

# TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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## ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

Throughout the week, prosecutors ordered the detention of at least 15 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.

**August 12:** The Constitutional Court [ruled](#) that jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk should receive neurological and psychiatric treatment in hospital while rejecting a plea for her release. Tuğluk's lawyers and rights groups have announced that she suffers from dementia and repeatedly called for her release.

**August 13:** [Zülfü Yıldırım](#), a 68-year-old severely disabled and sick prisoner, lost his life in an Elazığ prison. The authorities announced that the cause of death was a heart attack and a consecutive falling down.

**August 14:** An Ankara prison [denied](#) parole to Mukaddes Kubilay, jailed Kurdish politician and the former mayor of Ağrı, on the grounds that she had exchanged greetings with families of other prisoners.

## ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

**August 10:** The Constitutional Court [found](#) no violation of the right to life in the case of Ali İsmail Korkmaz, a university student who was beaten to death by police officers during the Gezi Park protests of 2013. The court ruled that a police officer involved in the incident should be retried for the violation of the prohibition of torture and that Korkmaz's family should be paid compensation.

## 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

**August 9:** The police in Muğla [intervened](#) in a protest vigil against the construction of a hotel, briefly detaining 15 people.

**August 9:** The police in İstanbul [intervened](#) in a funeral organized for a leftist militant, detaining 10 people.

**August 10:** The Batman Governor's Office [restricted](#) all outdoor gatherings for a period of 10 days.

**August 11:** The police in İstanbul [detained](#) two people staging a demonstration to support a prisoner who is on hunger strike.

**August 11:** The police in İstanbul [intervened](#) in a workers' protest, briefly detaining 12 people.

**August 11:** A district governor's office in Balıkesir [refused](#) to authorize a music festival, citing public order reasons.

**August 11:** The police in İzmir [raided](#) a local leftist party office in anticipation of a planned demonstration to commemorate a militant, briefly detaining 20 people.

**August 11:** The police in Tekirdağ briefly [detained](#) 10 activists in anticipation of a planned demonstration to support a prisoner who is on hunger strike.

**August 11:** A district governor's office in İstanbul [banned](#) all outdoor gatherings for a period of one month. The decision was announced following demonstrations organized by workers to protest a construction company.

**August 12:** The police in İstanbul [intervened](#) in a workers' protest, detaining 10 people.

**August 13:** The police in İstanbul [intervened](#) in a demonstration to commemorate a leftist militant, detaining 23 people.

**August 13:** The police in İstanbul [intervened](#) in a demonstration about sick prisoners, briefly detaining 40 people.

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

**August 8:** An İstanbul court [ruled](#) to block access to 23 news reports about allegations that a relative of a prominent cleric was awarded a ministerial construction contract.

**August 9:** An İstanbul court [ruled](#) to block access to three news reports on allegations that Nermin Aydiner, a medical doctor and the wife of high judiciary member Ömer Faruk Aydiner, was appointed to replace the chief physician of a hospital who was prosecuted by her husband over alleged links to the Gülen movement.

**August 9:** İstanbul prosecutors [launched](#) an investigation into a group of football fans whose chants during a league game allegedly contained insults against the president. The prosecutors instructed the local police department to identify the people based on video footage of the game.

**August 10:** Prosecutors [indicted](#) journalist Nazan Özcan over her coverage of bribery allegations implicating a former lawyer for the president.

**August 10:** An İstanbul court [ruled](#) to block access to a news report about bribery allegations implicating a former lawyer for the president.

**August 10:** The Constitutional Court [ruled](#) that advertising bans imposed on government-critical

newspapers BirGün, Cumhuriyet and Evrensel were in violation of the right to freedom of expression and media.

**August 10:** Prosecutors [launched](#) an investigation into lawyer Ebru Demirtepe due to her social media reaction to an armed assault on a HDP bureau in İzmir last year that killed a party employee.

**August 11:** An İstanbul court [ruled](#) to block access to a news report on allegations that a number of people were brought to high-level government positions after obtaining diplomas fabricated by fake foreign-based universities.

**August 12:** The police in İstanbul [detained](#) journalist Zeynep Kuray who was following a workers' protest.

**August 12:** Several Kurdish musicians [announced](#) that the municipal police in İstanbul were preventing them from singing in Kurdish on the streets.

**August 13:** Journalist Ebru Uzun Oruç [announced](#) that she and her family was targeted in an armed attack in İstanbul. The incident took place after Oruç received threatening messages over her street interviews critical of far-right politician and ruling party ally Devlet Bahçeli.

## JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

**August 10:** Boğaziçi University administration [refused](#) to extend academic Can Candan's employment contract despite an administrative court decision that ordered the stay of execution on the academic's dismissal.

**August 11:** İstanbul prosecutors [decided](#) that there was no grounds for legal action in the case of inmate Ferhan Yılmaz who committed suicide in April 2022 following an incident of torture in an İstanbul prison.

## KURDISH MINORITY

**August 9:** The police in Batman [detained](#) local HDP executive Sezgin Yavuz.

**August 11:** The police in Şırnak [detained](#) local HDP executive Sabuha Akdağ.

**August 12:** The Constitutional Court [ruled](#) that jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk should receive neurological and psychiatric treatment in hospital while rejecting a plea for her release.

**August 12:** Several Kurdish musicians [announced](#) that the municipal police in İstanbul were preventing them from singing in Kurdish on the streets.

**August 13:** The police in Hakkari [detained](#) nine people, including local HDP executives.

**August 14:** Jailed Kurdish politician Mehmet Candemir [died](#) after being taken to a hospital from a prison in Giresun. The authorities said the cause of death was a heart attack. Candemir was serving a sentence of 17 years, six months on terrorism-related charges.

**August 14:** An Ankara prison [denied](#) parole to Mukaddes Kibilay, jailed Kurdish politician and the former mayor of Ağrı, on the grounds that she had exchanged greetings with families of other prisoners.

**August 14:** The police in Mersin, Hatay, Adana, İzmir, Van and Manisa [detained](#) 43 members and executives of the HDP.

## OTHER MINORITIES

**August 12:** A Greek minority association [announced](#) that it was forced to cancel a traditional Assumption Day event following complaints filed with authorities.

## PRISON CONDITIONS

**August 8:** Media reports [revealed](#) that tap water supply in an Adana prison has been limited to one hour per day for nearly two months.

**August 8:** An Afyon prison [kept](#) four inmates who tested positive for Covid-19 in the same ward as inmates who tested negative and did not offer medical care to the infected inmates.

**August 8:** The Constitutional Court [ruled](#) that an İstanbul court violated inmate Mahmud Süddik Ecevit's rights by restricting his visitation rights.

**August 9:** The lawyer for Alparslan Kuytul, the arrested leader of an anti-government religious group, [announced](#) on social media that Kuytul was kept in a one-person cell in a prison located at 900 kilometers from his family and that his phone and video calls with his family were arbitrarily restricted.

**August 12:** Reports [said](#) that a women's prison in Diyarbakır was offering insufficient food and hygiene products to inmates.

## REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

**August 9:** Turkish coast guard [recovered](#) the bodies of three migrants who were pushed back into Turkish waters by Greece.

**August 12:** The Greek government [called on](#) Turkey to help some 40 migrants who were believed to be stranded for several days on a river islet on the two countries' common border.

**August 13:** Four Syrian refugees were [attacked](#) by a racist mob and injured in Bolu. Four people were detained and arrested in connection with the incident.

## TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

**August 10:** A lawyers' association [announced](#) that their client Mehdi Mihçi was mistreated while in police custody in İstanbul.

**August 10:** The Constitutional Court [found](#) no violation of the right to life in the case of Ali İsmail Korkmaz, a university student who was beaten to death by police officers during the Gezi Park protests of 2013. The court ruled that a police officer involved in the incident should be retried for the violation of the prohibition of torture and that Korkmaz's family should be paid compensation.

**August 11:** The guards in a Konya prison [confiscated](#) inmates' sheets and blankets. The prison administration launched a disciplinary investigation into inmates who objected to the confiscation and interrupted the phone calls of those who told about the mistreatment.

**August 11:** İstanbul prosecutors [decided](#) that there was no grounds for legal action in the case of inmate Ferhan Yılmaz who committed suicide in April 2022 following an incident of torture in an İstanbul prison.

**August 11:** The Constitutional Court [ruled](#) in favor of Deniz Şah who was physically assaulted by prison guards in Bolu for trying to stage a sit-in protest.

**August 13:** The police in İstanbul [strip-searched](#) 23 people who were detained during a demonstration.