

TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

Throughout the week, prosecutors ordered the detention of at least 100 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.

1 May: Turkish police [detained](#) 14 former military officers and 2 civilians in raids carried out in Ankara for alleged links to the Gülen movement.

3 May: 30 former police officers alleged to be members of the Gülen movement and allegedly mentioned in ByLock content were [detained](#).

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

1 May: Turkish police on Wednesday [detained](#) 210 people after authorities banned May Day rallies at İstanbul's central Taksim Square.

3 May: Turkish police on Friday [detained](#) 29 people who had resisted law enforcement on Wednesday in an attempt to hold a demonstration in İstanbul's central Taksim Square to mark International Workers' Day despite a government ban.

3 May: In Ankara, the police [intervened](#) the march in Kuğulu Park for the beginning of the 19th Workers' Film Festival and prevented the march.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

2 May: A Turkish court on May 2 [sentenced](#) journalist Barış Terkoğlu to a two-year jail sentence for two news articles "targeting" a public official employed in counterterrorism.

2 May: Documentary filmmaker and cinematographer Koray Kesik was [detained](#) in a house raid in Izmir on 2 May 2024.

3 May: The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK), Turkey's broadcasting and streaming regulator, has [fined](#) two TV stations due to their content critical of ruling party or government members.

3 May: Turkish authorities [cancelled](#) the screening of a documentary that shed light on the challenges faced by victims of Turkey's post-coup purge shortly before it was scheduled to be shown during a film festival in Ankara.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

30 April: Turkey's Supreme Court of Appeals has [upheld](#) a prison sentence handed down to the head of the now-closed Progressive Lawyers Association (ÇHD) Selçuk Kozağaçlı, also a prominent human rights activist and lawyer, who has been behind bars for more than seven

years on “membership in a terrorist organization” and “propagandizing for a terrorist organization” charges.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

2 May: Afyonkarahisar Municipality [announced](#) on its social media account that the wedding fee of 400 TL for citizenship holders was increased to 10 thousand TL for asylum seekers.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

30 April: Esra Solin Dal, one of 9 journalists who were detained in house raids in Istanbul, Ankara and Urfa on 23 April 2024, through an investigation initiated in 2022, was [subjected](#) to strip search during detention.

1 May: Three brothers – İbrahim Emre, Muhammed Emre and Üsame Emre — imprisoned on conviction of alleged links to the Gülen movement, were [not allowed](#) to attend the funeral of their younger sister, Sümeyra Emre, who died on April 25 from injuries sustained in a car accident on the way back from visiting brothers Muhammed and Üsame at Kepsut Prison in Balıkesir.

1 May: Van High Security Prison is [facing](#) allegations of arbitrary practices affecting inmates’ access to healthcare and legal consultations.

2 May: A report drafted by a bar association in Turkey has [revealed](#) how a Turkish educator renditioned to Turkey from Kyrgyzstan by Turkish intelligence in 2021 due to his links to a faith-based group recounted instances of torture and death threats he was subjected to in custody.