

# TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



Issue No. 208 | Date 10-16 june

## ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

Throughout the week, prosecutors ordered the detention of at least 22 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

10 June: Turkish police on Sunday [detained](#) 10 people at a Pride march in the central province of Eskişehir despite a ban imposed by the governor's office on Pride Week activities in the city.

10 June: During the police intervention against the protest organised in front of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) provincial building in Bursa in support of Palestine, protesters were subjected to physical violence of the police and were [detained](#) by being handcuffed behind their backs.

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

12 June: Uşak Banaz Civil Court of First Instance [ruled](#) that actress Ezgi Mola must pay 10 thousand TL in non-pecuniary damages for a social media post about Sergeant Musa Orhan, who was sentenced to 10 years for 'qualified sexual assault' in the case involving the alleged sexual assault and suicide of a child.

14 June: A prosecutor has requested [prison](#) sentences for six journalists who organized a protest on April 29, 2023, in support of their colleagues who were arrested in operations centered in Diyarbakır and Ankara.

13 June: The news reports on the determination that former Istanbul Security Directorate Intelligence Branch Director Özgür Taşdemir cleared the criminal file of Çalık Holding-affiliated Çalık Gayrimenkul Chairman Ahmet Taçyıldız in exchange for a "mansion with a Bosphorus view" were [blocked](#) from access with the decision of Bakırköy 1st Criminal Judgeship of Peace.

13 June: News reports on the allegation that a high-ranking official at the Ministry of Justice had a call traffic history (HTS) overlap with Ayhan Bora Kaplan, who is on trial for being the leader of a criminal organisation, were [blocked](#) from access by the Ankara 10th Criminal Judgeship of Peace on the grounds of violation of personal rights.

14 June: The news on the operation against the financial structure of the terrorist organisation DAESH was [blocked](#) from access with the decision of Bakırköy 4th Criminal Judgeship of Peace.

## HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

14 June: Human rights lawyer Zilan Gümüş, co-chair of the İzmir branch of the Human Rights Association, has [faced](#)

repeated police surveillance and harassment due to her advocacy work, prompting a press conference by multiple human rights organizations calling for an end to the intimidation and an investigation into the responsible officers.

## **KURDISH MINORITY**

12 June: A Turkish court has [arrested](#) six politicians, former mayors and their deputies in the predominantly Kurdish province of Diyarbakır who were detained on June 8 as part of an ongoing crackdown on Kurdish politicians in the country.

## **PRISON CONDITIONS**

15 June: The long-standing [water problem](#) in Çorum Sungurlu L Type Prison persists, with no hot or cold water supplied for two days, leaving women in 20-person wards struggling to meet their daily needs.

## **TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT**

9 June: Women detained in Malatya, traumatized by baseless charges, had their headscarves removed for three days and were [not allowed](#) to pray or meet with their lawyers.

10 June: Fatma Özbay, an ill prisoner in İzmir Şakran Women's Prison, was not [taken](#) for routine check-ups despite having breast cancer.

11 June: 2 people who had a traffic accident in Çan district of Çanakkale were stopped by the police and were [subjected](#) to physical violence of the police.

## **WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

13 June: At a graduation ceremony held in the school garden of a high school in Kocaeli's Gebze district, some students were [not allowed](#) into the area on the grounds of 'inappropriate dress'.