

TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

Throughout the week, prosecutors ordered the detention of at least 47 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.

25 October: Turkish police have [detained](#) 12 people in Ankara over their alleged links to the Gülen movement.

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

24 October: A gun attack on the Turkish Aerospace Industries (TUSAŞ) facility in Ankara's Kazan district [resulted](#) in the deaths of 5 civilians, with 22 people injured, including 12 police officers and 10 civilians.

24 October: 88-year-old Adem Cirit, who was imprisoned for the past three years in Yalvaç T-Type Prison after being convicted of 6 years and 3 months on charges of terrorist organization membership on the grounds of providing scholarships to students and having an account at Bank Asya, [passed away](#) in prison.

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

23 October: 16 people, including the President of the Araklı Karadere Valley and Highlands Nature and Wildlife Conservation Association, Şener Şengül, were [detained](#) for protesting mining activities in Erikli Plateau.

25 October: Two Turkish activists were [detained](#) after staging a protest against the presence of BAE Systems at SAHA Expo, a major defense industry exhibition in İstanbul organized with the support of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's administration and overseen by his in-laws, alleging that the British company provides arms to Israel's military.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

22 October: A journalist in western Turkey was [detained](#) and subsequently fired from her job after she expressed condolences for Turkish-Islamic scholar Fethullah Gülen during a live broadcast. The Ministry of Interior announced that investigations have been initiated against 177 individuals for their statements on the same issue.

22 October: A Turkish court has [sentenced](#) journalist Ahmet Erkan Yiğitsözlü to six years, three months in prison for alleged links to the faith-based Gülen movement.

24 October: Kazım Güleçyüz, the editor-in-chief of Turkey's Yeni Asya newspaper, was [arrested](#) on Wednesday on accusations of disseminating terrorist propaganda for conveying condolences for the late Fethullah Gülen.

24 October: Social media platform X has [blocked](#) access to over 100 accounts belonging to Turkish journalists,

activists and media organizations run by journalists living in exile, in another example of its compliance with censorship requests from the Turkish government.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

22 October: The European Court of Human Rights has [ruled](#) that Turkey violated the right to a fair trial of 10 judges and prosecutors who were dismissed in the aftermath of the 2016 coup attempt, stating that their removal was carried out without the necessary legal safeguards and due process, which breached their rights under Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights and further underscored the ongoing concerns about the erosion of judicial independence in the country during the post-coup purges.

KURDISH MINORITY

25 October: An attack was [carried](#) out on the headquarters of the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) in Ankara's Balgat district, resulting in material damage to the building.

PRISON CONDITIONS

25 October: In Diyarbakır No. 2 High-Security Prison, inmates were [not allowed](#) to use cooling systems in their rooms during hot weather, nor were they permitted to purchase air conditioners with their own means.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

24 October: The release of 15 inmates held in Istanbul Bakırköy Women's Prison, who had completed their prison sentences between August and October 2024, was [postponed](#) for one year by the decision of the Prison Administration and Observation Board (CİGK).

24 October: In Istanbul Bakırköy Women's Prison, severely ill inmate Fatma Tokmak was [sentenced](#) to 10 days in solitary confinement as a result of a disciplinary investigation initiated by the prison administration due to the notes she had kept.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

23 October: Four Turkish refugees under UN protection who were abducted by armed men in Kenya on October 18 were brought to Turkey and are [being held](#) at a police station in Ankara.

25 October: Turkish drone strikes [killed](#) 27 civilians in Syria in a 24-hour military escalation following a deadly attack on a defense contractor near Ankara.