

# TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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## ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

Throughout the week, prosecutors ordered the detention of at least 34 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.

**November 21:** After 18 years of imprisonment, writer Sadık Aslan's release was [postponed](#) last May, but with a new decision of the Administrative and Monitoring Board, his release was postponed for another 3 months.

**November 21:** The release of Resul Baltacı, a political prisoner in Düzce Çilimli T Type Prison, has been [prevented](#) by arbitrary disciplinary penalties for 13 months.

**November 23:** An İstanbul court has [ruled](#) for the arrest of journalist Mehmet Kamış, the deputy editor-in-chief of a now-closed newspaper in Turkey, on charges of attempting to destroy the constitutional order due to his alleged role in a failed coup in 2016.

## 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

**November 21:** Şırnak Governorate [made](#) a declaration on November 21, 2023 and banned all open-door meetings, demonstrations, marches, press declarations, sit-ins, rallies, pitching tents, petitions, opening stands, mass funerals and visits to cemeteries, commemorations, festivals, concerts, entertainment, performances, demonstrations and similar events for 7 days as of November 22, 2023.

**November 23:** The police [intervened](#) the press declaration in front of İstanbul Çağlayan Courthouse about Type Y, S and R prisons and detained 6 people.

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

**November 20:** Pro-government media [targeted](#) main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Özgür Özel for attending the recent performance of a Kurdish opera singer along with Pervin Buldan, an MP from the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (HEDEP) and other politicians from both parties.

**November 21:** A content on the EngelliWeb website was [ordered](#) to be blocked and deleted by the İstanbul 10th Criminal Judgeship of Peace on the grounds of violation of personal rights.

**November 22:** The content on ifade.org.tr website was [banned](#) to access on the grounds of violation of personal rights by İstanbul Penal Court of Peace No 10 on November 21, 2023 and the content was ordered to be deleted.

**November 23:** Turkish government agencies have [requested](#) the removal of a total of 90,400 web pages and other content from Google in the last decade.

**November 23:** Courts in eastern Turkey have [convicted](#) and handed down sentences to Kurdish journalists Hacı Boğatekin and Özgür Boğatekin.

**November 24:** A journalist, Levent Gültekin, in Turkey has been [ordered](#) to pay a fine of TL 25,000 (\$866) on conviction of insulting Selçuk Bayraktar, the chief technical officer of Turkish unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) producer Baykar who is also the son-in-law of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

## JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

**November 20:** Meral Akşener, leader of the nationalist opposition İYİ (Good) Party, [claimed](#) that some Turkish police chiefs own hotels where prostitution is forced on orphaned girls.

**November 24:** Croatian drug lord Nenad Petrak [acquired](#) Turkish citizenship in 2022, while the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) MP Süleyman Soylu was interior minister.

## KURDISH MINORITY

**November 21:** Turkey's Justice Ministry sought an INTERPOL Red [Notice](#) for famous Kurdish singer and activist Ferhat Tunç, who lives in exile in Germany, in line with an arrest warrant issued for him in 2021 for failing to attend court hearings.

**November 24:** Halil Aksoy, former Ağrı MP of Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), was [detained](#) in Istanbul on the grounds that he had a finalized prison sentence of 8 years and 9 months for 'being an illegal organization member' and was arrested by the court.

## PRISON CONDITIONS

**November 20:** In Ankara Sincan High Security Closed Prison, 14 prisoners were [given](#) disciplinary penalties for taking halay to the song "Lê Amedê".

**November 22:** Mücella Yapıcı (72), a prominent architect and a defendant in the Gezi Park trial who was released from an İstanbul prison in September, has [recounted](#) the poor prison conditions she faced as an elderly woman.

## REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

**November 24:** Iranian artist and activist Shailin Asadollahi was [detained](#) in Turkey. She is known to be at risk of deportation to Iran.

## TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

**November 23:** Police in southern Turkey [have](#) allegedly stripped naked, hosed down and beat up a 20-year-old detainee suspected of trafficking unregistered firearms.

**November 23:** 2 people (H. Ş. and D. S.) who were detained by the police on the shore of Seyhan Dam Lake in Adana, on the grounds of 'trading weapons without a license', were subjected to torture and ill-treatment, [threatened](#) to death, and were wounded in various parts of their bodies due to torture and ill-treatment.

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS

**November 21:** Orhan Çiftçi, the former governor of Kırklareli province, was [acquitted](#) of domestic violence charges despite compelling evidence against him

**November 24:** Published on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the report [said](#) at least 288 women were killed and 681 others have been subjected to violence by men since the beginning of this year.