

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 323 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 5 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.

28 August: An İstanbul court [jailed](#) general surgery resident Barış Kaya pending trial on terrorism accusations, while he alleged that police beat and otherwise ill-treated him in custody.

28 August: Turkish police [detained](#) Esma Batmaz and Hilal Köseoğlu after prosecutors cited assistance they received to study in Germany as part of a terrorism investigation tied to their imprisoned fathers' alleged Gülen links.

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.

26 August: Opposition lawmaker Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu [documented](#) 73 alleged abductions and disappearances since 2015, including unresolved cases and accounts of secret detention and torture.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

27 August: An Ankara court [arrested](#) union leaders Gökay Çakır and Başaran Aksu over social media posts while miners were protesting unpaid wages.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

29 August: An İstanbul court [ordered](#) the seizure of all printed and in-production copies of jailed Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu's book "Millet Şahidimdir" and banned its distribution and sale.

27 August: Turkish authorities [detained](#) four Aydın Denge journalists under the disinformation law over an "Erdoğan died" post that referred to a local woman sharing the president's surname, then released them under judicial supervision.

26 August: Turkish prosecutors [sought](#) up to six years in prison for retired rear admiral Türker Ertürk over remarks he made before the 2023 elections about a change of government.

25 August: Turkish prosecutors [questioned](#) İzmir Journalists Association president Dilek Gappi over a statement denouncing political pressure on media workers.

24 August: Turkish authorities [blocked](#) an investigative report, podcast and social media posts about former health minister Fahrettin Koca and Medipol on national security and public order grounds after a court rejected a request to restrict the same content.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

29 August: Turkish courts [jailed](#) 81 people pending trial in a financial crimes investigation involving the Süleymanlılar religious community and summoned former interior minister İdris Naim Şahin for questioning.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

28 August: The European Court of Human Rights [ruled](#) that Turkey violated the liberty rights of eight people by holding them in lengthy pretrial detention without sufficient justification.

26 August: Presidential adviser Mehmet Uçum [suggested](#) that Turkey could reconsider its participation in the European human rights system after the ECtHR ordered Osman Kavala's immediate release.

26 August: Rights defenders, politicians and legal scholars [called](#) for Osman Kavala's release after the ECtHR found that Turkey had convicted and imprisoned him to punish and silence him.

25 August: Human Rights Watch [urged](#) Turkey to amend a new law allowing adult sentences for children, warning that it violates international child-rights standards and could harm public safety.

24 August: Turkey's Savings Deposit Insurance Fund [revealed](#) details of five properties confiscated from exiled journalist Can Dündar and managed under a court-ordered trusteeship.

KURDISH MINORITY

25 August: Turkish prosecutors [ordered](#) the detention of five Kocaelispor supporters over a racist display invoking body bags and targeting fans of Kurdish club Amedspor.

24 August: More than 70 Kurdish seasonal farmworkers and relatives were [targeted](#) in Zonguldak and another group was threatened in Düzce, prompting calls for investigations into possible ethnic motives.

OTHER MINORITIES

28 August: Former Erdoğan press adviser Kemal Öztürk [sparked](#) condemnation after remarks about Syrian Arab Alawites were denounced as hate speech that dehumanized the minority and risked legitimizing violence.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

27 August: Separate attacks in Adana and Gaziantep [killed](#) Syrian teenager Ali Shihab and worker Bedir Koca, reviving concerns among refugees and rights advocates.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

26 August: Kurdish prisoner Mehmet Sait Yıldırım, 75, [suffered](#) a heart attack after prison authorities delayed his conditional release for a third time despite his serious health problems.