

# TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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## ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

Throughout the week, prosecutors ordered the detention of at least 71 people over alleged links to the Gülen movement. Since 2017, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) has issued 26 [opinions](#) concerning arbitrary detentions based on alleged membership in the Gülen movement, in which it has expressed grave concern that the widespread or systematic imprisonment of individuals linked 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.

14 April: Turkish authorities [detained](#) 60 people, including civil servants and doctors, in operations across multiple provinces over alleged links to the Gülen movement.

## ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

15 April: A 14-year-old student [carried](#) out a deadly school shooting in Kahramanmaraş, killing nine people and injuring 13 others after bringing five firearms into the school undetected, raising serious concerns about inadequate security measures.

## ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

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

## FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

18 April: Police [raided](#) the homes of striking Temel Conta Company workers in İzmir and detained eight worker over allegations of “disturbing the peace” linked to union activities

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

14 April: A Turkish court has [sentenced](#) Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu to 11 months and 20 days in prison for allegedly insulting President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan over remarks made in speeches between 2014 and 2016.

14 April: A Turkish court [sentenced](#) Kurdish journalist Hakkı Boltan to more than one year in prison in a retrial for insulting President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan over a 2016 public statement.

15 April: A Turkish court [sentenced](#) journalists Timur Soykan to 10 months in prison for violating confidentiality and Barış Pehlivan and Murat Ağirel to one year and three months each for spreading disinformation over remarks made on a 2024 television program, while acquitting Şule Aydın.

15 April: An İstanbul court [sentenced](#) veteran journalist Zafer Arapkirli to two years and six months in prison for “spreading misleading information” over social media posts.

17 April: A Turkish prosecutor has [issued](#) a detention warrant for human rights activist Salih Gergerlioğlu over social media posts about the deadly school shooting in Kahramanmaraş.

## HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

16 April: A Turkish court has [accepted](#) an indictment seeking up to six years in prison for environmental activist Esra Işık over her protest against a coal mine expansion project in Muğla.

## JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

15 April: A Turkish court has [ordered](#) the pretrial detention of lawyer and ESP deputy co-chair Sezin Uçar on terrorism-related charges following her detention at İstanbul Airport, as part of a broader investigation targeting members of the Socialist Party of the Oppressed.

18 April: Turkish police [detained](#) Ataşehir Mayor Onursal Adıgüzel along with senior municipal officials in an investigation into alleged bribery and bid rigging, as part of a widening crackdown on opposition-run CHP municipalities.

19 April: Turkish police [detained](#) 29 people, including CHP provincial head Celalettin Çoban, in an expanded corruption probe targeting Uşak Municipality that previously led to the arrest and suspension of Mayor Özkan Yalım.

## KURDISH MINORITY

19 April: Amedspor, a football team based in the Kurdish-populated province of Diyarbakır, [faced](#) racist insults and post-match attacks from Bandırmaspor supporters, with incidents reported by [Bianet](#).

## TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

16 April: Lawyer Yunus Özayar has [filed](#) a criminal complaint alleging he was physically assaulted by police at a station in İstanbul after requesting access to a client's case file.

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS

20 April: In the long-running investigation into the 2020 disappearance of student Gülistan Doku in Tunceli, authorities have [arrested](#) multiple suspects—including the son of a former governor—bringing the number of jailed individuals to 10 amid emerging evidence and testimony suggesting possible murder and a cover-up.