

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 314 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 22 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.

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 ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

25 June: Turkey [faced](#) criticism for imposing sweeping security measures ahead of the NATO summit in Ankara, including a 13-day protest ban.

28 June: Turkish police [detained](#) at least 50 people, including a journalist, during İstanbul's banned Pride march as authorities intensified restrictions on LGBT events and related activities.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

22 June: Turkish authorities [blocked](#) access to 57 X accounts belonging to women's and LGBTI+ rights organizations ahead of İstanbul Pride Week, prompting criticism that the restrictions violate freedom of expression and association.

22 June: A proposed media bill in Turkey [would](#) restore sanctioning powers to the Press Advertisement Agency, prompting opposition warnings that it would enable renewed pressure on independent media despite a Constitutional Court ruling limiting such authority.

24 June: Several Turkish media outlets were [denied](#) accreditation to cover the 2026 NATO summit in Ankara, prompting criticism over the exclusion of independent journalists.

27 June: Turkish authorities [blocked](#) access to X posts featuring clips from comedian Deniz Göktaş's show, citing national security and public order concerns after criticism from a ruling party figure over jokes about President Erdoğan.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

24 June: UN special rapporteurs [raised](#) concerns that Turkey prosecuted, detained and subjected two female environmental defenders to judicial harassment in apparent retaliation for their peaceful environmental advocacy and exercise of freedom of expression.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

23 June: The European Court of Human Rights [found](#) violations of the rights to a fair trial and the principle of “no punishment without law” in **893** additional applications concerning terrorism convictions based on alleged links to the Gülen movement, reaffirming its established case law following the [Yalçınkaya judgment](#).

23 June: Two CHP district mayors, Ali Ercan Akpolat of İstanbul’s Adalar district and Mustafa Turgut of Mersin’s Silifke district, were [arrested](#) in separate investigations alleging corruption and abuse of office, bringing the number of opposition CHP mayors in pretrial detention to 23.

27 June: A Turkish court [ordered](#) the pretrial detention of 178 people, including journalists, academics, lawyers and environmental volunteers, in a sweeping operation ahead of the NATO summit.

KURDISH MINORITY

22 June: A Turkish court [sentenced](#) former mayor and Kurdish women’s rights advocate Ayşe Gökkan to more than 19 years in prison on terrorism-related charges following a retrial.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

27 June: A BBC investigation [reported](#) allegations that Turkish border forces beat, robbed and forcibly returned Afghan migrants in freezing conditions near the Iranian border, leaving 11 people with amputations and at least 20 others reportedly dead, claims the Turkish government denies.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

26 June: Human rights groups [reported](#) that torture, police violence and prison abuse remained widespread in Turkey, documenting at least 2,019 alleged cases of ill-treatment during peaceful protests in the first five months of 2026 amid persistent impunity and worsening prison conditions.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

26 June: PACE [adopted](#) a resolution naming Turkey among the world’s top 10 perpetrators of transnational

repression, citing allegations of cross-border abductions, surveillance, attacks on exiled journalists and misuse of international legal mechanisms to target government critics abroad.

GENDER RIGHTS

23 June: Turkish authorities [detained](#) journalist and LGBTQ rights advocate Yıldız Tar in Ankara ahead of a court hearing.