

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 310 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 3 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.

28 May: The ECtHR [ruled](#) that Turkey violated former US Consulate employee Metin Topuz's right to liberty by keeping him in pretrial detention for more than two years without sufficient justification in a case involving alleged links to the Gülen movement.

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

28 May: A teacher was [arrested](#) and suspended from his civil service job after climbing onto a police water cannon

vehicle during a banned CHP protest in İzmir, amid intensified restrictions on opposition demonstrations in Turkey.

31 May: At least 13 people were [detained](#) as police blocked a commemoration in Ankara for Gezi victim Ethem Sarısülük at the place and time he was shot.

31 May: Police [blocked](#) Doruk Madencilik workers from travelling to Ankara to demand unpaid rights after a payment promise guaranteed by three ministries was allegedly not fulfilled.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

26 May: Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner Michael O'Flaherty [called](#) on Turkey to protect free expression and press freedom, restore judicial independence and repeal laws used to prosecute journalists, restrict protests and silence dissent.

28 May: A İstanbul Bilgi University student was briefly [detained](#) after speaking to the media during protests against the university's temporary closure by presidential decree.

29 May: MLSA's 2025 annual report [found](#) that press freedom in Turkey sharply deteriorated as 53 journalists were detained, 29 were arrested and pretrial detention, terrorism charges and internet censorship were increasingly used against media workers.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

28 May: Turkey's Interior Ministry [removed](#) CHP Güzelbahçe Mayor Mustafa Günay from office after his arrest in a corruption and zoning investigation, amid growing judicial pressure on opposition-run municipalities.

OTHER MINORITIES

29 May: The ECtHR [ruled](#) that Turkey violated the rights of two Greek Orthodox priests by unlawfully removing them from the boards of religious minority foundations in İstanbul solely because they were members of the clergy.

PRISON CONDITIONS

27 May: Women prisoners in İstanbul Bakırköy Prison [faced](#) delayed access to medical care, late hospital referrals and forced handcuffed examinations, with those refusing such treatment being returned to prison without examination or treatment.