

TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



Issue 108 | July 11-17, 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

July 14: The Council of Forensic Medicine [issued](#) a controversial report in which it stated that Aysel Tuğluk, a jailed Kurdish politician suffering from dementia, is fit to remain in prison.

July 15: Media reports [indicated](#) that since July 2016 Turkey's authorities arbitrarily detained or arrested at least 80 pregnant women over their suspected links to the Gülen movement.

July 15: The police in İstanbul [detained](#) four minors for disrespecting a bust sculpture of the founder of the republic.

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

July 13: The police in Hatay [intervened](#) in a demonstration organized by leftist activists, detaining 24 people.

July 13: The police in İstanbul [detained](#) four activists who were handing out flyers.

July 14: The police in İstanbul [intervened](#) in a protest vigil outside a courthouse, briefly detaining six people.

July 14: The Giresun Governor's Office [banned](#) a concert by Pontic Greek singer Apolas Lermi after he was the target of racist attacks on the media.

July 14: The Van Governor's Office [released](#) a statement designating the vicinity of government offices as well as a number of streets as parks as localities categorically forbidden for demonstrations while lifting restrictions to assembly imposed in other areas in the province.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 11: Media reports indicated that an İzmir court [ruled](#) to block access to 17 online news articles about the death of a patient in a hospital in the province.

July 14: The police in Tunceli [confiscated](#) two books at a book fair, citing a court order.

July 14: The authorities [launched](#) criminal investigations into 22 social media users over their messages about the murder of a doctor by a patient's relative.

July 16: The police [detained](#) two people in İzmir and Balıkesir over their social media messages on the occasion of the anniversary of a coup attempt.

July 16: The police in Tunceli [detained](#) journalist Azime Bozkurt at a road checkpoint. Bozkurt was released the next day.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

July 11: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) [ruled](#) that Turkey failed to comply with a binding judgment of the court in December 2019 which found that civil society leader Osman Kavala's detention violated his fundamental rights.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

July 11: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) [ruled](#) that Turkey failed to comply with a binding judgment of the court in December 2019 which found that civil society leader Osman Kavala's detention violated his fundamental rights.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 11: Kadri Devir, a HDP executive in Şanlıurfa, was [arrested](#) and sent to prison after appeals courts upheld his prison sentence.

July 16: The Constitutional Court [ruled](#) that the conviction of Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ on terrorism charges violated her rights. Yüksekdağ was sentenced to 10 months in prison for participating in a funeral in 2012.

OTHER MINORITIES

July 14: The Giresun Governor's Office [banned](#) a concert by Pontic Greek singer Apolas Lermi after he was the target of racist attacks on the media.

July 15: Unidentified assailants [vandalized](#) a Jewish cemetery in İstanbul.

July 16: Night watchmen in İzmir physically [assaulted](#) three trans women over an argument that erupted during an ID check.

PRISON CONDITIONS

July 11: A Diyarbakır prison [confiscated](#) letters sent by jailed journalists Mehmet Ali Ertaş, Serdar Altan and Zeynel Abidin Bulut.

July 11: A Manisa prison [denied](#) hospital visits to inmates who refused to undergo mouth searches.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

July 12: Forty-four human rights organizations and advocates, including our association, [released](#) a joint letter addressing European Union officials, asking them to take action to stop summary pushbacks of migrants on the Turkish-Greek border.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 11: Media reports [indicated](#) that the guards in a women's prison in İzmir mistreated inmates and damaged their personal items.

July 14: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison [strip-searched](#) the spouse of jailed journalist Serdar Altan who was visiting.

July 16: Night watchmen in İzmir physically [assaulted](#) three trans women over an argument that erupted during an ID check.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

July 18: The Supreme Court of Sweden [refused](#) Turkey's request to extradite a former principal who used to work at a school affiliated with the Gülen movement on the grounds that his actions do not constitute any elements of a crime under Swedish law. Ankara has been requesting the extradition of a number of political exiles as a precondition for greenlighting Stockholm's NATO membership bid.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

July 13: Turkey [ranked](#) 124th out of 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2022 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).