

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 320 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 14 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.

6 August: Former teacher Emine Sarioğlu, imprisoned with her 2-year-old daughter over alleged Gülen movement links, was [released](#) after a retrial was ordered following a Constitutional Court ruling that her right to a reasoned judgment had been violated.

6 August: A Kurdish asylum seeker mother deported from Switzerland despite warnings that she faced imprisonment was detained upon arrival in Turkey and [jailed](#) pending trial with her 15-month-old baby.

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

3 August: Özcan Aksu [died](#) in an İstanbul hospital 12 days after being jailed pending trial, prompting his family and lawyers to seek an independent investigation into extensive injuries he allegedly sustained in state custody and possible delays in medical treatment.

3 August: Abdülalim Kaya, an 83-year-old Kurdish man who was kept in prison despite a medical report finding him 93 percent disabled and at risk of death, [died](#) 17 months after his release on probation.

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 EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

4 August: X [blocked](#) access in Turkey to another account run by jailed İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu's presidential campaign office following a court order citing national security and public order.

4 August: Turkish prosecutors are [seeking](#) up to four-and-a-half years in prison for jailed government critic Nasuh Mahruki over a social media post alleging that authorities knowingly allowed the 2016 coup attempt to proceed and later used it to change Turkey's system of government.

4 August: A Turkish court [placed](#) journalist Can Bursalı under judicial supervision and imposed a travel ban after prosecutors questioned him over reports and social media posts concerning the İmamoğlu trial and the Amasra mine disaster.

6 August: Turkish authorities [blocked](#) access to at least 659 online accounts, posts, apps and websites related to İstanbul Pride events and protests against the July NATO summit in Ankara.

6 August: Turkish prosecutors [opened](#) an investigation into Sendika.Org reporter Nisan Çıra for allegedly inciting hatred and enmity over photographs she shared while reporting on protests against the NATO summit in Ankara.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

4 August: Turkey's internet regulator [ordered](#) the Human Rights Association (İHD) to remove two reports documenting alleged abuses against women, amid a broader series of recent restrictions on the organization's online publications.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

5 August: Turkish prosecutors [asked](#) parliament to lift the immunity of New Party leader Özgür Özel and lawmaker Veli Ağbaba over allegations that they repeatedly accepted bribes while serving as senior CHP figures.

8 August: New Party Manisa provincial chair İlksen Özalper was [jailed](#) pending trial on bribery and organized crime charges, becoming the first provincial leader of the newly founded opposition party to be imprisoned.

8 August: A Turkish parliamentary committee [approved](#) a 12-article bill for the PKK peace process that would suspend certain criminal proceedings and sentences and establish oversight bodies, amid opposition and legal [criticism](#) over its preparation, constitutionality, unequal treatment and potential effect as a conditional general amnesty.

5 August: Five Turkish law professors [called](#) on courts to fully apply ECtHR rulings in Gülen movement cases, arguing that lawful activities and unverified digital evidence such as ByLock cannot alone establish membership in a terrorist organization.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

4 August: Three prisoners at Kocaeli No. 2 F-Type Prison [alleged](#) that guards beat them while they were handcuffed behind their backs after one shouted an anti-torture slogan.

7 August: The UN Committee Against Torture [asked](#) Turkey to respond within six months to Aysun Işınkaralar's complaint alleging electric shocks, strangulation, sexual harassment and a mock execution in police custody after her detention over alleged Gülen movement links.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

7 August: Twenty-five women were [killed](#) by men in Turkey in July 2026, while 31 others died under suspicious circumstances, according to the We Will Stop Femicide Platform.