

TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

Throughout the week, prosecutors ordered the detention of at least 220 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.

July 3: Zeybegül Yılmaz, who has a 5-year-old special needs child, was [detained](#) over alleged links to the Gülen movement. Yılmaz's son, Salih, suffers from developmental problems and needs constant care.

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

No news has emerged of [Yusuf Bilge Tunç](#) and [Hüseyin Galip Küçüközyiğit](#), former public sector workers who were sacked from their jobs by decree-laws during the 2016-2018 state of emergency and who were reported missing respectively as of August 6, 2019 and December 29, 2020, in what appear to be the latest cases in a string of suspected [enforced disappearance](#) of government critics since 2016.

July 1: The family of Gülistan Doku, a young Kurdish woman who went missing on January 5, [started](#) a sit-in in front of a courthouse in Tunceli.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

June 28: The police in İstanbul briefly [detained](#) activist Nursel Tanrıverdi while protesting her summary removal from public service after a coup attempt in 2016.

June 29: The police in Van [detained](#) 10 people who participated in protests about the deadly attack on the HDP İzmir office.

June 29: The police in Ankara [blocked](#) an LGBT pride march, detaining 20 people.

June 30: The police in Eskişehir [intervened](#) in an LGBT pride march, detaining 30 people.

June 30: The police in İstanbul [blocked](#) a workers' protest, detaining two people.

June 30: The Hakkari Governor's Office [issued](#) a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 1: A district governor's office in İstanbul [banned](#) an online concert organized by a left-wing music band.

July 1: The Van Governor's Office [issued](#) a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban has been uninterruptedly in effect since November 2016.

July 4: The police in Ankara [detained](#) five people who were handing out flyers about the sixth anniversary of a bomb attack.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 28: An İzmir court [ruled](#) to block access to a news report about an alleged incident of child abuse involving a local member of the ruling party.

June 29: A Diyarbakır court [sentenced](#) journalist İsmail Çoban to four years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

June 29: The police in Rize [detained](#) a person over remarks on a street interview.

June 29: An İzmir court [ruled](#) to block access to news reports about allegations that a local education ministry bureaucrat pressured a school to cancel an event with a poet.

June 30: A Diyarbakır court [sentenced](#) journalist Hakkı Boltan to two years, 17 days in prison on charges of insulting the president and a former prime minister.

June 30: [Sinan Aygül](#), a journalist based in Bitlis, turned himself in to serve a prison sentence handed down to him for reporting on an incident of child abuse. Aygül was released on probation the next day.

July 1: An Ankara court [ruled](#) to block access to news reports containing photos showing an alleged money launderer dining together with a high judiciary member.

July 1: A Diyarbakır court [ruled](#) to block access to web addresses used by the Etkin news agency, the Kızıl Bayrak newspaper, and the Umut newspaper to publish news.

July 1: Reporters Without Borders [condemned](#) the Presidential Directorate for Communications for using press accreditation to increase pressure on the media.

July 2: Prosecutors [demanded](#) a prison sentence of up to four years for opposition leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu due to remarks referring to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan as a “so-called” president.

July 2: The police in Bursa briefly [detained](#) local journalist İrfan Aydın on charges of insulting the president and the interior minister in comments.

July 2: Yahya Birinci, a relative of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, was [detained](#) after he criticized the ruling party on a live video on Twitter.

July 2: The police in İstanbul briefly [detained](#) opera singer Güvenç Dağüstün over a tweet.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

July 1: The Constitutional Court [ruled](#) that Turkey violated the rights of Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu, a former lawmaker and a prominent human rights activist who was stripped of his parliamentary status in March and was subsequently jailed.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

June 29: The European Court of Human Rights [ruled](#) that Turkey had violated the right to liberty and security as well as the right to respect for private and family life and for one’s home of Erdal Tercan, a former Constitutional Court judge who was jailed immediately after a coup attempt in July 2016.

July 1: A parliamentary committee [approved](#) a judicial reform package which stipulates that instead of taking victim testimony, tangible evidence will be required in child abuse cases, making it more difficult for abusers to be prosecuted.

KURDISH MINORITY

June 29: A Diyarbakır court [sentenced](#) journalist İsmail Çoban to four years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges. Çoban was formerly an executive at the Kurdish-language Azadiya Welat newspaper.

June 29: The police in Van [detained](#) 10 people who participated in protests about the deadly attack on the HDP İzmir office.

July 2: A Diyarbakır court [sentenced](#) former district mayor Gülistan Ensarioğlu to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges. Ensarioğlu was previously removed from office by the Interior Ministry.

MILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD

July 1: The United States [added](#) Turkey to a list of countries that have been implicated in the use of child soldiers over the past year.

OTHER MINORITIES

July 2: YouTube [removed](#) the video of a speech by presidential aide Fahrettin Altun due to hate speech against Armenians.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

June 29: Turkey's Defense Ministry [announced](#) that Greek authorities detained and illegally sent back to Turkey 42 irregular migrants, 12 of whom were stripped beaten.

July 3: A [report](#) released by a Washington-based human rights group said that Turkey increased renditions, detentions and surveillance of its Uyghur population and is no longer the safe haven it once was for Uyghur refugees.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 29: The police in Konya physically [attacked](#) local journalist Muhammed Emin Güleç who warned them about wearing face masks.

July 1: [Memiş Akbaş](#), a LGBT man incarcerated in Eskişehir, was raped, beaten and threatened, according to a recent report.

July 1: Plainclothes police officers in İstanbul reportedly [forced](#) a man named Barış Çetin into a vehicle, physically assaulted him and coerced him into becoming an informant for the authorities.

July 4: The guards at a Diyarbakır prison physically [assaulted](#) inmate Kendal Barut for resisting a strip search during a transfer.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

July 1: Turkey formally [exited](#) the İstanbul Convention, a Council of Europe treaty combating violence against women, in accordance with a presidential decree issued in March.

July 3: A monthly report by a women's rights group [said](#) that 18 women were murdered by men in June and 20 more died under suspicious circumstances.