

solidarity with  
**OTHERS**






# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

[www.solidaritywithothers.com](http://www.solidaritywithothers.com)

JUSTICE  
for  
ALL

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2025

## Solidarity With OTHERS

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Solidarity With OTHERS, a registered Belgian non-profit organization (**OTHERS AISBL**, BCE number: 0715.742.907).

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

# Foreword

As we look back on 2025, one reality is impossible to ignore: the world is changing, and not for the better when it comes to human rights, democracy, and respect for international law. For a long time, authoritarian regimes openly disregarded fundamental freedoms and international norms. Today, we witness something even more worrying: states with growing authoritarian tendencies also justify restrictions in the name of security, stability, or public order. In such a climate, the gains long achieved by civil society, including in Europe, can no longer be taken for granted.

This is exactly why we cannot step back. Civil society remains essential. It documents, warns, resists, and creates space for justice when institutions fail. At Solidarity With OTHERS, we know what is at stake, and we remain determined to protect what has been won and to continue standing with those whose rights are denied.

In 2025, we broadened both the scope and visibility of our work. We continued to strengthen our engagement with international human rights mechanisms through contacts, meetings, and submissions before the United Nations, including at the Human Rights Council. We followed cases before the European Court of Human Rights and contributed to the execution process of judgments through Rule 9.2 submissions. We also maintained close engagement with the European Parliament, where we organised a panel, were invited as experts to committee meetings, and contributed to reports in the field of human rights. We raised our voice at the OSCE Human Dimension framework as civil society actors and organised panels and discussions within international platforms.

At the same time, we invested in long-term knowledge and documentation. Our academic work expanded through a conference in Ghent and the publication of scholarly papers. Turkey Rights Monitor continued to grow, alongside our weekly newsletter, hate speech monitoring database, thematic research, and reporting.

In a year of deep uncertainty, our commitment did not weaken. It became sharper. OTHERS will continue its work with determination, independence, and hope.

**Yüksel KAYA**  
*President*



# About us

We are Solidarity with OTHERS, a Brussels-based non-profit organization founded in 2018 with the aim of advocating for human rights. Our name reflects our unwavering commitment to act in solidarity with those who have been subjected to injustice and violations, regardless of race, religious beliefs, social affiliation, or political views. We believe that our humanity is measured by how we stand up for the rights and liberties of OTHERS, not just ourselves.

## Our Story

Solidarity with OTHERS was founded by a group of lawyers, human rights defenders, and victims of government oppression in Turkey. Driven by the ambition to shed light on human rights violations in Turkey, our mission has now expanded to being a voice for people who are not able to be heard in the EU and beyond. Together, we sought to create a platform that brings attention to the ongoing human rights abuses across borders.

## Objectives

Our primary objective is to ensure that human rights violations do not go unnoticed or unrecorded. We focus on raising awareness about injustices and advocate for the rights of those affected by oppression. We also aim to contribute to the international conversation on human rights and work towards accountability for those responsible for violations.

# How we work



## Reporting and Documentation

We prepare and release reports, fact sheets, and newsletters on major human rights issues. These resources are designed to inform public opinion and create a documented basis for accountability.

## Awareness-Raising Activities

We host and participate in exhibitions, conferences, roundtables, and demonstrations to highlight the severity of violations and to urge authorities to take decisive action.



## Global Advocacy

We maintain close contact with international institutions, including the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe, and OSCE. By engaging with these bodies, we aim to ensure that human rights are placed at the forefront of international relations.

# Highlights

## March



On 8 March, we joined the International Women's Day march in Brussels, raising our banners to stand for women's rights.

## May

On 22 May, we organised a panel at the European Parliament addressing hate speech and its impact on democracy, fundamental rights, and social inclusiveness.



## June



In Strasbourg, we co-organized and participated in a demonstration with 5000 people before the Council of Europe, demanding the implementation of ECtHR judgments.

## December

We co-organised a one-day academic conference on hate speech and regulatory frameworks across Europe, featuring 24 academic presentations, the outcomes of which resulted in a published book.



## November

We held a workshop for OTHERS Youth members on how to design attention-appealing human rights advocacy content.



## October

We organized a side event on hate speech and its impacts at the 2024 OSCE Human Dimension Conference in Warsaw, with contributions from international experts.





# Combating Hate Speech

Hate speech targets people because of who they are or what they believe, using language that demeans, excludes, and spreads hostility. It harms individuals, but it also weakens the foundations of democratic societies by fuelling intolerance, deepening divisions, and normalising discrimination. When left unchallenged, hate speech silences voices and pushes vulnerable communities further to the margins. Addressing it is therefore essential to protect human dignity, strengthen social cohesion, and uphold fundamental rights. At Solidarity With OTHERS, we continued our efforts to confront hate speech through monitoring, documentation, advocacy, and public engagement. Throughout the year, we produced reports, organised events and discussions, and carried out awareness activities aimed at promoting tolerance and encouraging more inclusive dialogue.

## Monitor & Incident Reporting

Through our “Hate Monitoring Project” we continue gathering and analysing verifiable open-source data on hate speech from politicians, journalists, media outlets, and public and private institutions. The collected and structured data helps identify patterns over time and serves as an evidence base for our policy recommendations.



[www.hatemonitoring.com](http://www.hatemonitoring.com)





## Advocacy

We conduct advocacy at the EU, UN, OSCE, and Council of Europe, engaging with policymakers and contributing to policy processes, while also maintaining close contact with social media platforms to address online hate speech and promote responsible practices.



## Raising awareness

We also raise awareness through hashtag campaigns, trainings, and panel discussions, engaging broader audiences and encouraging public discussion on the harms of hate speech and the importance of tolerance and respectful dialogue.



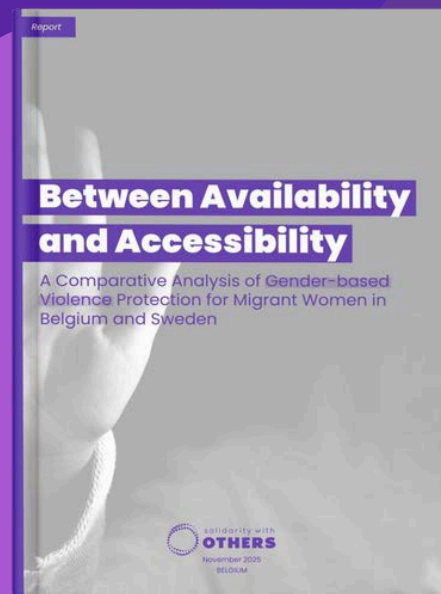


# Women's Rights

Promoting and protecting women's rights remains an important part of our work. We place particular attention on the situation of migrant women, focusing on their integration, protection, and access to rights and opportunities in their host societies. At the same time, we raise our voice for women's rights more broadly, addressing issues such as gender equality, the gender pay gap, and the protection of women from violence. Through advocacy, awareness activities, and public discussions, we also support international standards such as the Istanbul Convention and highlight the importance of policies that ensure dignity, safety, and equal participation for all women in society.

## Report

We published a report examining how Belgium and Sweden protect migrant women from gender-based violence. The study highlights the gap between legal protections on paper and their accessibility in practice, showing how migration status, language barriers, and institutional shortcomings can limit migrant women's access to protection, support, and justice.





## Together We March!

On 8 March, we participated in the International Women's Day march in Brussels. During the event, we set up an information stand, distributed brochures, displayed banners, and shared messages calling for the protection of women's rights and stronger action against discrimination and gender-based injustice.

Have you read our blog posts on women's rights and gender-based injustices?



Panels, marches, webinars, symposiums, and workshops...



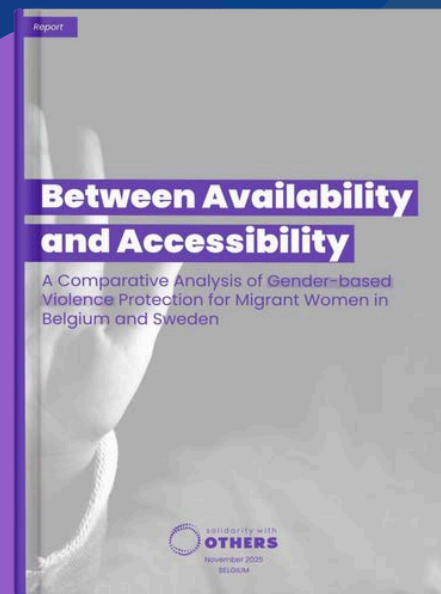


# Migration & Integration

Throughout the year, we also engaged in discussions and initiatives related to migration and integration, recognising the growing challenges faced by migrants and displaced communities across Europe. Through dialogue, research, and participation in relevant forums, we contributed to conversations on social inclusion, equal opportunities, and the protection of fundamental rights. Our work aimed to promote a rights-based approach to migration policies while encouraging inclusive societies where diversity is respected and individuals are able to participate fully in social, economic, and civic life.

## Report

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# Transnational Repression

Even when individuals flee their countries to escape the risk of arbitrary detention, persecution, or ill-treatment, authoritarian regimes increasingly attempt to reach them beyond their borders. Throughout the year, we continued to address the growing challenge of transnational repression, whereby governments target critics and dissidents abroad through intimidation, surveillance, legal harassment, and other coercive measures. Through research, documentation, and engagement with international institutions, we raised awareness about these practices and contributed to discussions on how democratic societies can better protect individuals and diaspora communities from such cross-border threats.



## Report

Our report reveals how Turkey has manipulated FATF counter-terrorism financing standards to justify repressive measures against perceived political opponents, leading to arbitrary sanctions, asset seizures, mass detentions, and the targeting of NGOs under the guise of compliance.

## Advocacy at the European Parliament

On 8 December, we participated as experts in the European Parliament's Special Committee on the European Democracy Shield during an exchange of views on Turkey's engagement with diaspora communities and the growing use of transnational repression.



# OTHERS

## Social Media



**+1K followers**



**+7K followers**



**+1K followers**



**+10K unique visitors**

## FOLLOW US !

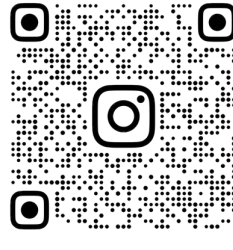
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**X**  
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**Instagram**  
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**Facebook**  
@OthersInfo





PROJECT

# Turkey Rights Monitor

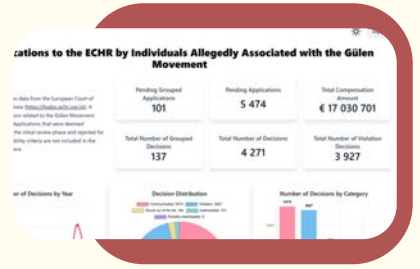
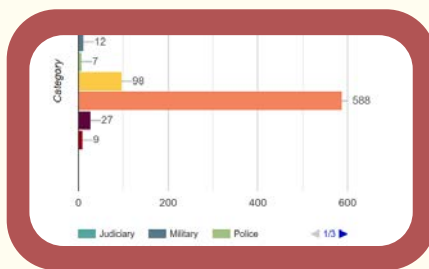
Our work began with efforts to expose human rights violations in Turkey after 2016. Initially providing legal assistance to arbitrarily prosecuted individuals, we have since expanded into a structured and methodological approach to human rights monitoring. We document and compile violations, produce thematic reports, and issue weekly bulletins to track ongoing abuses. Our advocacy extends to international platforms, contributing to global reviews of Turkey’s human rights landscape. Through these efforts, we aim to ensure that violations are recorded, acknowledged, and addressed.

## Database

In 2024, we created a database to compile documented human rights violations on a structured platform. While most categories focus on rights violations as part of the government crackdown on the Gülen movement, the database also covers global issues related to judicial independence and prison conditions.



- Tortures
- Right to Life Violations
- Vulnerable Groups
- Dismissals
- Illegal Extradition and Deportations



The database is structured into **12 categories**, providing a reliable and **verifiable reference** source for international organizations, academics, legal professionals, and human rights defenders reporting or assessing human rights in Turkey.

Each category includes its own methodology, transparently explaining the criteria used for data collection. **Data is visualized** through easy-to-understand tables, graphs, and maps, ensuring clarity and accessibility. Additionally, users can perform **retrospective searches** within each category to track past records and trends.

Decisions from the **European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)** and the **United Nations (UN)** regarding human rights violations against Gülen Movement volunteers since 2013 have also been collected and integrated into the website.

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PROJECT

# Turkey Rights Monitor

## Weekly newsletter

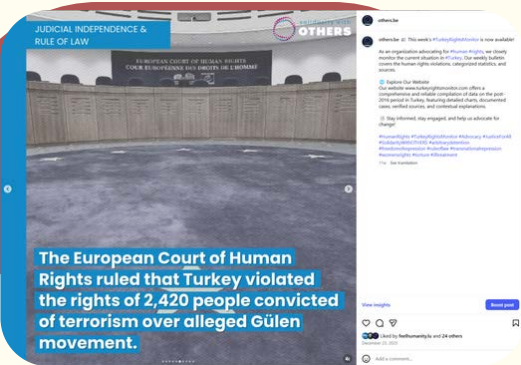
Our team monitors human rights violations across Turkey, compiling incidents from the past week under 16 categories with verified media sources. We document all violations regardless of victims' race, religion, ideology, or political views.

**288** Weeks of continuous work

**4** Language **EN, FR, NL, TR**

**1051** Subscriptions on **Email**

**463** Subscriptions on **LinkedIn**



## TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR

Issue No. 282 | Date 10-16 November

### ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

Throughout the week, prosecutors ordered the detention of at least 50 people over alleged links to the Gülen movement. In October 2020, a UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) [opinion](#) said that widespread or systematic imprisonment of individuals with alleged links to the group may amount to crimes against humanity. Solidarity with OTHERS has compiled a detailed [database](#) to monitor the Gülen-linked mass detentions since a failed coup in July 2016.

16 November: Merve Saydan was [jailed](#) in Eskişehir with her one-year-old baby on Gülen movement-related accusations based on evidence the ECHR has already deemed unlawful, in a context where Turkey is expected to implement the court's binding rulings.

### ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

No news has emerged of Yusuf Bilge Tunç, a former public sector worker who was sacked from his job by a decree-law during the 2016-2018 state of emergency and who was reported missing as of August 6, 2019, in what appears to be one of the latest cases in a string of suspected [enforced disappearance](#) of government critics since 2016.

### FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

13 November: Turkey [blocked](#) the X account used to promote jailed opposition candidate Ekrem İmamoğlu's presidential campaign on national security grounds, extending a broader wave of digital censorship targeting critics and protest-related content.

14 November: Freedom House's 2025 assessment [ranked](#) Turkey among the world's steepest long-term internet freedom decliners, giving it a score of 31/100 and highlighting intensified censorship, connectivity restrictions, surveillance and sweeping new cybersecurity powers used to suppress dissent.

### HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

14 November: Prosecutors [closed](#) an investigation into sexist and threatening social media posts targeting rights lawyer Eren Keskin, prompting DEM Party MP Aytegin Doğan to warn in parliament that the decision reinforces impunity for attacks on women and human rights defenders.

### JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

10 November: Independent lawmaker Mustafa Yeneroğlu [accused](#) Justice Minister Yılmaz Tunç of misleading the public about Turkey's ECHR compliance, noting that the country has implemented only 68 percent of leading cases and still has 448 unexecuted judgments despite being the Council of Europe's top violator.

### KURDISH MINORITY

13 November: A Turkish prison board again [rejected](#) probation for ousted Pro-Kurdish Diyarbakır mayor Şekür Maral despite his eligibility, citing his refusal to declare "disassociations" from a terrorist organization, a practice critics say is used arbitrarily to keep political prisoners behind bars.

14 November: A Turkish court [gave](#) Kurdish journalist Rahime Karvar a suspended sentence of over two years for

# Subscribe





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# Turkey Rights Monitor

## Reports

### 1 The Gülen Movement: Challenging Turkey’s “Terrorist Organization” Narrative Through Global Perspectives

This report challenges Turkey’s designation of the Gülen Movement as a terrorist organization by examining international media coverage, positions of global institutions, state practice, and judicial decisions. It finds no recognition of this claim internationally and highlights concerns about politically motivated prosecutions, misuse of counter-terrorism laws, human rights violations, and transnational repression.



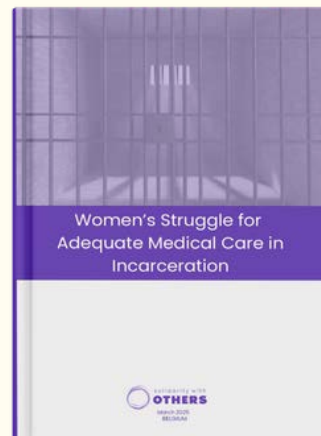
### 2 Misuse of FATF (Financial Action Task Force) Standards as a Tool of Transnational Repression

This report shows how Türkiye has misused Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards on countering terrorism financing to justify repression against perceived political opponents, particularly affiliates of the Gülen movement. It documents arbitrary sanctions, detentions, asset seizures, and NGO targeting carried out under the guise of compliance, and calls for stronger FATF oversight.



### 3 Women’s Struggle for Adequate Medical Care in Incarceration

This report documents the systemic denial of healthcare to women detained in Türkiye over alleged ties to the Gülen movement, including the obstruction of cancer treatment, prenatal care, and emergency services. Based on testimonies and legal evidence, it reveals cruel and degrading treatment and calls for urgent reforms to safeguard detainees’ health and dignity.





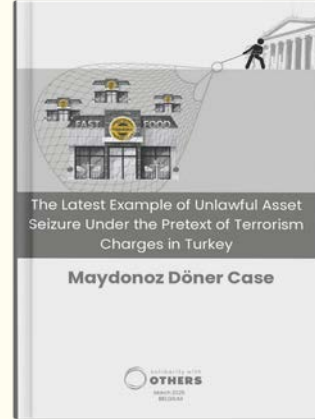
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# Turkey Rights Monitor

## Reports

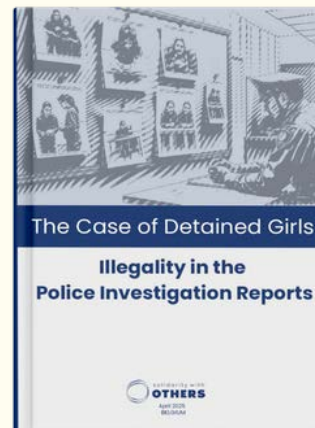
### 4 The Latest Example of Unlawful Asset Seizure Under the Pretext of Terrorism Charges in Turkey: Maydonoz Döner Case

This report documents the unlawful seizure of Maydonoz Döner in February 2025 under fabricated terrorism financing charges, showing how Türkiye uses anti-terror laws to target perceived opponents and confiscate assets. Despite lawful operations, trustees were appointed based on weak links to dismissed public servants, reflecting serious erosion of rule of law and judicial independence.



### 5 The Case of Detained Girls: Illegality in the Police Investigation Reports

This report exposes serious legal and procedural violations in the investigation of the “Detained Girls Case” in Türkiye, where minors’ ordinary social activities were treated as terrorist acts. It documents fabricated evidence, coerced confessions, and politically driven policing that targeted children and families, violating national and international legal protections.



### 6 How Press Freedom Disappeared in Turkey? Legal Repression and Digital Censorship

This report documents the systematic erosion of media freedom in Türkiye under the AKP government, highlighting legal harassment, prosecutions of journalists, and widespread censorship. With hundreds of journalists prosecuted and thousands of news links blocked, the report shows how courts, regulators, and digital restrictions suppress independent journalism and limit public access to information.





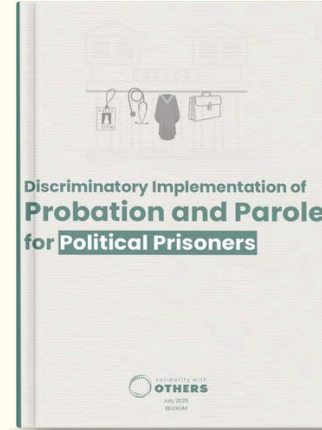
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# Turkey Rights Monitor

## Reports

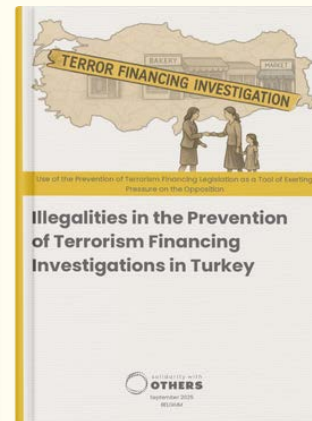
### 7 Discriminatory Implementation of Probation and Parole for Political Prisoners

This report examines discriminatory probation and parole practices in Türkiye, showing how political prisoners, particularly those linked to the Kurdish political movement and the Gülen movement, are denied early release. It documents arbitrary criteria such as forced remorse declarations, highlights violations of international standards, and calls for fair, transparent, non-political procedures.



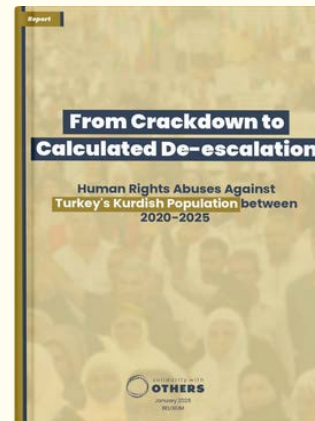
### 8 Illegals in the Prevention of Terrorism Financing Investigations in Turkey

This report examines how Turkey's counter-terrorism financing laws are misused to suppress dissent rather than combat terrorism. Drawing on international standards and case studies such as Maydonoz Döner, Antiochia Künefe, and Hakmar-Tatbak, it shows how lawful activities were criminalized, leading to detentions, asset seizures, and serious violations of fundamental rights.



### 9 From Crackdown to Calculated De-escalation: Human Rights Abuses Against Turkey's Kurdish Population Between 2020-2025

This report analyzes human rights violations against Turkey's Kurdish population between 2020 and 2025, showing how systemic repression and judicial abuse persist despite government rhetoric of a "Turkey without terror," with ECtHR judgments ignored and authoritarian practices redirected toward other opponents.





PROJECT

# Turkey Rights Monitor

## International Advocacy

### United Nations

In 2025, we have

- ✓ Attended the Human Rights Council **58th and 60th sessions** in Geneva, where we engaged in discussions on Turkey's human rights situation and held direct meetings with UN Special Procedure mandate holders to present documented cases;



- ✓ Submitted **4 Reports** to the United Nations Human Rights Committee in response to its call for input for Draft General Comment No. 38 on Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (freedom of association);
- ✓ Attended the **Turkey's 4th cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) session** to seek opportunities to provide evidence-based recommendations and contribute to the review process;



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# Turkey Rights Monitor

## International Advocacy

### European Union

In 2025, we have

- ✓ Submitted amendment proposals to the European Parliament 2025 Turkey report, highlighting concerns about the protection of fundamental rights, and the misuse of counter-terrorism frameworks for targeting Gülen Movement along with journalists, academics, lawyers and former public officials;
- ✓ Participated in the European Parliament's Special Committee on the European Democracy Shield and delivered an intervention highlighting Türkiye's growing use of transnational repression targeting dissidents, journalists, academics, and civil society actors across Europe.
- ✓ Organised a panel at the European Parliament titled "The Effects of Hate Speech on Democracy, Fundamental Rights & Inclusion," bringing together leading experts and civil society actors to examine the growing normalisation of hate speech and discuss policy and legal responses.
- ✓ Had constructive meetings with three Members of the European Parliament to discuss ongoing human rights violations in Türkiye and possible avenues for stronger EU engagement.



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*The European Commission and European Parliament each publish annual reports on Turkey as part of the EU's enlargement and foreign policy framework. The Commission's Turkey Report, prepared by the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) with input from the EU Delegation in Ankara and other stakeholders, offers a comprehensive assessment of Turkey's political, economic, and legal alignment with EU standards. From a human rights and democracy perspective, it identifies areas of concern such as rule of law, judicial independence, and fundamental freedoms, providing an evidence-based foundation for the EU's policy decisions and financial assistance. The European Parliament's Turkey Report, drafted by the Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) and its rapporteur, serves as a political response to the Commission's findings. It expresses the Parliament's position on democratic backsliding, human rights violations, and civic space restrictions in Turkey, influencing EU policy direction, shaping public debate, and reinforcing conditionality in the Union's engagement with the Turkish authorities.*



PROJECT

# Turkey Rights Monitor

## International Advocacy

### OSCE

In 2025, we have

✓ Participated in the 2025 Human Dimension Conference in Warsaw, where our representative delivered a speech at the main conference. The intervention highlighted the non-implementation of the Yalçinkaya judgment of the ECtHR in Turkey;



✓ Organized a side event that brought together experts to share knowledge and perspectives on hate speech and its impacts across countries. The panel was also broadcasted on our social media accounts;

✓ Reported hate crime cases in Turkey to the OSCE ODIHR, contributing documented incidents that were published on the organisation's official hate crime reporting platform;

### Council of Europe



✓ Held meetings with PACE members from the Monitoring Committee to discuss the non-implementation of the ECtHR Yalçinkaya judgment in Turkey, and submitted two Rule 9.2 application focusing on its non-implementation.

✓ Took part in the Council of Europe workshop on 18 June, during the No Hate Speech Week in Strasbourg.

# EVENTS

## International Academic Conference in Ghent

We co-organised the international academic conference “Echoes of Hate: Digital Communication, Populism and the Regulation of Hate Speech,” held on 15 December 2025 and hosted by Ghent University. The conference brought together leading scholars, practitioners, and civil society actors to examine the rise of hate speech in the digital age and its intersections with law, politics, media, and society.



**5 Partner organisations**



**6 Sessions  
24 Presentations**



**+100 Participants**



The session recordings and the conference book are available on our website.



# EVENTS



## Panel | European Parliament **The Effects of Hate Speech on Democracy, Fundamental Rights & Inclusion**

On 22 May 2025, we brought together experts, policymakers, and civil society actors at the European Parliament for a panel hosted by MEP Estelle Ceulemans (S&D). The conversation made clear that hate speech is not an abstract issue. It is increasingly normalized, amplified online, and has real consequences for people's rights and participation in society. With strong engagement both in the room and online, the event helped open a more grounded and urgent discussion on how to respond collectively through policy, law, and civic action.

Strasbourg

## **Demonstration in front of Council of Europe**

On 25 June 2025, during the summer session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, we co-organized a demonstration calling for the implementation of the ECtHR Yüksel Yalçinkaya judgment. The event, symbolized by an alarm clock under the slogan "It is time to act!", drew attention to the ongoing violations of human rights and judicial independence in Turkey. With strong participation from human rights defenders and civil society representatives across Europe, the demonstration sent a powerful message to PACE members and European institutions.



# EVENTS

## Press Freedom Talks Journalism in the Digital Age



We organised “The Press Freedom Talks: Journalism in the Digital Age” on 8 May 2025 at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, marking World Press Freedom Day. During the panel, speakers addressed how political pressure, media capture, and digital platforms are reshaping journalism, while highlighting the urgent need for stronger protections—particularly for exiled journalists.



## OSCE | Panel Hate Speech and Human Rights: International Perspectives and Comparative Approaches

On 8 October 2025, we hosted a side event at the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference under the auspices of the OSCE, focusing on hate speech and its impact on human rights. Speakers shared concrete experiences and solutions—from education and digital tools to lived experiences of persecution.

# Our Team



**Yüksel KAYA**  
President



**Nurşah TUTAR**  
Vice-President



**Nurullah ALBAYRAK**  
Vice-President



**Ali Can SANLI**  
Secretary  
General



**İrem Seçkin**  
Advocacy &  
Outreach |  
*Freedom of  
Expression and  
Media*

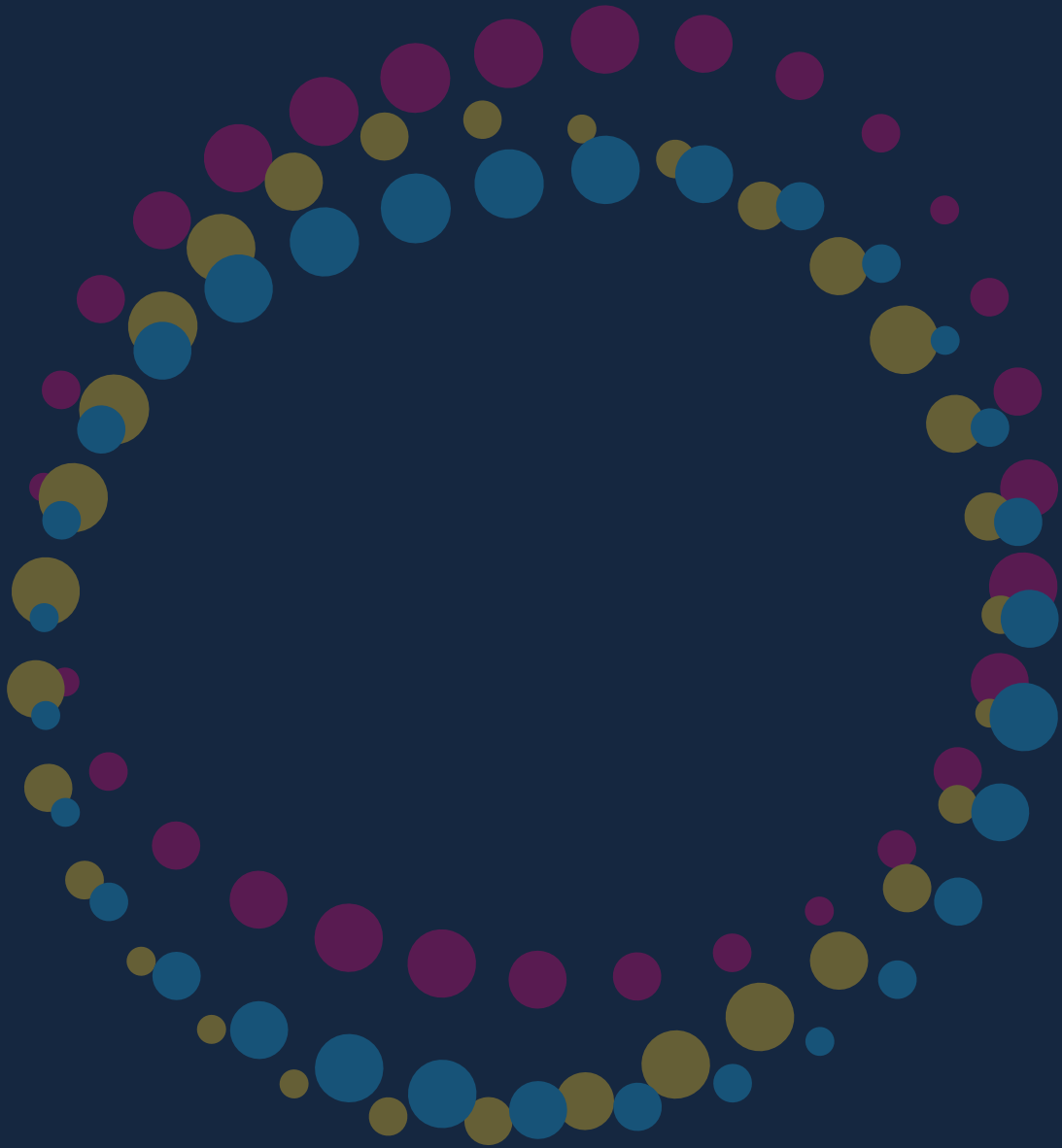


**Coşkun YORULMAZ**  
Legal Advisor



**Tuna BOZTEPE**  
Advocacy & Outreach  
Migration &  
Integration





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