

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 318 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 126 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.

20 July: At least 668 people were [detained](#) across Turkey and 179 were jailed pending trial in security operations surrounding NATO's July summit in Ankara, with a Turkish court later [releasing](#) nine detainees, including a journalist, an academic, environmental volunteers and a labor representative, while their prosecutions continue.

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

23 July: Workers at the Yunus Emre Thermal Power Plant secured payment of 5 million lira of nearly 7 million lira in unpaid wages after launching a march to Ankara, while two DİSK/Enerji-Sen leaders [detained](#) during a police intervention were later released.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

22 July: A Turkish court released DW Turkish reporter Alican Uludağ under judicial supervision, including a travel ban and four weekly police check-ins, after he spent about 25 hours in [custody](#) over a social media post criticizing Turkey's judicial system and violations of the presumption of innocence.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

20 July: Turkish police [detained](#) İzmit Mayor Fatma Kaplan Hürriyet, her husband and a CHP district official among 28 people taken into custody in a 31-suspect corruption investigation, as the number of CHP-run municipalities targeted since the 2024 local elections rose to at least 39, with 26 incumbent mayors currently jailed.

24 July: Following a court ruling that removed him as CHP leader and reinstated Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, Özgür Özel resigned from the CHP with 90 lawmakers and [founded](#) the New Party, which is set to become Turkey's main opposition force in parliament.

KURDISH MINORITY

22 July: Kurdish race walker Cumali Arslan has [accused](#) the Turkish Athletics Federation of excluding him from an international competition because of his ethnic identity and display of the Kurdistan Region flag, allegations the federation denies and European Athletics is reviewing.

OTHER MINORITIES

23 July: Turkey's Constitutional Court unanimously [ruled](#) that the state failed to effectively investigate the 1993 Madımak Hotel massacre, in which an Islamist mob killed 35 people during a festival honoring an Alevi poet, finding a violation of the procedural right to life and ordering compensation for the victims' relatives.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

21 July: Human Rights Watch [urged](#) Turkey to intensify its investigation and disclose the whereabouts of Turkmen activists Alisher Sakhatov and Abdulla Orusov, who disappeared after release documents were issued in July 2025 despite a Constitutional Court order temporarily blocking their deportation.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

23 July: A court statement [made](#) public seven years after it was submitted alleges that Turkish police tortured and threatened Melek Tekin, a mother later sentenced to six years and three months in prison over alleged Gülen movement links, including claims based on ByLock use and a Bank Asya account.