

# TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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## ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

**July 29:** A bar association head was briefly [detained](#) while dining with his family after refusing to submit his identification to the police officers who approached him at a restaurant.

## FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

**July 27:** The governor's office in Adana [imposed](#) a 3-day ban on all outdoor gatherings in the province.

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**July 27:** The governor's office in Denizli [imposed](#) a 15-day ban on all outdoor gatherings in the province.

**July 27:** The governor's office in Gaziantep [imposed](#) a 7-day ban on all outdoor gatherings in the province.

**July 27:** The governor's office in Sinop [imposed](#) a 7-day ban on all outdoor gatherings in the province.

**July 28:** The governor's office in Hatay [imposed](#) a 3-day ban on all outdoor gatherings in the province.

**July 29:** Alev Şahin was briefly [detained](#) in Düzce while protesting her summary dismissal from public service.

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

**July 29:** The Turkish parliament [passed](#) the new social media law allowing authorities vast censorship powers over platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

**July 30:** İstanbul prosecutors [indicted](#) Rawîn Stêrk, Rudaw reporter who was arrested on March 6, charging

him with alleged terrorist propaganda over his reporting on the situation of refugees at the Turkish-Greek border.

**July 31:** A monthly [report](#) released by opposition lawmaker Barış Yarkadaş said that 60 journalists stood trial in July.

## HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

**July 27:** A US State Department spokesperson and the European Parliament's Turkey rapporteur [called for](#) the release of Osman Kavala, the human rights defender who marked his 1000<sup>th</sup> day in prison.

## KURDISH MINORITY

**August 1:** Turkey's Higher Education Board (YÖK) [prohibited](#) students studying Kurdish language and literature at Turkish universities from writing their dissertations in Kurdish.

## MILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD

**July 27:** A local militia group in northern Syria [claimed](#) that bombing by Turkish-backed forces in Manbij killed six civilians.

**July 27:** Turkish airstrike against Kurdish militants in northern Iraq [killed](#) two civilians.

## PRISON CONDITIONS

**July 29:** The lawyers of Abdullah Öcalan, the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), [filed](#) an application to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) after Turkey's Constitutional Court refused to lift the ban on contact with their client.

**August 2:** Melek Çetinkaya, the mother of an imprisoned cadet who was arrested on July 17 over her remarks on a TV show, was [denied](#) her medication and telephone rights in prison, according to the [revelations](#) by her daughter Rûveyda Çetinkaya on social media.

## REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

**July 28:** Former prime minister Ahmet Davutoğlu [corroborated](#) last week's allegations that Turkey was sending Uighurs back to China where they were likely to face political persecution.

**July 29:** A 10-year-old Syrian child worker [lost](#) his life after falling into a pond in Bursa.

**July 30:** Hatay prosecutors [launched](#) an investigation into allegations that six Syrian migrant children were battered in a racist attack by a group of seven to eight unidentified Turkish citizens. The children received treatment at a hospital and two of them were in critical condition, according to reports.

**August 2:** Turkey reportedly [handed over](#) a fugitive Algerian military officer to his country where he is to face espionage charges.

## TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

**July 29:** Human Rights Watch [urged](#) Turkey to investigate allegations of serious abuses committed by police and neighborhood night watchmen against more than a dozen people in İstanbul and the Southeast.

**July 31:** Hunger striking lawyers Ebru Timtik and Aytaç Ünsal were reportedly [taken](#) to a hospital for a “forced intervention,” after a forensic medicine report found that the two were not in a state to stay in prison. The lawyers launched the hunger strike to demand a fair trial.

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS

**July 30:** A woman in Bursa [claimed](#) that authorities released a man who allegedly raped her. Her allegations drew widespread social media attention.

**August 1:** A 24-year-old Yazidi woman was [rescued](#) by her family from her captivity in the Turkish capital city of Ankara, at the hands of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).