay, Mesut Çeki, Hüseyin Gültepe, Uğur Ok, Hacer Elçin, SKM MYK member Ezgi Gürbüz and Selda Aydoğdu were detained in house raids in Istanbul.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 27: Police forced their way into the Istanbul home of Çiçek Otlı, a deputy from the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) in an early morning raid.

February 27: An appeals court in Turkey has ruled to remove from her job Mühdan Sağlam, an academic who was recently reinstated after initially being fired for signing a joint petition about the Kurdish issue.

¹⁹² Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 193* [Report].
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/193-EN.pdf>

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 1: Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party, formerly known as HDP) Party Assembly member Sıtkı Güngör was detained in a house raid in Istanbul. He was subjected to reverse handcuffing and physical violence of the police officers during detention and transfer to hospital and got injured due to this.

Issue 194¹⁹³

4-10 March 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 5: At least 3 news articles about AKP Sur District Chairman Davut Yıldız and his uncle's son and Sur Municipality Public Works Director Mehmet Yıldız distributing aid parcels prepared by AFAD for the needy in Diyarbakır to their relatives were blocked from access by Diyarbakır 4th Criminal Judgeship of Peace on the grounds of violation of personal rights.

March 7: 16 social media posts on allegations against the mayor of Hilal town in Uludere district of Şırnak were banned to access by Şırnak Uludere Criminal Judicature of Peace.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 7: Controversial remarks from a mayoral candidate, Burcu Köksal, and senior executive of Turkey's main opposition party targeting a pro-Kurdish party have caused anger, disappointment and frustration not only among the country's Kurds but also within her party.

PRISON CONDITIONS

March 4: Prisoner Celal İnedi reported that Kurdish songs and letters were blocked in Afyonkarahisar T Type Prison.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

¹⁹³ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 194* [Report].
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/194-EN.pdf>

March 6: It is learned that Berzan Güneş, a prisoner in Van High Security Prison had health problems but was not referred to hospital.

Issue 195¹⁹⁴

11-17 March 2024

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

March 12: The mother of Berkin Elvan, a teenager who was struck in the head with a gas canister fired by a police officer during the anti-government Gezi Park protests in Istanbul in 2013 and subsequently succumbed to his injuries, has said justice remains elusive 10 years after her son's death.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 11: Şırnak Governorate made a declaration on March 11, 2024 and announced that Gabar Mountain Region within the borders of Central District and Güçlükonak District of Şırnak Province has been declared as a temporary special security zone for 15 days between March 11 and March 25, 2024.

March 13: Members of DEM Party Istanbul Provincial Organization who were distributing leaflets in front of Süreyya Opera House in Kadıköy district of Istanbul to call for the Istanbul Newroz to be held on 17 March 2024 at Yenikapı Meeting Area were prevented by the police and the people distributing leaflets were blockaded by the police. 18 people, including DEM Party Kadıköy Co Mayoral Candidates Nimet Çelebi Erdoğan and Veysi Eski, were detained.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 13: A local court in eastern Turkey has blocked access to the Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency on the grounds that it poses a threat to national security and public order.

¹⁹⁴ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 195* [Report].
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/195-EN.pdf>

KURDISH MINORITY

March 12: The UN's Commission of Inquiry on Syria has released a statement that said Turkey's airstrikes on civilian targets in northeast Syria could amount to war crimes.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 14: Selahattin Demirtaş, former co-chair of Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), who is kept in Edirne F Type Prison, was subjected to body search every time he enters and leaves the room and was asked to take off his shoes in front of the camera.

Issue 196¹⁹⁵

18-24 March 2024

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

KURDISH MINORITY

March 18: At least 7 people (Ayşegü I Ceylan, Yakup Durak, Reşit Umut Çağlı, Agit Şerifoğlu, Ayşe Soysal, Rojhat Karaviş and an unnamed person) were detained during house raids in Şırnak. The reason for the detentions could not be learned.

March 18: At least 32 people, including DEM Party İzmir Çiğli Co-Chair Leyla Tufan, were detained in house raids in İzmir. The reason for the detentions could not be learned.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 19: Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) member Nezir İlek and his family members who were detained in a house raid in Mazıdağı district of Mardin were subjected to physical violence of the police and their belongings were scattered by the police.

March 20: Prisoners Ardıl Çeşme, Hacire Çay, Saime Karakuş, Mizgin Ozatiz, Ziynet Sağlam and Nurcan Aslan in Tarsus T Type Prison No 1 were transferred to Erzincan Women's Prison against their will and their families were not informed about the transfer.

¹⁹⁵ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 196* [Report].
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/196-EN.pdf>

March 21: E. E. (17, m), who was detained in Diyarbakır on the allegations of hitting a police car with a car he was driving without a license and causing injury to 1 police officer, was subjected to physical violence in the police car where he was detained and was wounded in the head.

March 22: A. Ş., a prisoner in Iğdır S Type Prison, suffered from stomach ailments and was not taken to infirmary and hospital or his transfer procedures were delayed.

Issue 197¹⁹⁶

25-31 March 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 26: Turkish authorities have banned at least 28 concerts and cultural events in the Kurdish language across 16 provinces since 2019.

March 29: 15 people were detained during the police intervention against executives and members of Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) and Marmara Association for Assistance to Families of Prisoners and Convicts (MATUHAYDER) who held a press declaration on March 28, 2024 in front of Bakırköy Women's Prison about Hatice Yıldız (75) who was detained on March 22, 2024 after the finalization of the sentence in the lawsuit filed against her for 'financing an illegal organisation' for sending money to her daughter and her daughter's ward mate in prison, and then arrested and sent to Istanbul Bakırköy Women's Prison.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 27: Turkish prosecutors have dropped the case of seven Kurdish civilians who were killed by soldiers in southeast Turkey in 1991 due to the expiration of the statute of limitations.

¹⁹⁶ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 197*.

<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/197-EN.pdf>

Issue 198¹⁹⁷

1-7 April 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

April 4: Muş Governorate made a declaration on April 3, 2024 and announced that all events in public areas such as squares, streets, roads, parks etc. will be banned for 3 days between April 4, 2024 and April 6, 2024.

April 4: Şırnak Governorate made a declaration on April 3, 2024 and announced that all open-door meetings and demonstrations are banned for 15 days between April 3, 2024 and April 17, 2024.

April 4: Turkish police have detained 340 people over protests that erupted across Turkey in response to a local electoral authority's decision to annul the victory of a pro Kurdish candidate in eastern Turkey and hand the mayorship to the ruling party's runner-up.

April 6: Turkish courts arrested 23 people among hundreds detained over protests that erupted across Turkey in response to a local electoral authority's decision to annul the victory of a pro-Kurdish party candidate in eastern Turkey and hand the mayorship to the ruling party's runner-up.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 3: At least 3 news articles on election irregularities during the March 31, 2024 Local Elections were blocked from access by the Adıyaman 2nd Criminal Judgeship of Peace on the grounds of violation of personal rights.

April 5: Diyarbakır prosecutors have launched an investigation into 11 executives of the Diyarbakır Bar Association on accusations of "denigrating the Turkish nation and state," over a 2021 statement commemorating the victims of the Armenian genocide.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

¹⁹⁷ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 198* [Report].
<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/198-EN.pdf>

April 3: 29 people were subjected to torture and ill treatment during police intervention against people protesting in Yüksekova district of Hakkari.

April 5: Zilan Demir, a prisoner in Antalya Manavgat S Type Prison, cannot get treatment due to ill-treatment of health workers even though she is suffering from eye disease, and that Zilan Demir's eye number had changed on the date when the glasses that her family sent for eye disease were delivered to her.

Issue 199¹⁹⁸

8-14 April 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

April 8: Turkish police on Saturday used excessive force to disperse a group of young people who had gathered in the central Istanbul neighborhood of Taksim to demand that the Turkish government cut off its trade with Israel in light of Israel's ongoing war on Gaza and detained 38 of them.

April 9: The Van Bar Association, the Human Rights Association (IHD) and the Association for the Freedom of Lawyers (OHD) have prepared a joint report on law enforcement's handling of protests that erupted in Van over a local election controversy, accusing the police of firing plastic bullets at the protesters and using disproportionate force.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 8: Elazığ 1st Criminal Judgeship of Peace ruled that at least 3 news articles and posts on the allegation that 8 female students were sexually harassed by the school principal in Elazığ be blocked from access and deleted on the grounds of violation of personal rights.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 11: Medet Serhat, who was assassinated in 1994, was known for his defense of Kurdish politicians during the Democracy Party (DEP) Trial. His son, Rümet Serhat, said

¹⁹⁸ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 199*.

<https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/199-EN.pdf>

the grave was intact during their last visit and the attack must have happened within the past few days.

Issue 200¹⁹⁹

15-21 April 2024

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

April 17: A Turkish court on Tuesday postponed the verdict in the long-running Kobani trial and ruled to continue the detention of 18 people, including Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 16: On 31 March 2024, an investigation was initiated against journalist Oktay Candemir on the charge of 'insulting a public officer' upon the complaint of Abdulahat Arvas, mayoral candidate of Justice and Development Party (AKP) for Van Metropolitan Municipality.

April 19: Turkish prosecutors have launched an investigation into a Kurdish man who questioned the voters who were allegedly "transferred" to his city of residence in the southeastern province of Şırnak on the day of the March 31 local elections in order to change the election results in favor of the ruling party.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

April 17: Governorate of Şırnak Governorate announced that Altındagları Region in Beytuşşebap District of Şırnak Province was declared as temporary special security zone for 15 days between 17 April 2024 and 1 May 2024.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 17: Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Agrı Diyadin District Co-Chair Ahmet Karatay was detained in a house raid through an investigation conducted

¹⁹⁹ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/200-EN.pdf>

by Agri Chief Public Prosecutor's Office and was taken to Agri Provincial Security Directorate. The reason for the detention is not known.

Issue 201²⁰⁰

22-28 April 2024

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

23 April: Makbule Ozer, an ailing 83-year-old Kurdish woman, was jailed for a second time on Monday after a medical report issued by Turkey's Council of Forensic Medicine (ATK) said she was fit to remain in prison.

26 April: It is learned that Abdulalim Kaya (81, m), an ill prisoner in Elazığ R Type Prison, who has a 93% disability report issued by Siirt Education and Research Hospital, is kept in a single room although he cannot meet his vital needs on his own due to health problems.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

26 April: Three out of nine Kurdish journalists who were detained earlier this week have been referred to court for arrest and subsequently arrested after testifying to a prosecutor on Friday, while six of them were released from custody under judicial supervision.

Issue 202²⁰¹

29 April – 5 May 2024

²⁰⁰ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 201 | Date 22 – 28 April*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/201-EN.pdf>

²⁰¹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 202*. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/202-EN.pdf>

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

1 May: Van High Security Prison is facing allegations of arbitrary practices affecting inmates' access to healthcare and legal consultations.

Issue 203²⁰²

6–12 May 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

10 May: Governorate of Van Governorate announced that demonstrations, open-air meetings, indoor and outdoor meetings, press declarations, sit-in protests and surveys, setting up/opening tents and stands, organising petitions, distributing leaflets, brochures and flyers and all kinds of protest activities are banned for 6 days between 10 May 2024 and 15 May 2024.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

6 May: Eight people including two journalists have been detained in house raids in the predominantly Kurdish province of Diyarbakır in southeastern Turkey.

10 May: A court has sentenced five journalists and a newspaper distributor associated with the now-defunct pro-Kurdish newspaper *Ozgurlukçu Demokrasi* to prison terms on charges of "aiding a terrorist organization without being members."

KURDISH MINORITY

7 May: Simultaneous police raids in the southeastern Urfa province led to at least 14 detentions, including members and executives of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy (DEM) Party.

2025

²⁰² Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). (n.d.). In *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR* (Issue 203, pp. 1–6) [Report]. <https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/203-EN.pdf>

Issue 204²⁰³

13-19 May 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

17 May: The governors of 12 provinces including Diyarbakır, Mardin, Dersim, Bingöl, Bitlis, Kars, and İzmir banned all kinds of demonstrations, meetings, and protests following the Kobane Trial in which Kurdish politicians were sentenced to imprisonment.

KURDISH MINORITY

15 May: Turkish police have detained dozens of people in several provinces across the country, including Istanbul, as part of operations that mainly targeted members of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM).

16 May: An Ankara court on Thursday issued a verdict in the long-running Kobani trial and handed down lengthy prison sentences for dozens of Kurdish politicians, including imprisoned leaders Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

14 May: Hatice Yıldız, an ailing 75-year-old woman who had been sentenced to four years on charges of "financing a terrorist organization" because she sent money to her jailed daughter and her cellmate, has reportedly been suffering from a declining state of health after falling ill in prison.

Issue 205²⁰⁴

20-26 May 2024

²⁰³ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 204* [Report].
https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/204_EN.pdf

²⁰⁴ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 205 | Date 20-26 May*. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/205_EN.pdf

KURDISH MINORITY

22 May: 5 DEM Party members were detained in house raids in Şanlıurfa due to 'making propaganda for a terrorist organisation'.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

25 May: Hanife Arslan, an ailing 81-year-old Kurdish woman serving a more than six-year sentence for alleged membership in a terrorist organization, has been denied parole five times despite suffering from several chronic health problems.

Issue 206²⁰⁵

27 May – 2 June 2024

KURDISH MINORITY

28 May: Turkish prosecutors have drafted an indictment seeking prison sentences for five former lawmakers from a pro-Kurdish party due to their alleged role in violent protests that erupted in southeastern Turkey over a siege of the Syrian Kurdish town of Kobani by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in 2014.

29 May: A cafe owner in the southeastern Turkish province of Diyarbakır was detained following a police raid on his cafe after he was targeted on social media for offering service only in the Kurdish language in his cafe.

29 May: An appeals court in the southeast Turkish province of Gaziantep has upheld prison sentences previously handed down to 58 Kurdish politicians, including former executives of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) and the Democratic Regions' Party (DBP) on terrorism-related charges.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

²⁰⁵ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 206* / Date 27 May- 2 June [Report]. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/206_EN.pdf

28 June: Abdulkadir Kaday, a Kurdish inmate with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) whose health has been deteriorating, remains imprisoned despite a Council of Forensic Medicine (ATK) report confirming he needs medical care.

28 May: Şeyhmus Buran, who was detained in Kızıltepe district of Mardin, was subjected to physical violence and threatened to death in the police car and at Mardin Security Directorate.

31 May: A. Ç. (14, m) who was going home on bicycle was stopped by an armoured vehicle and was handcuffed behind his back and was subjected to physical violence in Şemdinli district of Hakkari. The child who complained to the police officers who subjected him to torture and ill treatment was called by district governor and was pressured to withdraw his complaint.

Issue 207²⁰⁶

3-9 June 2024

2025

KURDISH MINORITY

3 June: Turkey's Interior Ministry announced on Monday the removal of Mehmet Sıddık Akış, democratically elected the co-mayor of Hakkari from office, due to an ongoing investigation and a separate trial on terrorism-linked charges.

4 June: Turkey's pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) is holding protests in the southeastern city of Hakkari against the removal of the city's mayor amid a widespread ban on demonstrations imposed by governor's offices in 10 provinces in the predominantly Kurdish region.

4 June: DEM Party Spokesperson Ayşegu I Dog an banned from leaving the country due to a ruling by the Diyarbakır 9th High Criminal Court dated 2020.

²⁰⁶ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 207 | Date June 3-9 [Report]*. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/207_EN.pdf

8 June: Turkish police detained five Kurdish politicians — former mayors and their deputies from the Ergani district of Turkey's southeastern Diyarbakır city — on Saturday, in the latest episode of an ongoing crackdown on Kurdish politicians in the country.

Issue 208²⁰⁷

10-16 June 2024

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

14 June: Human rights lawyer Zilan Gu mu ş, co-chair of the İzmir branch of the Human Rights Association, has faced repeated police surveillance and harassment due to her advocacy work, prompting a press conference by multiple human rights organizations calling for an end to the intimidation and an investigation into the responsible officers.

KURDISH MINORITY

12 June: A Turkish court has arrested six politicians, former mayors and their deputies in the predominantly Kurdish province of Diyarbakır who were detained on June 8 as part of an ongoing crackdown on Kurdish politicians in the country.

2025**Issue 209²⁰⁸**

17-23 June 2024

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

20 June: Yıldırım Han, an inmate from Şırnak Type-T Prison, died Wednesday night after being transferred to a hospital in Ankara due to deteriorating health, having voiced

²⁰⁷ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023) *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 208* | Date 10-16 June. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/208_EN.pdf

²⁰⁸ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 209* | Date 17-23 June. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/209_EN.pdf

concerns two weeks prior about extreme isolation, lack of hot water, and arbitrary punishments by guards.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

22 June: During a visit on June 22 to offer condolences for those who died in the June 20 fire in Diyarbakır and Mardin, Governor Ali İhsan Su's comment attributing the fire to "stubble burning" sparked a strong reaction from villagers, leading to an altercation in which the governor's guards assaulted a young man, S.Ç., and deleted the footage he had recorded on his phone.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

20 June: Followers of the faith-based Gülen movement and supporters of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) are the primary targets of Turkish intelligence agents in Germany, according to a report from the German interior ministry.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

19 June: A women's group has raised concerns about women's institutions in Diyarbakır and Batman, which were dismantled by government-appointed trustees and turned into 'coffee houses for men' after replacing elected mayors from pro-Kurdish parties due to 'terrorism' investigations.

2025

Issue 210²⁰⁹

24-30 June 2024

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

26 June: The Chief Prosecutor's Office in Turkey's southeastern Urfa province has accepted yet another criminal complaint against Emine Şenyaşar, who has been targeted by the government for her protest demanding justice for her family members murdered

²⁰⁹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 210 | Date 24-30 June*. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/210_EN.pdf

by the organized crime unit after attempting to provide legal bodyguards of an AKP deputy.

KURDISH MINORITY

24 June: Nine co-mayors from the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) have been banned from leaving Turkey without the issuance of court orders.

25 June: A Kurdish man who questioned voters who were allegedly "transferred" to his city of residence in the southeastern province of Şırnak on the day of the March 31 local elections in order to change the election results in favor of the ruling party has been indicted.

25 June: A Turkish court began to hear the trial of five former lawmakers from a pro-Kurdish party over their alleged role in violent protests that erupted in southeastern Turkey over a siege of the Syrian Kurdish town of Kobani by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in 2014.

26 June: Following a peaceful protest in Mersin, a person named Munzur Can Erdoğan (21, m) was intercepted by unidentified persons, subjected to racist and discriminatory threats and physical violence.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

25 June: Two Kurdish journalists from Iranian Kurdistan are facing imminent deportation from Turkey to Iran, where they fear for their lives.

Issue 211²¹⁰

1-7 July 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

²¹⁰ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 211 | Date 1-7 July*. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/211_EN.pdf

4 July: The Mezopotamya Female Journalists Association (MKG) has announced in a monthly report that a total of 22 women journalists were involved in trial proceedings in June over their professional activities.

KURDISH MINORITY

4 July: Eight Kurdish journalists who were arrested as part of an Ankara-based investigation and released pending trial on May 16, 2023 have been sentenced to six years, three months in prison.

6 July: Fermani Çetin, an inmate serving a life sentence in northwest Turkey, has seen his parole postponed by six years based on disciplinary penalties that the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) had ruled violated his rights.

Issue 212²¹¹

8-14 July 2024

2025

KURDISH MINORITY

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

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.

²¹¹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 212 | Date 8-14 July. *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR*, 212, 1–8. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/212_EN.pdf

Issue 213²¹²

15–21 July 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

20 July: Turkish police detained 20 protesters in Istanbul and the capital Ankara during commemoration marches for the 33 people who lost their lives in the ISIS suicide bomb attack in 2015 in the Suruç district of Turkey's eastern Şanlıurfa province.

KURDISH MINORITY

18 July: A regional branch of the Human Rights Association (İİHD) has released a midyear report on the human rights situation in Turkey's eastern and southeastern regions, detailing 3,895 rights violations.

19 July: A Turkish court sentenced Selahattin Demirtaş, former co-chair of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), to more than two years in prison for remarks made between 2015 and 2017, alleging that they denigrated state institutions.

2025**Issue 214**²¹³

22–28 July 2024

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

²¹² Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 213 | Date 15–21 July. In *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR* (Issue Issue No. 213).

https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/213_EN.pdf

²¹³ TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 214 | Date 22–28 July. (2024). In *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR* (Issue Issue No. 214, pp. 1–7) [Report].

https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/214_EN.pdf

2025

25 July: Bedrettin Düzen, a 32-year-old shepherd, was killed by a landmine explosion in the Dorskî Valley region of Yüksekova district in Hakkari, Turkey, highlighting the ongoing danger of landmines in areas frequented by local herders.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

25 July: Director Ömer Leventoğlu and cameraman Hüseyin Altürk were briefly detained by police on the Sakarya-Kocaeli highway for possessing t-shirts with the image of imprisoned Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş; they were released after several hours, and the t-shirts were confiscated.

25 July: Mezopotamya Agency's domain names mezopotamyaajansi.net, mezopotamyaajansi37.com, mobilma.com and mezopotamyapanel.com were blocked from access with the decision of Gümüşhane Criminal Judge of Peace on the grounds of protection of national security and public order.

KURDISH MINORITY

24 July: In Mersin, 9 people who were detained on the grounds of 'making propaganda for an illegal organisation' for sharing a video of them dancing halay on the beach on their social media accounts were handcuffed behind their backs and forced to listen to the national song 'Ö lürüm Türkiyem' by the police officers in charge at Mersin Police Department.

25 July: An Ankara court has issued its reasoned decision in the trial of Kurdish journalists convicted on terrorism charges earlier in July, accusing the defendants of "manipulating public opinion" through their publications.

26 July: Police raided a Kurdish wedding in Ağrı's Doğubayazıt district, detaining several individuals including the wedding hall owner, a musician, and a camera operator, on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" linked to the display of traditional Kurdish attire and songs.

Issue 215²¹⁴

²¹⁴ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 215 | Date July 29- August 4* [Report]. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/215_EN.pdf

29 July – 4 August 2024

KURDISH MINORITY

30 July: Turkish police have detained Veysi Dilekçi and Gülşen Kurt, provincial co-chairs of the pro-Kurdish People's Democracy and Equality Party (DEM Party), along with several others in the eastern province of Van.

30 July: Unidentified people have defaced Kurdish language traffic signs in the eastern provinces of Diyarbakır and Van, in what appears to be a racially motivated attack on the minority language.

1 August: Turkish police have detained five people for playing Kurdish-language songs at a wedding in the southeastern province of Diyarbakır.

1 August: The Şırnak Chief Public Prosecutor's Office has launched an investigation into 13 members of the pro Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) for singing a Kurdish anthem during a protest in southeastern Turkey.

2025

Issue 216²¹⁵

5-11 August 2024

KURDISH MINORITY

6 August: Kurdish-language traffic signs in Diyarbakır province were removed once again following a directive by the governor's office.

6 August: In Osmaniye, 5 people, including Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Osmaniye Central District Co-Chairs Sevgi Aydın and Faruk Kahraman, were detained on the grounds that they danced halay playing Kurdish music at a wedding.

²¹⁵ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 216* / Date 5-11 August [Report]. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/216_EN.pdf

10 August: In Istanbul's Esenyurt district, a police raid on a wedding in Pınar Mahallesi, allegedly due to "Kurdish political songs," resulted in the detention of 8 people.

PRISON CONDITIONS

8 August: Unlawful strip searches have become increasingly common in Batman Prison, sparking concerns about systematic human rights violations in the facility.

Issue 217²¹⁶

12-18 August 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

13 August: A Turkish court has blocked access to Kurdish outlet Bianet's Media Monitoring Report, which documents rights violations related to press freedom.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

14 August: The Şırnak Governorship announced a three day ban on all public gatherings, events, and related activities from August 14 to 16, 2024, including inter district travel and collective movements into the province.

15 August: The Mardin Governorship announced a three day ban on all public gatherings, including outdoor and indoor meetings, marches, press statements, hunger strikes, sit-ins, setting up stands or tents, drone activities, surveys, distribution of flyers, and similar activities, starting from August 15, 2024.

KURDISH MINORITY

12 August: A prison in the Turkish province of Şırnak has imposed a ban on the use of Kurdish language during phone calls between inmates and their families.

2025

²¹⁶ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 217 | Date 12-18 August. In *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR* (Issue 217, pp. 12–18).

https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/217_EN.pdf

13 August: Workers at an Istanbul Airport restaurant chain were banned from listening to and speaking Kurdish, with the manager's discriminatory remarks leading to the resignation of 12 Kurdish employees.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

15 August: Prison authorities have failed to take Şehriban Mimkara, an inmate suffering from throat cancer, to the hospital for five months.

Issue 218²¹⁷

19-25 August 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

22 August: The website of the pro-Kurdish news agency, Mezopotamya Ajansı (MA), has been blocked in Turkey.

KURDISH MINORITY

23 August: Two local politicians from the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) have been detained in a police operation in Istanbul.

PRISON CONDITIONS

19 August: Inmates at a Malatya prison are being forced into overcrowded wards, leading to serious health concerns, limited access to water, and inadequate meals, as families call on authorities to address the deteriorating conditions.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

21 August: Turkish authorities have postponed the release of 51-year-old inmate İlhan Sami Çomak by three months, citing concerns about his awareness of his crime and potential for reoffending, despite his eligibility for parole.

²¹⁷ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 218 | Date 19-25 August. In *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR* (Issue Issue No. 218).

https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/218_EN.pdf

21 August: Nevzat Akbulak, an inmate at Elazığ No. 1 High Security Prison, had his release postponed for a third time by six months after the Prison Administration and Observation Board deemed him "not of good behavior" for refusing to accept enforced remorse.

Issue 219²¹⁸

26 August – 1 September 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

27 August: A Turkish court has ordered an access ban on the X accounts of 82 people including prominent journalists and politicians, such as Kurdish politician Ertuğrul Kürkçü, journalists Amberin Zaman, on accusations that they are disseminating terrorist propaganda.

KURDISH MINORITY

27 August: Two Kurdish inmates at Bafra Prison in Turkey's Black Sea province of Samsun were put in solitary confinement for 11 days for writing poetry in Kurdish.

28 August: Thirty-one Kurdish inmates in İzmir prison, Turkey, have been banned from phone calls and visits for one month after commemorating the Kobani resistance with Kurdish songs and slogans.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

29 August: Mehmet Emin Çam, a 72-year-old prisoner at the Beşiri T-Type Closed Prison in Batman, eastern Turkey, has reportedly been denied access to his essential medications for the past two weeks.

²¹⁸ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 219* | Date 26 August – 1 September [Report]. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/219_EN.pdf

Issue 220²¹⁹

2-8 September 2024

KURDISH MINORITY

2 September: Following a World Peace Day press statement in Istanbul's Kadıköy district, 12 people were arrested, for "making terrorist propaganda" after police intervened due to Kurdish slogans and traditional dancing.

2 September: In Istanbul's Aksaray district, Hakim Lokman, a citizen of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, was killed and two others were injured in an alleged attack after being targeted for speaking Kurdish on the phone while dining at a restaurant.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

4 September: The staff of an Istanbul hospital has allegedly mistreated Abdulkadir Kaday, a Kurdish inmate suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), denying him water and neglecting his personal care.

2025

Issue 221²²⁰

9-15 September 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

²¹⁹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 220 | Date 2-8 September* [Report]. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/220_EN.pdf

²²⁰ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 221 | Date 9-15 September*. In *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR* (Issue 221, pp. 1–9). https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/221_EN.pdf

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.

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

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.

2025

Issue 222²²¹

16–22 September 2024

KURDISH MINORITY

²²¹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 222* | Date 16–22 September. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/222_EN.pdf

20 September: A Kurdish patient in Turkey was reportedly denied an audiological test because they could not understand Turkish, sparking criticism over discrimination in healthcare services.

21 September: The Kurdish language pedestrian warnings "Hedî" (Slow) and "Peşî Peya" (Pedestrians First), written on crosswalks by Elazığ Karakoçan Municipality, were erased by unidentified individuals.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

17 September: An investigation has been launched in Sanliurfa against police officers accused of using disproportionate force during a recent incident, raising concerns about excessive violence in law enforcement practices.

Issue 223²²²

23–29 September 2024

2025

KURDISH MINORITY

30 September: Members of the music group Koma Hevra — Zeynep Doğan, Gencay Morkoç, and Yusuf Keleş—were detained on the grounds of making 'terrorist propaganda', after performing Kurdish songs at a concert in Diyarbakır.

4 October: In Aydın, 7 people, including DEM Party officials Görkem Oüzyürek, Sedanur Aydın, and Helin Uçar, were detained in house raids, with a confidentiality order placed on the investigation and a 24-hour restriction on lawyer access.

PRISON CONDITIONS

1 October: Reports indicate that sick inmates in Van province prisons face delays in medical treatment, with one prisoner suffering from skin disease lacking timely care, and

²²² Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 224* / Date 30 September – 6 October. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/224_EN.pdf

another inmate with cancer unable to access appropriate treatments, worsening their conditions.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

2 October: A Kurdish inmate with ALS, Abdulkadir Kaday, died in a Turkish prison after authorities denied his release despite his critical condition and appeals from his family and advocates.

4 October: Turkish authorities sent 67-year-old cancer patient Abdurrahman Gemicioğlu to prison to serve an eight-year sentence, despite his severe health issues, including colon cancer and heart failure, which his family says makes it impossible for him to care for himself.

5 October: In Şanlıurfa's Karaköprü district, Hasan and Sinan Harman were subjected to physical violence, handcuffed, and sprayed with tear gas by police after questioning the search of their vehicle, later filing a 3 October: In September, men in Turkey killed 33 women, one child, and harassed or abused numerous others, according to Bianet's Male Violence Monitoring Report, which also highlighted suspicious deaths and violence across the country. complaint with medical evidence,

2025

Issue 225²²³

7-13 October 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

11 October: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that Turkey violated Kurdish musician Hozan Canê's right to freedom of expression after she was convicted for insulting President Erdoğan in a Facebook post, ordering compensation for the violation.

KURDISH MINORITY

²²³ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 225* / Date 7-13 October. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/225_EN.pdf

9 October: The Turkish Culture and Tourism Ministry has refused to allow the Kurdish movie "Rojbash" to be screened in theaters across the country on the grounds that the movie is "not suitable for commercial circulation".

9 October: A Turkish court has accepted an indictment against Kurdish journalist Melek Avcı over social media posts, accusing her of spreading propaganda.

9 October: In Siirt's Kurtalan district, five individuals, including co-mayor Sadiye Aktin, DEM Party District Co chair Saliha Sak, and DBP District Co-chair Sultan Yorulmaz, were detained following a family visit cited as the reason for their arrest.

10 October: Turkey's top appeals court has upheld a prison sentence of more than nine years handed down to a Kurdish mayor who was removed from office in 2019 and stood trial on terrorism-related charges.

11 October: Kurdish journalist Serhildan Andan was detained in Amed (Diyarbakır) by anti-terror police, although no official reason for the arrest has been disclosed.

11 October: In Antep, DEM Party and DBP co-chairs Mustafa Tuç, Mehmet Özkan, and Müslüm Denizhan were detained by police while traveling in their vehicle and taken to the Anti-Terror Branch for questioning.

2025

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

9 October: Serdar Şitilay, an inmate at Elazığ No. 1 High Security Prison, had his release postponed for the fourth time, with the Prison Administration and Observation Board extending his detention by six months, citing concerns about his ability to reintegrate into society.

10 October: Mazlum Alan, a prisoner held in İzmir Kırklar No. 2 F-Type Prison and diagnosed with lung cancer, is reportedly unable to access the necessary treatment under prison conditions.

Issue 226²²⁴

²²⁴ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 226 / Date 14-20 October*. (2022). [Report]. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/226_EN.pdf

14-20 October 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

15 October: Turkish police have detained 269 people in connection to a recent demonstration in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish province of Diyarbakır where protestors demanded an end to the solitary confinement of jailed Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan and his ultimate release from prison.

15 October: Gendarmerie intervened in a protest by villagers in Adıyaman's Yeşiltepe (Gazikale) forested area against the cutting of trees for the construction of earthquake housing, detaining six people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

15 October: Etkin Haber Ajansı (ETHA) editor Pınar Gayıp, who went to the Istanbul Fatih Kocamustafapaşa Şehit Sinan Acar Police Station to testify in an investigation related to her professional activities, was detained due to an arrest warrant issued in connection with a different investigation.

17 October: An Ankara court has ruled that Şebnem Korur Fincancı, a prominent expert in forensic medicine and human rights activist, pay 50,000 lira (\$1,460) in non pecuniary damages to the Turkish Defense Ministry for calling for an investigation in 2022 into the alleged use of chemical weapons by the Turkish army against Kurdish militants in northern Iraq.

KURDISH MINORITY

14 October: Turkey's Constitutional Court ruled that chanting pro-Kurdish slogans and singing Kurdish songs are protected under freedom of speech, ordering a retrial for Merve Nur Tekin, who was previously convicted of making terror propaganda.

16 October: Süleyman Bozkurt, the Co-Chair of the DEM Party's Darende district, was detained during a house raid in Malatya's Darende district on charges of "spreading organizational propaganda."

2025

Issue 227²²⁵

21-27 October 2024

KURDISH MINORITY

25 October: An attack was carried out on the headquarters of the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) in Ankara's Balgat district, resulting in material damage to the building.

PRISON CONDITIONS 25

October: In Diyarbakır No. 2 High-Security Prison, inmates were not allowed to use cooling systems in their rooms during hot weather, nor were they permitted to purchase air conditioners with their own means.

Issue 228²²⁶

28 October – 3 November 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

31 October: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office announced a two-day ban, effective from October 31, 2024, on all outdoor activities across the province, including gatherings, marches, press statements, hunger strikes, sit ins, rallies, setting up stands or tents, distributing leaflets/brochures, and hanging posters/banners, as well as restricting entry to the province for individuals intending to participate in such activities.

²²⁵ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR* Issue No. 227 | Date 21-27 October. In *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR* (Issue Issue No. 227).

https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/227_EN.pdf

²²⁶ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR* Issue No. 228 | Date 28 October – 3 November [Report]. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/228_EN.pdf

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

30 October: Ahmet OÖzer, the mayor of İstanbul's Esenyurt district from Turkey's main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), was detained at his home in an early morning raid on suspicion of membership in the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

KURDISH MINORITY

30 October: In Istanbul, 20 people, including Esenyurt's CHP-elected Mayor Ahmet Özer and Koma Hevra vocalist Zeynep Doğan, were detained in house raids on charges of "membership in a terrorist organization."

1 November: Azime Bozkurt, a distributor for Yeni Yaşam—a pro-Kurdish newspaper known for its detailed reporting on the consequences of the Turkish government's actions in Kurdish regions—was detained in Tunceli on charges of "making propaganda for an organization." 1 November: Ali Çeven was detained due to his statements on the Kurdish issue made during a street interview, during which he reportedly suffered physical violence from the police, resulting in injuries.

2025

Issue 229²²⁷

4-10 November 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

4 November: The governor's offices of Mardin, Şırnak, Diyarbakır, Van, Ağrı, Şanlıurfa, and Batman announced bans on all potential public gatherings and activities, including press statements, assemblies, marches, hunger strikes, sit-ins, rallies, setting up stands or tents, distributing leaflets or brochures, and hanging posters or banners, as well as restrictions on the entry and exit of individuals likely to participate in such events, effective for between 2-10 days starting November 4, 2024.

²²⁷ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 229 | Date 4-10 November*. (n.d.). https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/229_EN.pdf

5 November: On the second day of protests that erupted over the removal of three Kurdish mayors from their posts in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish southeast, dozens of people, including two journalists, were forcibly detained by the police.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

9 November: Journalist Furkan Karabay has been arrested in Turkey over his reporting and social media posts criticizing the government's takeover of municipalities in Kurdish-majority regions.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

6 November: The Council of Europe has strongly condemned Turkey's dismissal of elected mayors in the Kurdish-majority southeast, describing the move as an affront to democratic principles and local self-governance, and urging Turkish authorities to respect the will of voters and uphold the rule of law.

KURDISH MINORITY

4 November: Turkey's Interior Ministry has dismissed three mayors from the Kurdish-majority southeast, accusing them of links to terrorism, with trustees appointed in their place, a move criticized as part of a broader crackdown on pro-Kurdish politicians

7 November: Prosecutors have launched an investigation into DEM Party co-chairperson and lawmaker Tuncer Bakırhan and Mardin provincial chairman Mehmet Mihdi Tunç, co-chair of the pro-Kurdish DBP, over their remarks criticizing the Turkish government's removal of elected mayors.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

4 November: During protests against the removal of co mayors in Mardin, Batman, and Urfa's Halfeti district, police raided the home of Batman Municipal Council Member Mehmet Erol, subjecting him and his family to physical violence. His son, Medeni Erol, who has a 70% mental disability, was reportedly tortured with police dogs, leaving both injured, and Medeni was detained.

Issue 230²²⁸

11-17 November 2024

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE 14

November: In Bingöl, Sinan Çıtak, who was under a detention order, was reportedly shot dead by police during an alleged escape attempt while being taken into custody.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

15 November: Amid protests against the Ministry of Interior's appointment of trustees to CHP and DEM affiliated municipalities, 37 individuals were arrested out of 358 detained.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

12 November: The Van Governor's Office announced a 10 day ban, from November 12 to 21, on activities such as protests, marches, public or indoor meetings, press statements, sit-ins, surveys, setting up tents or stands, signature campaigns, and the distribution of flyers or brochures. The ban also restricts the entry and exit of individuals deemed likely to participate in these events.

14 November: The Mardin and Batman's Governor's Offices announced a 10-day ban, from November 14 to 24, on all outdoor gatherings, meetings, marches, press statements, hunger strikes, sit-ins, tent setups, drone activities, surveys, distribution of leaflets or brochures, and hanging banners. The ban also restricts the entry and exit of individuals deemed likely to participate in these activities.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

16 November: The Turkish government has sought to lift the immunity of five opposition lawmakers, including pro Kurdish People's Democracy and Equality party (DEM Party) representatives Cengiz Çandar, Sabahat Erdoğan Sarıtaş and Salihe Aydeniz as well as

²²⁸ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 230 | Date 11-17 November. In *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR* (Issue 230).

https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/230_EN.pdf

Burak Akburak, from the nationalist opposition Good Party (İYİ Party) and independent deputy Yüksel Arslan.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

12 November: The Suruç Chief Public Prosecutor's Office decided there was no basis for prosecution in a complaint alleging torture, ill-treatment during detention on March 2, 2023, and a strip search in Sanliurfa No. 2 T-Type Prison on March 5, 2024, involving 64-year-old Adle Samur, stating a lack of concrete evidence to pursue charges of misconduct and torture.

Issue 231²²⁹

18-24 November 2024

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

20 November: On November 20, 2024, summaries of proceedings seeking to lift parliamentary immunity were submitted to the Turkish Grand National Assembly for Ayten Kordu, Cengiz Çiçek, Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu, Yılmaz Hun, Nejla Demir (DEM Party); Tuncay Özkan, Özgür Karabat, Turan Taşkın Özer, Türkan Elçi, Süleyman Bülbül (CHP); Bülent Kaya (Saadet Party); and Cemal Enginyurt (Independent).

22 November: Two opposition mayors in eastern Turkey were removed from office after being convicted of "terrorism" for belonging to a banned Kurdish militant group, the interior minister said.

KURDISH MINORITY 19 November: Following a police raid on the Istanbul Esenyurt office of the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party), district co-chairs Rojda Yılmaz and Abdullah Arınan were detained at the police station where they had gone to give their statements.

20 November: Turkish courts have sentenced three Kurdish mayors to prison on terrorism-related charges. Mehmet Siddık Akış, the ousted co-mayor of Hakkari, received

²²⁹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 231* [Report]. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/231_EN.pdf

a nine-year sentence for "committing crimes on behalf of a terrorist organization" and violating public demonstration laws. Cevdet Konak, co-mayor of Dersim, and Mustafa Sarıgül, mayor of Ovacık in Tunceli province, were each sentenced to six years and three months for "membership in a terrorist organization."

Issue 232²³⁰

25 November – 1 December 2024

KURDISH MINORITY

26 November: Turkish authorities detained 231 individuals, including mayors, journalists, and activists, in nationwide anti-terror raids targeting Kurdish people for alleged links to terror organizations.

26 November: Kayapınar District Co-Mayor Cengiz Dünder was detained during police operations in Diyarbakır, which also targeted members of the Education and Science Workers' Union (Eğitim-Sen).

29 November: Seventeen people, including politicians, journalists, lawyers and human rights activists who were among 231 individuals detained earlier this week due to their alleged links to terrorist organizations, have been referred to court for arrest.

29 November: Ayvaz Hazır, co-mayor of Bahçeşaray in Van province, was sentenced to three years and eleven months in prison for allegedly committing crimes on behalf of a terrorist organization without being a member.

30 November: Dersim Co-Mayor Birsan Orhan has been arrested on charges of violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations and resisting public officials, sparking concerns over the increasing crackdown on local politicians in Turkey.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

²³⁰ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 232 | Date 25 November – 1 December* [Report]. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/232_EN.pdf

26 November: Journalist Erdoğan Alayumat was subjected to a strip search at the Istanbul Provincial Security Directorate following his detention on November 25, 2024, as part of a "terror" investigation, despite his objections and assertion that the procedure violated human rights.

28 November: Fatma Zozan Bor, a Kurdish artist, has said she was strip-searched as well as verbally and physically harassed by the police after she was detained during an art exhibition in southeastern Turkey.

Issue 233²³¹

2-8 December 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

4 December: The Sanliurfa Governor's Office announced a two day ban on gatherings, marches, press statements, hunger strikes, sit-ins, rallies, leaflet distribution, and similar activities, as well as restricting the entry of individuals deemed likely to participate in such events, effective from December 4 to December 6, 2024.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

6 December: Turkish journalist Ayşenur Arslan, a veteran broadcaster and former presenter on the pro-opposition Halk TV, faces up to seven and a half years in prison for allegedly disseminating propaganda for the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in comments made on a television program.

3 December: Requests to lift the immunity of CHP Aydın MP Hüseyin Yıldız, DEM Party Mardin MP Kamuran Tanhan, İYİİ Party Antep MP Mehmet Mustafa Gürban, and Independent İstanbul MP Cemal Enginyurt have been submitted to the Turkish Parliament.

KURDISH MINORITY

²³¹ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 233 | Date 2-8 December. *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR*, 233, 1–8. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/233_EN.pdf

3 December: In Tunceli, police detained five individuals, including municipal council member Yoldaş Toka, during home raids targeting participants of protests against the appointment of trustees to local municipalities.

3 December: A Turkish court has issued an arrest warrant for journalist Ayşe Kara, currently residing in Germany, on charges of membership in an armed terrorist organization after she failed to appear for the third hearing in her retrial, following the overturning of her 2021 acquittal.

4 December: Abdullah Zeydan, the pro-Kurdish mayor of Van, faces potential removal from office after Turkey's Supreme Court of Appeals overturned a 2023 ruling that had reinstated his eligibility to run, citing insufficient legal grounds and a required three-year waiting period post release from prison.

Issue 234²³²

9-15 December 2024

2025

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

11 December: The Sanliurfa Governor's Office announced on December 11, 2024, a seven-day ban on public gatherings, marches, press statements, hunger strikes, sit-ins, rallies, leaflet distribution, and similar activities, as well as entry and exit of individuals deemed likely to participate, effective from December 11 to December 18, 2024.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

13 December: Folk musician Pınar Aydınlar was detained after displaying a poster of Seyid Rıza, leader of the 1937 Dersim rebellion, during her concert in Istanbul, leading to an investigation by the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office for "praising a crime and a criminal."

KURDISH MINORITY

²³² Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 234 | Date 9-15 December*. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/234_EN.pdf

13 December: Turkish police have detained Reşat Aşan, the Mersin provincial chair of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party), along with five others, as part of an investigation by the İstanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office.

13 December: Serhat Durmuş, an employee of the pro Kurdish Yeni Yaşam newspaper, was arrested during house raids in Siirt, accused of providing aid to a terrorist organization, while two others, Mehmet Nezir Kaplan and Yusuf OÖzbay, were released under judicial control.

Issue 235²³³

16-22 December 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

19 December: The Kocaeli 1st Criminal Judgeship of Peace imposed an access ban on three separate NuJINHA news agency accounts on the social media platform X (Twitter), which shared content in Kurdish, Turkish, and English.

21 December: Turkish police detained 30 individuals, including 20 journalists, during a protest in İstanbul's Şişhane Square against the killing of two Kurdish journalists in a reported Turkish drone strike in northern Syria.

21 December: The pro-Kurdish daily Yeni Yaşam newspaper's website was blocked for the seventh time by a decision from Diyarbakır 2nd Criminal Judgeship of Peace, according to the Information and Communication Technologies Authority.

KURDISH MINORITY

18 December: Turkey's Interior Ministry defended banning the Kurdish-language play "Qral û Travis" in Ağrı, citing public order concerns under laws criticized for enabling censorship of Kurdish cultural expression and linking cultural events to separatist activities without evidence.

²³³ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 235 / Date 16-22 December 2024*. https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/235_EN.pdf

18 December: Kurdish filmmaker Kerem Tekoğlu was arrested in Istanbul on charges of alleged membership in a terrorist organisation, with his professional links to former Esenyurt mayor Ahmet Özer reportedly misinterpreted deliberately.

21 December: Human Rights Watch urged Turkey to stop prosecuting individuals for Kurdish language and cultural activities, describing in its report that such actions undermine minority rights, foster discrimination, and constitute a misuse of anti-terrorism laws to silence Kurdish identity.

PRISON CONDITIONS

19 December: In Tekirdağ F-Type No. 2 Prison, inmates are forced to buy their own spoons, and Kurdish letters are withheld by authorities, labelled as written in an "unknown language."

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

20 December: Two Kurdish journalists, Nazım Daştan and Cihan Bilgin, were killed in northern by a Turkish drone strike while covering clashes between Turkish-backed militias and U.S.-supported Kurdish forces.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

19 December: Mehmet Bahaddin Öncü, an inmate at Muğla Bodrum Type D Prison, was denied permission by prison authorities to attend his mother's funeral, citing "local security concerns."

Issue 236²³⁴

23-29 December 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION 23 December: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office announced a five-day ban on all outdoor events, including press statements, gatherings, marches, hunger strikes, sit-ins, vigils, rallies, and leaflet distribution, as well

²³⁴ Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 236 / Date 23-29 December*. (2024). https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/236_EN.pdf

as the entry of individuals deemed likely to participate in such activities, effective from December 23 to 27, 2024.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

24 December: A criminal investigation has been launched by the Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office against journalist Medine Mamedoğlu on charges of "inciting the public to disobey the law" after she shared footage on social media showing police detaining a child with alleged torture and other ill-treatment.

26 December: Turkish journalist Nevşin Mengü faces up to seven and a half years in prison after publishing an interview with Salih Müslim, one of the leaders of a Syrian Kurdish group that Turkey has designated as a terrorist organization.

26 December: The Istanbul 14th High Criminal Court sentenced Hüseyin Aykol and Reyhan Çapan to 4 years and 4 months, and Ayşe Batumlu Kaya to 2 years and 9 months for "spreading terrorist propaganda" and "inciting crimes" over articles in the closed Özgür Gündem, while issuing no ruling for Eren Keskin due to a prior conviction.

KURDISH MINORITY

26 December: Pro-Kurdish Yeni Yaşam newspaper employee Veysi Akören was detained at Batman airport on charges of "spreading terrorist propaganda."

2025

2025

Issue 237²³⁵

30 December 2024 - 5 January 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

31 December: In Turkey's Kocaeli province, 10 people, including the Gebze District Co-Chairs of the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party), Melike Aydın and Ömer Yıldız, were detained during house raids for their social media posts about journalists Nazım Daştan and Cihan Bilgin, who lost their lives in Northern and Eastern Syria.

5 January: Pro-Kurdish news and media accounts blocked in Turkey under the pretext of protecting national security and public order, and made inaccessible by X, include:

- Mezopotamya Agency's account (@MATurkce) with 264,000 followers,
- JINNEWS Agency's account (@jinnewsturkce) with 168,000 followers,
- Yeni Yaşam Newspaper's account (@yeniyasamgazete) with 125,000 followers,
- Siyasi Haber's account (@SiyasiHaberOrg) with 44,000 followers.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

31 December: It has been reported that three female prisoners held in Ağrı Patnos Prison were subjected to torture and ill-treatment by prison guards, and that evidence of the abuse was not documented in the prison infirmary where they were taken.

²³⁵ Issue 237 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-237/>

Issue 238²³⁶

6-12 January 2025

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

9 January: Turkey has blocked access to seven news websites critical of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) government, including Yeni Demokrasi, Mesopotamia News Agency (MA), Umut Gazetesi, OÖzgür Gelecek, Alinteri, Halkın Günlüğü, and Kızıl Bayrak, citing national security and public order concerns.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

10 January: The indictment prepared by the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office against human rights defender Nimet Tanrikulu was accepted by the Ankara 17th High Criminal Court requesting her punishment for 'membership in a terrorist organization.'

KURDISH MINORITY

9 January: Members of the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Van Provincial Youth Council, Lorin Aryen Turğut and Kenan İlideniz, were detained by police in front of the party's provincial building in Van. 10 January: Turkish authorities have detained Hoşyar Sarıyıldız and Nuriye Aslan, co-mayors from the pro Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) in Akdeniz district, Mersin province, during early morning raids.

Issue 239²³⁷

13-19 January 2025

²³⁶ Issue 238 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-238/>

²³⁷ Issue 239 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-239/>

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

14 January: Protests erupted following the arrests of pro-Kurdish DEM Party mayors and the appointment of a trustee to Akdeniz Municipality in Mersin, leading to police intervention and the detention of five individuals.

KURDISH MINORITY

15 January: The İzmir Regional Court of Justice 2nd Criminal Chamber overturned the acquittal of Kasım Taşdoğan, who was accused of "making terrorist propaganda" for singing Kurdish songs, and sentenced him to 1 year and 8 months in prison.

17 January: Six Kurdish journalists, including Reyhan Hacıoğlu, Necla Demir, and Ahmet Güneş, were detained in coordinated police raids in İstanbul, Van, and Mersin as part of an investigation by the İstanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, drawing criticism from rights groups who see it as part of Turkey's ongoing crackdown on Kurdish media and freedom of expression.

16 January: Muş Alparslan University initiated an investigation into a professor from its Kurdish Language and Literature Department for incorporating Kurdish poetry books into coursework, alleging the materials contained inappropriate political content, despite these works being officially approved and available in the university's library.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

14 January: Lokman Yalçın, an inmate at Bitlis Ahlat T Prison who completed his 7-year, 6-month sentence, had his release postponed for the fourth time on December 30, 2024, by the Prison Administrative and Observation Board (CİİGK) for another three months, following three previous delays—twice for four months and once for three months.

15 January: Kenan Kaya, a former DEM Party Hakkari provincial chairperson and an ailing prisoner held in Samsun Kavak S-Type Prison who has previously suffered two heart attacks, has reportedly been denied medication and hospital treatment.

Issue 240²³⁸

²³⁸ *Issue 240 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-240/>

20-26 January 2025

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

21 January: A total of 37 individuals, including pro-Kurdish and leftist politicians, journalists, and activists, were detained in an İstanbul-based counterterrorism operation targeting alleged links to the Marxist Leninist Communist Party (MLKP).

KURDISH MINORITY

23 January: Kurdish film director Kazım Öz was briefly detained in İstanbul over allegations of "terrorist propaganda" in his 2017 film "Zer" and was released after questioning, with a hearing scheduled for March 13.

23 January: A Kurdish inmate, Ahmet Kaya, a prisoner allegedly assaulted by guards in 2023 at Van High-Security Prison, is in critical condition due to untreated injuries, including breathing difficulties, bone degeneration, and gum disease.

Issue 241²³⁹

27 January - 2 February 2025

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

29 January: Police detained three people during a protest in front of Siirt Municipality against the appointment of a trustee replacing pro-Kurdish DEM Party Mayor Sofya Alağaç.

29 January: Following the removal of Siirt Co-Mayor Sofya Alağaç from office, the Siirt Governor's Office announced a 10-day ban from January 29 to February 7 on all public gatherings, protests, and related activities, including the entry of individuals and vehicles for such events.

KURDISH MINORITY

²³⁹ Issue 241 – *Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-241/>

29 January: The Turkish Interior Ministry removed Siirt Mayor Sofya Alağaç from office and appointed a government trustee after a court sentenced her to over six years in prison on terrorism charges, making Siirt the eighth pro-Kurdish DEM Party municipality taken over by the government since the March 2024 elections.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

30 January: Human Rights Watch (HRW) has condemned a January 18 drone strike by the Turkey-backed Syrian National Army (SNA) on a Kurdish Red Crescent ambulance in northern Syria as an apparent war crime, following an earlier attack on protesters at Tishreen Dam that killed at least six people and wounded 16 others.

Issue 242²⁴⁰

3-9 February 2025

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

4 February: Turkish actor Melisa Sözen was questioned by İstanbul police for alleged "terrorist propaganda" over her role as a Kurdish militant in the French series *The Bureau*, due to her costume resembling YPG attire.

8 February: Turkish authorities arrested JINNEWS reporter Öznur Değer for "disseminating terrorist propaganda" over social media posts about two Kurdish journalists killed in a drone strike, with reports of police brutality during her detention.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

7 February: Former Human Rights Association (İİHD) Central Executive Board member Adnan Vural was sentenced to 1 year, 6 months, and 22 days in prison for "terrorist propaganda" while being acquitted of "membership in a terrorist organization" by the Ankara 2nd High Criminal Court.

KURDISH MINORITY

²⁴⁰ Issue 242 – *Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-242/>

7 February: Pro-Kurdish Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Nusaybin former Co-Chair Ziyne Algan, along with Mithat Yıldız and Lokman Aslan, were detained during house raids in Mardin.

Issue 243²⁴¹

10-16 February 2025

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

10 February: Turkish police detained 18 women using physical force during a crackdown on the "Kadınlar Örgütlülüğe Yürüyor" (Women Marching for Organization) protest organized by Tevgera Jinên Azad (TJA) in Van.

11 February: The Van Governor's Office announced a 15 day ban on all public gatherings, protests, press statements, marches, sit-ins, rallies, concerts, commemorations, and distribution of printed materials, along with restrictions on entry into the city, effective from February 11 to February 25, 2025.

12 February: The Gaziantep Governor's Office announced a 15-day ban on all public gatherings, protests, press statements, rallies, sit-ins, hunger strikes, commemorations, and distribution of printed materials, effective from February 13 to February 27, 2025.

15 February: Turkish police detained 127 people, including six journalists, after storming Van city hall at dawn with tear gas and rubber bullets, following the government's removal of Mayor Abdullah Zeydan and the appointment of a trustee.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

11 February: The news articles on the bribery and corruption allegations against Hüseyin Çam, former Mardin Kızıltepe District Governor and former Kızıltepe Municipality trustee, and the bureaucrats he worked with were ordered to be removed by Nevşehir Criminal Judicature of Peace.

²⁴¹ Issue 243 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-243/>

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

15 February: The Turkish government removed pro-Kurdish DEM Party Mayor Abdullah Zeydan from office and appointed Governor Ozan Balcı as trustee, a new move undermining local democracy and disenfranchising Kurdish voters.

KURDISH MINORITY

12 February: Turkish police detained eight people in Ankara, including DEM Party Council member Pakize Sinemillioğlu and former BTS President Nazım Karakurt, on charges of terrorist propaganda based on their social media posts and participation in events.

12 February: In Manisa's Salihli district, Turkish police detained 18 people, including DEM Party co-mayoral candidate Cevdet Yıldız, on charges of terrorist propaganda, citing their participation in last year's Newroz celebrations.

Issue 244²⁴²

17-23 February 2025

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

18 February: Nearly 400 people, including 55 minors, have been detained during protests against the removal of Van Municipality mayor Abdullah Zeydan, with reports of mistreatment in custody.

21 February: The Kars Governor's Office announced on February 20, 2025, a 10-day ban on all demonstrations, including press statements, gatherings, marches, hunger strikes, sit-ins, rallies, setting up stands or tents, distributing leaflets, and hanging banners, as well as restricting the entry and exit of vehicles supporting such activities between February 21 and March 2, 2025.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

²⁴² Issue 244 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-244/>

22 February: The İstanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office has filed criminal charges against İstanbul Bar Association President İbrahim Kaboğlu and 10 board members, seeking up to 12 years in prison for their call to uphold international humanitarian law following the killing of two Kurdish journalists in Syria.

KURDISH MINORITY

18 February: Turkish authorities escalated their crackdown on pro-Kurdish opposition, detaining 52 politicians, journalists, and artists in dawn raids across 10 provinces as part of an operation targeting the Peoples' Democratic Congress (HDK).

20 February: Access to the Mezopotamya Agency (MA) website and JINNEWS's X account has been blocked in Turkey in a new wave of censorship targeting Kurdish media.

21 February: Mehmet Alkan, the co-mayor of Kağızman, was sentenced to six years and three months in prison on terrorism charges in a trial criticized as politically motivated, with his removal from office expected to be followed by the appointment of a government trustee.

Issue 245²⁴³

24 February - 2 March 2025

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

27 February: The Van Governor's Office has imposed a 15 day ban on all public gatherings, protests, events, and related entries into the province from February 26 to March 12, 2025.

KURDISH MINORITY

²⁴³ Issue 245 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-245/>

25 February: Turkish author, director, and journalist Ruhi Karadağ has been sentenced to a 15-month suspended prison term for allegedly disseminating terrorist propaganda in his 2013 book on the failed peace talks with the PKK.

26 February: Three Kurdish journalists in Turkey, Abdurrahman Gök, Oktay Candemir, and Ruşen Takva, have had their X accounts blocked following a government request citing "national security" concerns.

26 February: Turkey's Ministry of Culture and Tourism has banned the film *Oy'una Geldik*, directed by previously detained pro-Kurdish filmmaker Kazım Öz, under Article 4 of Law No. 5224 on the Evaluation, Classification, and Support of Cinema Films.

1 March: The outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) has declared a ceasefire with Turkey following a call from jailed leader Abdullah Öcalan to disband, though the PKK demands improved conditions for Öcalan before fully implementing his appeal.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

27 February: Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) reported that 12 people, including four fighters, six civilian workers, and two shepherds, were killed in Turkish airstrikes targeting a military position and civilian sites in Al-Shaddadi.

Issue 246²⁴⁴

3–9 March 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

5 March: Three Kurdish writers, Mevlüt Aykoç, Sami Tan, and Ronayi Önen, were detained in early-morning police raids in İstanbul, Şanlıurfa, and Diyarbakır amid an ongoing government crackdown on dissent.

²⁴⁴ Issue 246 – *Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-246/>

Issue 247²⁴⁵

10-16 March 2025

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

14 March: An İstanbul court has ruled for the acquittal of 46 people from the Saturday Mothers, a group of activists and relatives seeking to learn the fate of loved ones who disappeared while in police custody in Turkey in the 1990s, who were tried for participating in a protest in August 2018.

KURDISH MINORITY

14 March: DEM Party Youth Council member Hüseyin Aslan was detained in Urfa's Bozova district over a social media post about the Siirt Governor, who was appointed as a trustee replacing the elected Siirt Mayor.

Issue 248²⁴⁶

17-23 March 2025

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

17 March: Belgian journalist Chris Den Hond has been denied entry to Turkey due to his participation in a celebration marking the liberation of the Syrian Kurdish town of Kobani from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in 2015.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

21 March: The İstanbul 17th Civil Court of First Instance issued the ruling to dismiss the executive board of the İstanbul Bar Association, citing allegations of "terrorist

²⁴⁵ Issue 247 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-247/>

²⁴⁶ Issue 248 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-248/>

propaganda" and "publicly spreading false information," following the bar's demand for an investigation into the killing of two Kurdish journalists in a suspected Turkish drone strike in Syria.

Issue 249²⁴⁷

24-30 March 2025

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

27 March: Prominent Turkish political scientist and journalist Nuray Mert has been indicted on charges of membership in a terrorist organization over a photo taken with Kurdish militants during an interview in Syria in 2014.

KURDISH MINORITY

26 March: A Turkish court has blocked access to the pro Kurdish news agency Mezopotamya's latest domain, mezopotamyaajansi42.com, citing national security, continuing the digital censorship targeting critical Kurdish media.

27 March: Former HDP municipal councilor Ceylan Aslan was sentenced to 8 years in prison by a Diyarbakır court on March 26 for attending peaceful protests and events, with charges including "membership in a terrorist organization" and violating the law on assemblies.

Issue 250²⁴⁸

31 March - 6 April 2025

²⁴⁷ Issue 249 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-249/>

²⁴⁸ Issue 250 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-250/>

KURDISH MINORITY

7 April: A new report by the Kurdish Language Rights Monitoring and Reporting Platform (Kurdish Monitoring) documented 24 cases of obstruction against the use of Kurdish in public life during the first three months of 2025, highlighting systematic restrictions across public spaces, media, arts, and prisons.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

2 April: Police in Şanlıurfa province, south-east Turkey, allegedly assaulted lawyer Yılmaz Birden while he was trying to meet his detained client, hitting him in the head with a gun butt and causing a bleeding wound that required treatment at District Hospital.

Issue 251²⁴⁹

7-13 April 2025

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

11 April: In Kars province, a specialist sergeant was arrested and jailed for shooting and killing a young civilian man after accusing him of "looking at him the wrong way," in an incident caught on camera.

Issue 252²⁵⁰

14-20 April 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

²⁴⁹ *Issue 251 – Solidarity with OTHERS.* (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-251-2/>

²⁵⁰ *Issue 252 – Solidarity with OTHERS.* (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-252/>

15 April: Kurdish journalist Hayri Demir was sentenced to nearly three years in prison for 'disseminating terrorist propaganda' through his reporting and social media posts, based on evidence including materials from his work in northern Syria; the verdict came during the eighth hearing of a trial that began nearly eight years ago.

Issue 253²⁵¹

21-27 April 2025

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

23 April: Swedish journalist Joakim Medin, arrested in Turkey in March, has been charged with insulting President Erdoğan and alleged PKK-related terrorism offenses, facing up to 12 years in prison if convicted.

KURDISH MINORITY

24 April: Pro-Kurdish JINNEWS reporter Rabia Öner were interrogated at the Van Police Department as part of an investigation opened against her for "inciting hatred and enmity" over her social media posts.

24 April: DEM Party Assembly member Muhsin Aydoğdu was detained by plainclothes police in front of his family home in Urfa and taken to the Urfa Police Department, reportedly as part of a Diyarbakır-based investigation on "terrorist propaganda," with witnesses accusing police of forcibly abducting him without showing a detention warrant.

PRISON CONDITIONS

24 April: DEM Party deputy Gülcan Kaçmaz Sayyigit condemned the deaths of 709 inmates in Turkish prisons in 2024 (not all were Kurdish), blaming political inaction and the Council of Forensic Medicine's biased reports, and called the ongoing failure to release seriously ill prisoners a violation of the right to life.

²⁵¹ Issue 253 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-253/>

Issue 254²⁵²

28 April - 4 May 2025

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

30 April: A Turkish court gave Swedish journalist Joakim Medin a suspended 11-month sentence for insulting President Erdoğan, but he remains jailed in Silivri pending trial on a second charge of terrorist group membership, which he denies, saying he was only doing journalism.

KURDISH MINORITY

29 April: Pro-Kurdish DEM Party İzmir former co-chair Çınar Altan was sentenced to a total of 3 years and 4 months in prison on April 28, 2025, for aiding a terrorist organization and disseminating propaganda.

Issue 255²⁵³

5-11 May 2025

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

7 May: Nihat Göktaş, a member of the Human Rights Association (İHD) Istanbul Branch Prison Commission, and Hülya Gerçek, an İHD member, were detained in Istanbul on May 5, 2025, following a raid on their homes, accused of "financing terrorism" for sending money to a prisoner in need monitored by the commission.

KURDISH MINORITY

²⁵² Issue 254 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-254/>

²⁵³ Issue 255 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-255/>

9 May: Birsen Orhan, co-mayor of Tunceli from the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) who was removed from office by the Interior Ministry and replaced by a trustee, was sentenced to a total of 2 years, 2 months and 7 days in prison for "violating the Law on Assemblies and Demonstrations" and "resisting to prevent the execution of duty."

Issue 256²⁵⁴

12-18 May 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

12 May: The PKK has officially declared its dissolution and the end of its armed campaign against Turkey after 40 years of conflict.

PRISON CONDITIONS

16 May: Turkey's prison population has surpassed 400,000—exceeding official capacity by over 100,000—as a result of mass detentions targeting dissenters, including Gülen movement followers and Kurdish activists, amid an eightfold rise in inmates over 25 years.

Issue 257²⁵⁵

19-25 May 2025

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

²⁵⁴ *Issue 256 – Solidarity with OTHERS.* (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-256/>

²⁵⁵ *Issue 257 – Solidarity with OTHERS.* (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-257/>

19 May: Swedish journalist Joakim Medin, arrested in Turkey on charges of insulting President Erdoğan and alleged terrorist ties, has been released and is returning to Sweden, following diplomatic efforts by the Swedish government.

KURDISH MINORITY

22 May: Turkey's parliament rejected a motion by the pro Kurdish DEM Party to investigate enforced disappearances through a Truth and Justice Commission, despite decades long pleas from Kurdish families and victims' relatives during the Week of the Disappeared.

Issue 258²⁵⁶

26 May - 1 June 2025

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

30 May: Firat Epözdemir, a board member of the İstanbul Bar Association, was released pending trial after being held for 127 days on charges of terrorist organization membership and propaganda, stemming from a broader investigation into the bar's leadership over a social media post calling for accountability in the deaths of two Kurdish journalists.

KURDISH MINORITY

26 May: A man wearing a white cap attacked the Çanakkale office of the Pro-Kurdish DEM Party with stones during a meeting, causing property damage but no injuries.

Issue 259²⁵⁷

2-8 June 2025

²⁵⁶ *Issue 258 – Solidarity with OTHERS.* (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-258/>

²⁵⁷ *Issue 259 – Solidarity with OTHERS.* (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-259/>

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

2 June: UN human rights experts condemned criminal charges against the president and board members of the İstanbul Bar Association for calling for an investigation into the deaths of two Kurdish journalists in a suspected Turkish drone strike, warning the case undermines legal independence and misuses terrorism laws to silence dissent.

KURDISH MINORITY

4 June: Four members of the Arsîsa music group — Tuncay Taştan, Murat Koçak, Ayşe Güler, and Derya Kanpolat — were detained in Doğubayazıt, Ağrı, for performing a Kurdish song during a concert.

PRISON CONDITIONS

5 June: The Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD) has accused authorities at Urfa No. 2 Prison in southeastern Turkey of systematically subjecting women and children visitors to degrading strip-searches and invasive physical contact, calling the practices unlawful and abusive.

Issue 260²⁵⁸

9 - 15 June 2025

No incidents reported²⁵⁹

²⁵⁸ Issue 260 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-260/>

²⁵⁹ It is noteworthy that this is the first week without any violations targeting the Kurdish people. From this date on indeed, the number of cases suddenly diminish and lower to the level of individual violations rather than a collective persecution. Very soon after this date, in October 2025 to be exact, nationalist MHP leader Devlet Bahçeli is to launch a new “peace process” later named as “Turkey without terror” process. Bahçeli will make a call to the Turkish parliament that the “founding leader” of PKK should come address the parliament. In the meantime, this is also the date

Issue 261²⁶⁰

16 - 22 June 2025

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.

Issue 262²⁶¹

23 - 29 June 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

26 June: Diyarbakır 4th High Criminal Court sentenced former Pro-kurdish HDP Diyarbakır Co-Mayor Cabbar Leygara to 1 year and 3 months in prison for "making terrorist propaganda" based on his speeches.

26 June: the Diyarbakır 4th High Criminal Court sentenced Yeni Yaşam newspaper employee Zilan Gül to 2 years and 1 month in prison for "making terrorist propaganda" by distributing issues of the newspaper that was under a publication and distribution ban.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

Istanbul mayor and Erdogan's chief rival Ekrem Imamoglu is imprisoned as part of the regime's crackdown campaign targeting the main opposition party CHP.

²⁶⁰ Issue 261 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-261/>

²⁶¹ Issue 262 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-262/>

23 June: Besra Erol, a 66-year-old chronically ill inmate at Elazığ Women's Prison, has twice been arbitrarily denied parole despite eligibility since December 2024, due to alleged lack of remorse and association with terrorism convicts, following her imprisonment over a speech at her son's grave—one of 33 victims of the 2015 Suruç ISIS bombing.

Issue 263²⁶²

30 June - 6 July 2025

No incidents reported

Issue 264²⁶³

7-13 July 2025

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

8 July: Selahattin Okçuoğlu, a member of Turkey's Human Rights Association, was sentenced to 1 year and 3 months in prison for "making terrorist propaganda" over two social media posts, with the verdict deferred under a provision suspending enforcement unless a new offense is committed.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

8 July: The European Court of Human Rights ruled again that Turkey violated Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş's rights by holding him in politically motivated pretrial

²⁶² Issue 263 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-263/>

²⁶³ Issue 264 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-264/>

detention for over four years without sufficient legal justification, ordering compensation and finding breaches of Articles 5 and 18 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Issue 265²⁶⁴

14-20 July 2025

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.

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 Oümer Faruk Gergerlioğlu.

Issue 266²⁶⁵

21-27 July 2025

No incidents reported

²⁶⁴ Issue 265 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-265/>

²⁶⁵ Issue 266 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-266/>

Issue 267²⁶⁶

28 July - 3 August 2025

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

29 July: A district governor in Turkey's Şırnak province blocked the prosecution of a police officer who fatally struck 7-year-old Miraç Miroğlu with an armored vehicle, citing an internal police report that claimed the officer had "no alternative but to hit the child."

KURDISH MINORITY

1 august: The Avesta Language and Culture Research Association in İzmir, which has conducted Kurdish language and cultural activities since 2018, was sealed by authorities over alleged unauthorized education, drawing condemnation from rights advocates who called the closure unlawful and politically driven.

Issue 268²⁶⁷

4 - 10 August 2025

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

6 August: Turkey's Constitutional Court has ruled that the eight-month pretrial detention of former Kurdish lawmaker Hüda Kaya over the 2014 Kobani protests violated her rights to liberty, security, and a fair trial, awarding her 200,000 lira in damages.

²⁶⁶ *Issue 267 – Solidarity with OTHERS.* (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-267/>

²⁶⁷ *Issue 268 – Solidarity with OTHERS.* (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-268/>

Issue 269²⁶⁸

11-17 August 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

11 August: An eight-member Kurdish family, including women and a three-month-old baby, was assaulted in Mersin's Çamlıyayla district for speaking Kurdish, leaving one man in intensive care, while police detained the suspects.

Issue 270²⁶⁹

18-24 August 2025

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

18 August: The social media account of the Etkin News Agency (ETHA), a left-wing pro-Kurdish outlet reporting on labor rights, women's movements, Kurdish issues, and government crackdowns on dissent, has been blocked in Turkey on grounds of protecting national security and public order.

KURDISH MINORITY

21 August: During a Turkish parliamentary commission meeting on national solidarity and democracy, a Peace Mother was warned not to speak Kurdish, prompting condemnation from rights groups and Kurdish politicians who said the ban undermines reconciliation efforts and violates freedom of expression.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

²⁶⁸ Issue 269 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-269/>

²⁶⁹ Issue 270 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-270/>

25 August: In Mardin's Artuklu district, 19-year-old Şeyhmus Sebuhtekin, who filed a complaint after being beaten and detained by nightwatchmen, was jailed for "resisting law enforcement" while the officers were released.

Issue 271²⁷⁰

25-31 August 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

29 August: In Niğde's Bor district, 24 Kurdish seasonal workers were subjected to a racist attack by a group led by a landowner, leaving one worker critically injured in intensive care.

Issue 272²⁷¹

1-7 September 2025

No incidents reported

Issue 273²⁷²

8-14 September 2025

²⁷⁰ Issue 271 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-271/>

²⁷¹ Issue 272 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-272/>

²⁷² Issue 273 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-273/>

No incidents reported²⁷³

Issue 274²⁷⁴

15-21 September 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

18 September: In Mersin's Akdeniz district, journalists from pro-kurdish Jinnews, Mezopotamya Agency, and PIRHA covering a public march were assaulted by police, with some subjected to violence and their cameras rendered unusable; the Mersin Women Journalists Association and the Dicle Firat Journalists Association condemned the attack, announcing they would file a criminal complaint against those responsible.

Issue 275²⁷⁵

22-28 September 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

22 September: An Ankara court blocked access to the Brussels-based Firat News Agency (anf-news.com) on September 19 citing national security and public order, continuing Turkey's long-running pattern of restrictions on Kurdish media and digital freedoms.

26 September: Turkey's Constitutional Court rejected most rights violation claims over the 2015 killing of Kurdish mother of nine Taybet Inan, whose body lay in the street for

²⁷³ While the crackdown on main opposition party officials continue heavily, it is noteworthy that less and less incidents are reported regarding the Kurdish population.

²⁷⁴ Issue 274 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-274/>

²⁷⁵ Issue 275 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-275/>

a week during curfews in Şırnak, finding only a violation in burial restrictions, while her family plans to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights.

Issue 276²⁷⁶

29 September-5 October 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

1 October: The Turkish Football Federation fined Diyarbakır-based Amedspor 110,000 lira for displaying a Kurdish-language advertising slogan on its jerseys despite prior approval, prompting the club to denounce the penalty as unjust and discriminatory.

Issue 277²⁷⁷

6-12 October 2025

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

10 October: Abdurrahman Gök, known for photographing the 2017 killing of Kurdish university student Kemal Kurkut by police during Newroz celebrations in Diyarbakır, faces a fourth indictment filed by the Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office on charges of membership in the PKK, based on a 2022 secret witness statement, with the case merged into his ongoing terrorism trial and the next hearing set for November 25.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

10 October: Kurdish human rights activist Soran Aram, who holds UN refugee status and has been approved for resettlement in Canada, was detained in Ankara and sent to a

²⁷⁶ Issue 276 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-276/>

²⁷⁷ Issue 277 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-277/>

repatriation center, where he now faces possible deportation to Iran, where he was previously sentenced to death.

Issue 278²⁷⁸

13–19 October 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

15 October: The European Court of Human Rights ruled that Turkey unlawfully detained Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk to suppress political pluralism, finding violations of her rights to liberty, security, and freedom of expression, and ordering the government to pay her €17,500 in compensation and costs.

16 October: A stone attack targeted the DEM Party's Toroslar district office in Mersin, causing material damage but no injuries; party officials condemned the incident as an assault on democratic will and coexistence, urging authorities to identify those behind the attack and to end divisive, hate-fueled rhetoric.

Issue 279²⁷⁹

20–26 October 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

21 October: A Turkish court sentenced pro-Kurdish JINNEWS news director Öznur Değer to one year, two months and 15 days in prison on charges of "making continuous terrorist propaganda."

²⁷⁸ Issue 278 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-278/>

²⁷⁹ Issue 279 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-279/>

23 October: A Turkish court has acquitted veteran Kurdish politician and former Mardin co-mayor Ahmet Türk of terrorism-related charges that led to his removal from office in 2024, ruling that his 2011 speech praising the Kurdish struggle fell within freedom of expression, as peace talks with the PKK continue and questions remain over whether he will be reinstated.

PRISON CONDITIONS

22 October: İstanbul Bar Association urged the government to end arbitrary detentions and parole denials as Turkey's prison population reached 420,904—138 percent over capacity—amid widespread use of pretrial detention, systemic rights violations, and ongoing crackdowns on opposition figures, the Gülen movement, and Kurdish activists.

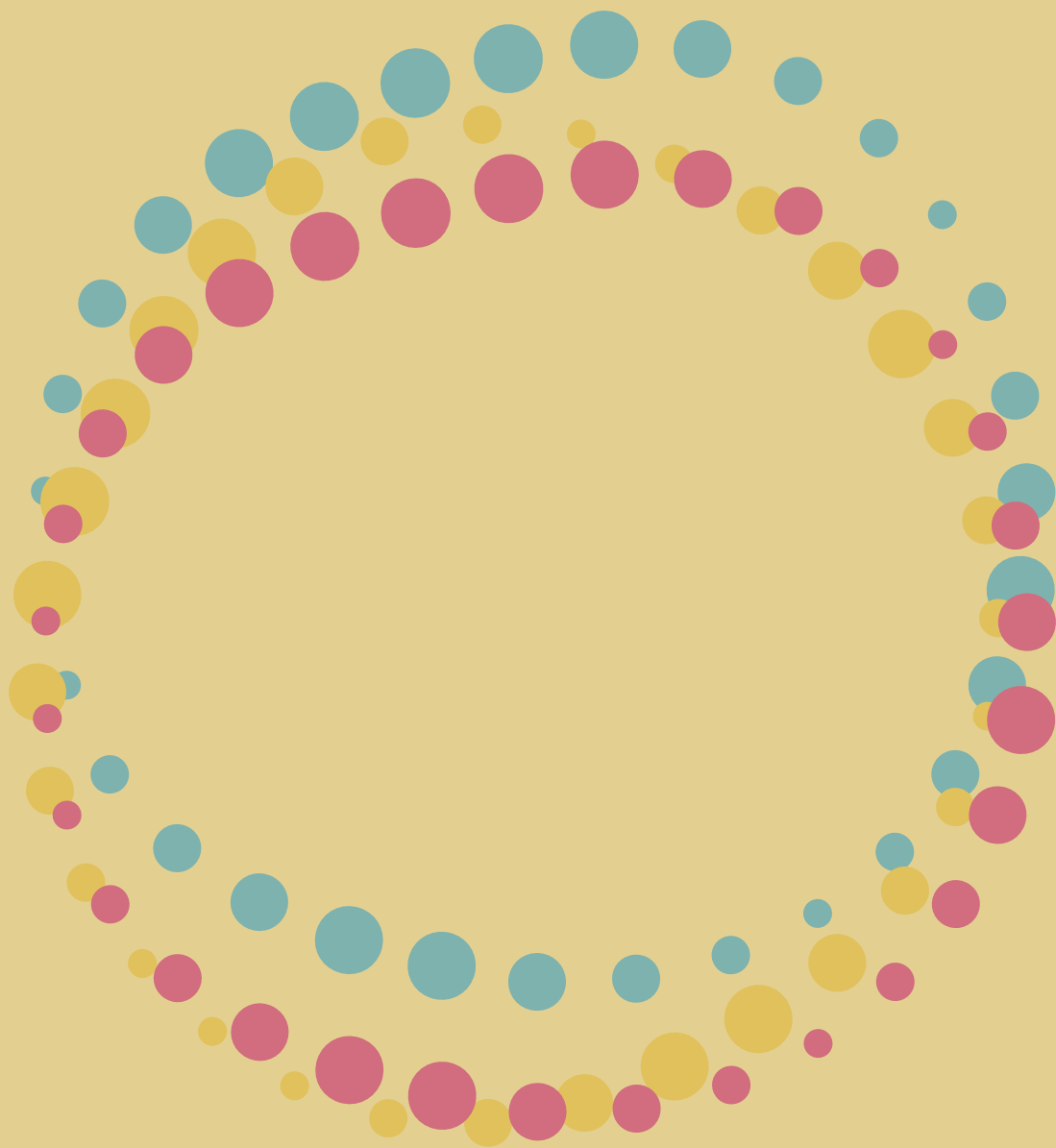
Issue 280²⁸⁰

27 October – 2 November 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

28 October: A high school senior in İzmir, identified as A.Y., was arrested on charges of “terrorist propaganda” after sharing a video of classmates dancing to a Kurdish song on social media, following threats to her family and a police raid.

²⁸⁰ Issue 280 – Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). <https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-280/>



Solidarity With OTHERS

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