# 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 334 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 52 people over alleged links to the Gülen movement. In October 2020, a UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) opinion said that widespread or systematic imprisonment of individuals with alleged links 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.

9 November: Police detained 23 people in İzmir during an investigation into alleged links to a left-wing organization, while related premises in İstanbul were raided; investigators reportedly cited participation in a memorial event among the activities under scrutiny.

10 November: Police detained Yonca Verdioğlu Şık, wife of opposition lawmaker Ahmet Şık, for questioning in an espionage investigation and released her the same day; her husband's party alleged that the proceedings targeted his family.

10–13 November: Police detained 11 people in investigations concerning alleged Gülen movement links, including five accused of helping prisoners' families, while a separate operation led to the detention of 29 people across 14 provinces.

## 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

13 November: Police detained workers protesting a mobile-phone restriction at the HABAŞ steel plant following a deadly explosion on 9 November; reporting gave different detention totals, ranging from at least nine to nearly 20.

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

9 November: Police questioned journalist İdris Yılmaz over social-media reporting on a corruption investigation; the underlying post was published on 6 November.

10 November: Investigators reported seven people detained or targeted in another stage of an investigation that had led to a takeover of Halk TV; one person included in the reporting was already imprisoned, leaving the new custody count unclear.

11 November: An İstanbul court blocked access to a 2 November article concerning investment-fund allegations, citing national security.

12 November: Turkish courts imposed suspended prison sentences on two journalists and ordered house arrest for two others in separate proceedings concerning their reporting.

12 November: A court remanded journalists Ahmet Erkan Yiğitsözlü and Tuba Demir and accountant Servet Topuz in custody over financial revenues on Youtube advertisement and patreon which autorities allage financial ties with the Gülen Movement; the defendants disputed the allegations.

## JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

9 November: An İstanbul court ordered the pretrial detention of Muhammet Erişen, deputy head of Türkiye's Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency, and bank chief executive Murat Yönaç in an investigation into alleged investment-fund and stock-market manipulation; the accusations had not been adjudicated.

12 November: A court released İstanbul mayor's lawyer Mehmet Pehlivan and seven other defendants during a corruption trial involving municipal officials, while proceedings continued.

13 November: An İstanbul appeals court rejected a challenge to Osman Kavala's continued imprisonment despite binding European Court of Human Rights judgments calling for his release.

## PRISON CONDITIONS

10 November: Lawyers' groups reported that prison administrative boards had delayed the conditional release of at least 116 prisoners during 2026, raising concerns about the transparency of release assessments; the figure concerns multiple earlier months, not 116 new cases this week.

13 November: Prisoners at Adana No. 2 Prison reported approximately 40 tuberculosis cases and alleged inadequate medical care and infection-control measures; the case count and diagnoses were not independently verified.

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS

14 November: Women's rights activists marched from Karaköy to Eminönü in İstanbul, calling for effective investigations into killings of women and suspicious deaths and for stronger action against impunity.

## GENDER RIGHTS

11 November: A court released three supervisory-board members of the LGBTQ+ organization Kaos GL during proceedings against association representatives, while other defendants remained detained.

12 November: An indictment sought a prison sentence of up to eight years for journalist Tuğba Tekerek in connection with a previously published report and an Instagram post; the exact date of the indictment was not verified.

12 November: Prosecutors sought the dissolution of HEVİ LGBTİ+ association and brought allegations against five founders in proceedings concerning the organization's activities; the precise filing date was not independently established.