

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 315 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 4 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.

29 June: Turkish authorities [detained](#) 23 people in separate operations in Kocaeli and Edirne over alleged links to the Gülen movement, with nine remanded in pretrial detention and others accused of activities including humanitarian assistance to the families of individuals dismissed by KHK (State of Emergency Decrees) from their public duties.

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

1 July: Authorities [imposed](#) blanket bans on public assemblies, protests and related activities in five Turkish provinces—Elazığ, Bolu, Adana, Konya and Antalya—for periods of 9 to 14 days ahead of the NATO summit.

5 July: Turkish police [detained](#) at least 145 people during anti-NATO protests in Ankara and other cities ahead of the NATO summit.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

30 June: Turkish prosecutors [indicted](#) journalist Pınar Gayıp on terrorism charges, citing her reporting on public events, press credentials and anonymous witness statements as evidence of alleged membership in the outlawed MLKP, five months after her arrest.

2 July: Journalist Gülnur Saydam was briefly [detained](#) in İstanbul after reporting on alleged organized crime in the Göktürk neighborhood, in a case brought under Turkey's controversial disinformation law that drew widespread criticism from press freedom organizations.

2 July: Journalist Fatma Sibel Gürçihan was [arrested](#) pending trial after being detained over a social media post criticizing former finance minister Berat Albayrak and commenting on remarks from an interview with him.

3 July: Rights groups, opposition leaders and artists [condemned](#) the pretrial detention of comedian Deniz Göktaş over political satire in his stand-up show, arguing that charges of insulting the president and denigrating

religious values are being used to suppress freedom of expression.

5 July: Journalists Buse Söğütlü and Ceren Erdoğan were [detained](#) ahead of the NATO summit in Ankara as Turkish authorities intensified pre-summit security measures, including mass detentions and a blanket protest ban.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

2 July: Turkish prosecutors [declined](#) to investigate police officials over alleged negligence before the 2015 Ankara train station bombing that killed 104 people, ruling that the statute of limitations had expired despite claims authorities had identified key ISIL suspects days before the attack.

30 June: Turkish courts [arrested](#) 25 people, including İsmail Yetişkin, in separate investigations targeting CHP-run municipalities in İzmir and İstanbul.

KURDISH MINORITY

29 June: Turkish prosecutors [launched](#) an investigation into two Kurdish journalists over their subscription to the legally published *Demokratik Modernite* magazine, treating payments of subscription fees to the magazine's bank account as evidence in the probe.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

29 June: Two Iranian men [detained](#) in Hakkari Province after crossing the border allegedly endured three days of torture in police custody, with one reporting rape by police officers, according to a complaint filed by human rights groups based on victim statements and medical records.

1 July: One refugee [died](#), two remain missing and 15 others were rescued after a boat carrying 18 people attempting an irregular sea crossing sank off the coast of Marmaris in southwestern Turkey.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

2 July: A 21-year-old psychology student recovering from spinal surgery has reportedly been [denied](#) transfer to a hospital despite repeated loss of consciousness and a prison doctor's referral while held in pretrial detention on alleged links to the Gülen movement.