

TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

Throughout the week, prosecutors ordered the detention of at least 323 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

May 23: Antalya prosecutors [indicted](#) 40 people over their participation in a women's rights march.

May 24: The police in İstanbul [detained](#) two people protesting for prisoners on hunger strike.

May 25: The police in İstanbul briefly [detained](#) seven people protesting an energy company.

May 25: The European Court of Human Rights [ruled](#) that Turkey violated the right to liberty and security as well as freedom of assembly and association of 22 trade union

members who were arrested in 2012 while on their way to a demonstration.

May 26: The police in İstanbul [detained](#) four people staging a protest vigil in front of a courthouse.

May 26: The police in Ankara [detained](#) three people protesting the conviction of prominent rights activist Nuriye Gülmen.

May 26: The police in İstanbul [detained](#) two people protesting for prisoners on hunger strike.

May 26: The Bursa Governor's Office [banned](#) a concert by Kurdish singer Mem Ararat, citing "public safety" reasons.

May 26: The Bursa Governor's Office [issued](#) a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

May 27: The police in Ankara briefly [detained](#) 16 people staging a protest in a university campus.

May 27: The police in Tunceli briefly [detained](#) 11 people staging a protest.

May 27: The police in Ankara briefly [detained](#) seven people staging a protest for prisoners on hunger strike.

May 28: The police in Tunceli [detained](#) 20 people for attending Newroz celebrations.

May 28: The Ministry of Culture and Tourism [canceled](#) a concert by Spanish-Armenian violinist Ara Malikian.

May 28: The Van Governor's Office [issued](#) a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 24: An Ankara court [ordered](#) actress Ezgi Mola to pay a monetary fine for insulting a former sergeant who was found guilty of sexual assault.

May 25: An Ankara court [ruled](#) to block access to three news reports on allegations of bribery implicating a businessman and the interior minister.

May 26: An İstanbul court [ordered](#) opposition leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu to pay damages to the president and people in his inner circle for raising allegations that they had transferred large sums of money to offshore accounts in the Isle of Man.

May 26: The authorities [blocked](#) access to three news reports on allegations of corruption implicating a senior police chief in İstanbul.

May 27: The ruling party [unveiled](#) a bill that stipulates prison sentences of up to three years for “spreading fake news on the internet.”

May 27: An İstanbul court [ruled](#) to block access to a news report on bribery allegations targeting senior police chiefs in the province.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

May 25: An İstanbul court [sentenced](#) academic and prominent rights activist Nuriye Gülmen to 10 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

May 24: The Constitutional Court [rejected](#) the applications of Kurdish politicians Aysel Tuğluk and Sebahat Tuncel who claimed that their arrest over protests in 2014 was unlawful and politically motivated.

May 27: A commission set up to review individual complaints emanating from the two-year-long state has so far [rejected](#) 106,970 applications out of the 124,235 it has processed since its establishment in 2017.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 24: The Constitutional Court [rejected](#) the applications of Kurdish politicians Aysel Tuğluk and Sebahat Tuncel who claimed that their arrest over protests in 2014 was unlawful and politically motivated.

May 24: A right-wing mob in Antalya physically [assaulted](#) a group of Kurdish university students.

May 26: The Bursa Governor’s Office [banned](#) a concert by Kurdish singer Mem Ararat, citing “public safety” reasons.

PRISON CONDITIONS

May 23: An women’s prison in Ankara [launched](#) a disciplinary investigation into six inmates for chanting to commemorate the Halabja massacre in Iraq and decided to restrict their communications for a month.

May 23: A Denizli prison [denied](#) medical treatment to sick inmate Ekim Polat.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

May 24: The authorities [announced](#) that since the beginning of the year Turkey deported 28,581 irregular migrants, representing a 70 percent increase compared to the same period of the last year.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

May 23: The guards in a Denizli prison reportedly [tortured](#) sick inmate Ekim Polat.

May 24: The Constitutional Court [ordered](#) the state to pay damages to a citizen who in 2015 was subjected to physical assault by the police.

WOMEN’S RIGHTS

May 28: Human Rights Watch (HRW) senior Turkey researcher Emma Sinclair Webb said in an [interview](#) that around four out of 10 women in Turkey have suffered physical and/or sexual violence during their lives.