

TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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As a human rights advocacy organization, we closely monitor human rights violations in Turkey. As part of this effort, we publish a weekly bulletin documenting the human rights violations that occur throughout the week. In addition, we regularly share up-to-date statistics and categorized sources related to these cases. The Turkey Rights Monitor report has been published consistently for 308 consecutive weeks and is being shared with institutions, organizations, and relevant stakeholders engaged in human rights. You can access updated information and statistics via our website: <https://turkeyrightsmonitor.com/>

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

Throughout the week, prosecutors ordered the detention of at least 82 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.

12 May: A 76-year-old former Turkish governor, Şehabettin Harput, was [sent](#) to prison after Turkey's Court of Cassation upheld his eight-year, nine-month sentence based on his links with the Gülen movement through activities such as Bank Asya deposits, a university trusteeship and association-organized trips, despite recent ECtHR [rulings](#) criticizing the use of lawful past activities as evidence of terrorism.

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

12 May: A Turkish court [acquitted](#) BİRTEK-SEN president Mehmet Türkmen of spreading misleading information and ordered his release after 57 days in pretrial detention over remarks he made while defending workers' rights during a factory protest in Gaziantep.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

13 May: Journalist Sezer Küçük Kurt was [questioned](#) and released in Afyonkarahisar on an "insulting the president" allegation after publishing a cartoon criticizing Mayor Burcu Köksal's move from the CHP to the AKP, despite the cartoon not directly referring to President Erdoğan.

13 May: Turkish prosecutors have [indicted](#) detained journalist İsmail Arı and seek more than eight years in prison over his commentary and social media posts on Erdoğan family-linked foundations, alleged public fund transfers, judicial appointments and corruption claims in state institutions.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

12 May: A UN special rapporteur [warned](#) that Turkey's opaque recruitment, interview, appointment, promotion and transfer practices for judges and prosecutors lack transparency, objective criteria and independent oversight, raising concerns over political influence and the right to a fair trial.

13 May: An İstanbul court [rejected](#) release requests for jailed mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu and three co-defendants in

a political espionage trial, keeping them in pretrial detention as they face up to 20 years in prison over allegations involving municipal data, campaign analytics and foreign intelligence links.

15 May: The ECtHR [ruled](#) that Turkey violated former Kurdish lawmaker Ayla Akat Ata's rights to liberty and freedom of expression by detaining her in 2016 on terrorism-related charges without reasonable suspicion, largely over protected political activities, speeches and social media posts.

KURDISH MINORITY

14 May: A Van court [sentenced](#) Kurdish journalist Reyhan Hacıoğlu to four years and two months in prison for allegedly aiding a terrorist organization in a case rights advocates say relied on her broadcasts, interviews and journalistic contacts as evidence.

15 May: Turkish prosecutors have [opened](#) a terrorism propaganda investigation into pro-Kurdish JINNEWS editor Öznur Değer over social media posts containing her reporting, protest photographs and shared news articles.

15 May: Turkey's parliament [rejected](#) a pro-Kurdish DEM Party proposal to investigate barriers to the public use of Kurdish, with the ruling AKP, the nationalist MHP and the İYİ Party voting against the motion.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

13 May: The widow of Afghan migrant worker Vezir Mohammed Nourtani, whose burned body was found in Zonguldak in 2023 after a fatal incident at an unlicensed coal mine, [says](#) her family has been left without valid documents, healthcare, legal protection or state assistance despite the hardship faced by her children, two of whom have disabilities.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

14 May: Turkish police allegedly [raided](#) the wrong home in Bingöl, broke a minor's arm and assaulted members of a Kurdish family, prompting an apology from police.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

11 May: The We Will Stop Femicide Platform has [brought](#) Turkey's 2021 withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention

before the ECtHR, arguing that the presidential-decree withdrawal and the Constitutional Court's dismissal of its challenge unlawfully weakened protections for women's rights.