

# TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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## ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

Throughout the week, prosecutors ordered the detention of at least 35 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.

28 August: Turkish police have [detained](#) 20 people across 11 provinces over their alleged links to the Gülen movement.

## 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

26 August: In Soma, Manisa, gendarmerie forces [detained](#) at least 70 people, including the president of the Independent Mine Workers' Union, Gökay Çakır, during a sit-in protest by miners opposing the dismissal of workers for unionizing.

27 August: Fired CarrefourSA workers in Turkey were [detained](#) by police while protesting their dismissal,

highlighting tensions between labor rights activists and law enforcement.

29 August: In Gaziantep, police intervened and [detained](#) 33 people, including BİRTEK-SEN President Mehmet Türkmen and Organizing Specialist Mazlum Ayçiçek, during a protest by Akcanlar Tekstil workers and BİRTEK-SEN against poor working conditions and tax deductions, after their planned press statement in front of a hotel was blocked by authorities.

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

26 August: German state-owned international broadcaster Deutsche Welle (DW) will [take](#) the conviction of its İstanbul office coordinator, journalist Bülent Mumay, to Turkey's Constitutional Court after a lower appeals court refused to overturn his conviction.

27 August: A Turkish court has [ordered](#) an access ban on the X accounts of 82 people including prominent journalists and politicians, such as Kurdish politician Ertuğrul Kürkçü, journalists Amberin Zaman, on accusations that they are disseminating terrorist propaganda.

27 August: Demirören News Agency (DHA) reporter Zehra Baykal was physically [assaulted](#) and injured by a group reportedly related to the two individuals who went missing after setting out to sea in Yalova.

29 August: A 16-year-old girl in İstanbul [faces](#) charges for allegedly insulting President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, with a prosecutor demanding her conviction.

30 August: Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, former leader of the main opposition Republican People's Party's (CHP), [faces](#) up to more than three years in prison since a court accepted an

indictment accusing him of “praising crime and criminals” through public statements made over several years defending victims of the government crackdown on dissent.

## **KURDISH MINORITY**

27 August: Two Kurdish inmates at Bafra Prison in Turkey’s Black Sea province of Samsun were [put](#) in solitary confinement for 11 days for writing poetry in Kurdish.

28 August: Thirty-one Kurdish inmates in İzmir prison, Turkey, have been [banned](#) from phone calls and visits for one month after commemorating the Kobani resistance with Kurdish songs and slogans.

## **REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS**

28 August: A Palestinian student in Turkey is [facing](#) deportation after participating in a protest against trade relations with Israel, an action that has led Turkish authorities to initiate deportation proceedings.

28 August: During a metro ride in Istanbul, two men reportedly verbally and physically [assaulted](#) a Syrian child selling hairbands, with one of them also confronting a passenger who tried to intervene, questioning the passenger's nationality.

29 August: Hanan Mouselli Dagır, a Syrian-origin lawyer who recently became a member of the İzmir Bar Association, has been [subjected](#) to racist, discriminatory, and hateful remarks on social media.

## **TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT**

29 August: Mehmet Emin Çam, a 72-year-old prisoner at the Beşiri T-Type Closed Prison in Batman, eastern Turkey, has reportedly been [denied](#) access to his essential medications for the past two weeks.

30 August: Tayfun Kahraman, a prisoner from the Gezi Trial in Turkey, is reportedly [facing](#) ill-treatment in detention, including being denied access to medical care and other basic rights, raising concerns about his well-being.

## **TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION**

27 August: A Syrian journalist, Bakr al-Kassem, working for several media outlets in an area of the country’s north controlled by Turkey-backed rebel factions has been [detained](#) by local authorities.