

TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



Issue No. 319 | Date 27 July – 2 August 2026

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 319 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 19 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

30 July: Turkish gendarmes [detained](#) around 20 people, including five 14-year-olds and a 90-year-old woman, after residents blocked heavy machinery from entering a disputed mining exploration site in Ordu's Turnalık highlands.

30 July: Police [detained](#) 54 miners and trade unionists who chained themselves outside Yıldızlar SSS Holding's

headquarters in Ankara while demanding unpaid wages, overtime compensation and severance payments from Doruk Mining.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

27 July: Turkish prosecutors [launched](#) an investigation into BirGün reporter Ebru Çelik and other journalists over a report alleging that people were paid to pose as supporters at an event held by the court-reinstated CHP leadership under Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu.

30 July: An Ankara court [blocked](#) access to YouTuber Halil İbrahim Balsak's website and a video explaining presidential security arrangements, citing national security and public order without publicly identifying the allegedly threatening content.

31 July: An İstanbul court [blocked](#) access to the İstanbul Yargılıyor platform, which reports allegations, defenses and live developments from the İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality trial, citing national security and public order.

1 August: Pro-government journalist Cem Küçük was [jailed](#) pending trial in İstanbul for allegedly spreading misleading information during television broadcasts, while separate allegations that he received financial benefits from businesspeople remain under investigation.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

29 July: An unidentified assailant or assailants [damaged](#) the Hacı Kureyş Shrine, a sacred Alevi site in Gaziantep visited by thousands annually, prompting an investigation

and concerns from Alevi groups about systematic attacks on their places of worship.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

30 July: Turkey's Constitutional Court [ruled](#) that a conviction based primarily on alleged ByLock messaging app use in Gülen Movement cases did not violate the principle of no punishment without law, despite the ECtHR's landmark finding that Turkey's treatment of such evidence created an unlawful presumption of guilt (*Yalçınkaya v Türkiye*).

30 July: Turkish police [detained](#) Etimesgut Mayor Erdal Beşikçiğlu and dozens of municipal officials and contractors in a corruption investigation, the latest operation targeting opposition-run CHP municipalities.

1 August: An İstanbul court [jailed](#) Üsküdar Mayor Sinem Dedetaş and three others pending trial on corruption and organized-crime charges, in the latest investigation targeting municipalities governed by the opposition CHP.

KURDISH MINORITY

28 July: Two Kurdish shopkeepers were [hospitalized](#) after allegedly being beaten for more than 30 minutes by a large group shouting anti-Kurdish insults in İstanbul, while their family says they continue to face threats to withdraw their complaints and leave the neighborhood.

28 July: Kurdish journalist Fermandar Kardeş was [detained](#) on terrorism-related accusations over a report about the alleged abduction and coercion of a pro-Kurdish party member, then released under judicial supervision with a travel ban.

28 July: The family of a 17-year-old Kurdish girl who suffered two leg fractures after being struck by an armored police vehicle in Yüksekova [accused](#) police of pressuring them through tribal elders to withdraw their complaint.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

28 July: Jailed İstanbul municipal executive Fatoş Pınar Türker, who suffers from a serious heart condition, reportedly [lost](#) consciousness and struck her head in prison but was not taken to a hospital, prompting her lawyer to request urgent medical examination and cancellation of a planned transfer.