

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 321 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.

12 August: Opposition lawmaker Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu [raised](#) concerns over former teacher and mother of four Hacer Kılıç, who is serving a terrorism sentence over alleged Gülen movement links amid reported poor conditions in Aksaray Prison and prolonged separation from her children.

14 August: Turkish authorities [accused](#) activist Leylanur Mavili of membership in a terrorist organization over a protest banner and remarks criticizing poverty and government policies during the July NATO summit in Ankara; she was detained for four days and released under judicial supervision.

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

10 August: Miners from Eti Gümüş and Doruk Mining were [detained](#) in Ankara while protesting outside the Energy Ministry over months of unpaid wages, severance pay and other employment entitlements.

12 August: The Ankara Governor's Office [imposed](#) a 15-day ban on demonstrations and public gatherings across the capital amid ongoing protests by mine workers, veterans and relatives of fallen soldiers.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

13 August: Turkish prosecutors [launched](#) a new obscenity investigation into singer Mabel Matiz over the lyrics and music video of "Ha Leylim," three months after he was acquitted of similar charges concerning another song.

14 August: Turkey's broadcasting regulator RTÜK [imposed](#) 41 sanctions in the first half of 2026, including 39 fines totaling about TL 112 million (\$2.3 million), targeting television, radio and digital media outlets over broadcast and online content.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

10 August: Turkey's state-owned Halkbank and VakıfBank [spent](#) a combined TL 3.38 billion (\$70.8 million) on advertising and announcements in the first half of 2026, a

43 percent increase compared with the same period in 2025.

10 August: Human rights groups [called](#) on Turkish authorities to address the continuing consequences of post-2016 emergency decrees, citing mass dismissals, ongoing investigations, professional restrictions and the need to fully implement ECtHR judgments.

PRISON CONDITIONS

11 August: Turkey's prison population has [reached](#) 433,520, exceeding official capacity by 128,564 and pushing prison occupancy to about 142 percent according to the Ministry of Justice data.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

10 August: Cancer patient İbrahim Halil Al, imprisoned over alleged Gülen movement links, has reportedly [gone](#) five months without treatment as delays in medical assessments stall consideration of suspending his sentence on health grounds.

14 August: German activist Paula Maier [alleged](#) that she was raped by a Turkish official and subjected to other abuse while detained at an İstanbul removal center in January, prompting rights groups to call for an investigation.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

13 August: Women's rights groups [say](#) inadequate public support, funding shortages and weak implementation of protection mechanisms are making it increasingly difficult for women in Turkey to escape domestic violence.