

TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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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.

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

September 26: Eskişehir prosecutors [launched](#) an investigation into several people for their participation in a demonstration in support of ongoing women's rights protests in Iran.

September 27: The Mersin Governor's Office [banned](#) a concert by Kurdish musician Mem Ararat.

September 30: The police in İstanbul [intervened](#) in a protest vigil held to support a hunger striking prisoner, briefly detaining two people.

October 1: The police in İstanbul [intervened](#) in a demonstration about sick prisoners, briefly detaining nine people.

October 2: The police in Ankara [intervened](#) in a demonstration to support the women's rights protests in Iran, briefly detaining nine people.

October 2: The police in Şırnak briefly [detained](#) two people for participating in a protest held against a local electricity supplier.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 26: An İstanbul court [sentenced](#) journalist Sabahattin Önkibar to 11 months, 20 days in prison on charges of insulting the president on social media.

September 26: A court [ruled](#) to arrest Ramazan Dışarı, a media employee who was detained for selling a magazine at an opposition event. He faces charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda and terrorism financing.

September 26: An İstanbul court [ruled](#) to block access to seven news reports, two [opinion pieces](#) and three tweets about several allegations involving a resort hotel.

September 26: [Serkan Özcan](#), a spokesperson for an opposition party, was summoned by prosecutors for questioning over his remarks on television, upon a complaint filed by the Central Bank.

September 27: The police in Mersin [detained](#) 22 people over their social media commentary.

September 28: An İstanbul court [ordered](#) the state to pay damages to journalist Barış Terkoğlu, who was

imprisoned and tried for covering the death of a Turkish intelligence officer in Libya.

September 29: The police in İstanbul [detained](#) five members of Grup Yorum, a leftist folk music group.

September 29: The police in Şırnak [detained](#) three people due to their social media posts.

September 30: Media reports [indicated](#) that Turkey's justice ministry was seeking the extradition of exiled journalist Cevheri Güven who lives in Germany.

September 30: The police in Mersin [detained](#) nine people on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda on social media.

September 30: Customs police [prevented](#) the entry of Italian journalist Giuseppe Acconcia, citing an entry ban imposed on him.

October 1: The police in İstanbul physically [assaulted](#) journalists Hayri Tunç, Meral Danyıldız, Zeynep Kuray and Rukiye Güzel who were covering a demonstration.

October 2: The police in Van physically [assaulted](#) reporter Hakan Yalçın while he was covering a press conference.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

September 29: The İstanbul Governor's Office [refused](#) to authorize an investigation into police chief Hanifi Zengin against whom human rights activists filed a complaint for battering demonstrators during an LGBT parade.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 27: A mob in a university campus in Ankara [assaulted](#) a group of protesters for chanting slogans in Kurdish.

September 30: Ankara prosecutors [indicted](#) Kurdish politician Semra Güzel, seeking up to 15 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 26: Reports [revealed](#) that an Adana prison has been denying medication to inmate Fatih Özgür Aydın for the last three months.

September 29: [Mustafa Murat Ayhan](#), an inmate held in a one-person cell in a Diyarbakır prison, committed suicide.

September 29: Reports indicated that Bahar Çulha, an eight-month-old baby who last week was incarcerated along with her mother, has [become](#) ill and has fever.

September 30: Reports [indicated](#) that a Çorum prison was not allowing inmates to attend their classes at a university.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

September 27: Some Syrian refugees who are returning to Syria as part of the Turkish government's "voluntary return program" [told](#) the media in interviews that their return was motivated by increasing hate crimes against migrants and anti-migrant sentiment fueled by politicians.

September 27: Eurostat [statistics](#) showed that the number of Turkish citizens filing asylum applications in the EU increased by 31 percent in June compared to the previous month.

October 1: President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan [announced](#) that more than half a million Syrians have voluntarily returned to the safety zones established in northern Syria by the Turkish military since 2016.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 26: Revealed statements of Lokman Kırılı, a former police chief who in the aftermath of a failed coup in 2016 was detained, [indicated](#) that he was heavily tortured during his detention and coerced into signing a false confession.

September 29: The İstanbul Governor's Office [refused](#) to authorize an investigation into police chief Hanifi Zengin against whom human rights activists filed a complaint for battering demonstrators during an LGBT parade.

September 30: Political prisoners held in a Kahramanmaraş prison were rear-handcuffed and [mistreated](#) by people who introduced themselves as counterterrorism officials.

October 1: The police in İstanbul physically [assaulted](#) journalists Hayri Tunç, Meral Danyıldız, Zeynep Kuray and Rukiye Güzel who were covering a demonstration.

October 2: The guards in an Erzurum prison [mistreated](#) several inmates during visitation.

October 2: The police in Van physically [assaulted](#) reporter Hakan Yalçın while he was covering a press conference.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

September 30: Media reports [indicated](#) that Turkey's justice ministry was seeking the extradition of exiled journalist Cevheri Güven who lives in Germany.