Restrictions on the Freedom of Association of Opposition Political Actors in Turkey:

The Case of the CHP and Ekrem İmamoğlu

[Submission made in response to the United Nations Human Rights Committee's call for input for the preparation of General Comment No. 38 on Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)]

Deadline: 19 December 2025

This submission is provided in response to the United Nations Human Rights Committee's call for input[1] on the forthcoming General Comment No. 38 concerning Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). It is presented by Solidarity with Others, a Brussels-based human rights organisation, and draws on documented developments concerning the suppression of the Turkish opposition—specifically targeting the Republican People's Party (CHP) and Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu—from December 2024 through November 2025.

This report details a **persistent and escalating campaign by the Turkish government to undermine the organisational capacity, political participation, and public expression of one of the country's largest opposition movements**. Through administrative sanctions, politicised prosecutions, police repression of rallies, and state-controlled media attacks, authorities have repeatedly interfered with the right of political parties and their supporters to freely associate and engage in civic life. These tactics culminated in a chilling combination of legal harassment and public smear campaigns aimed at weakening the Istanbul mayor's office and the broader opposition.

The material submitted herein is directly relevant to the Committee's objectives in drafting General Comment No. 38. Specifically, it illustrates:

- The **criminalisation of political association** through vague or politically motivated terrorism and insult charges;
- **Obstructions to freedom of association in electoral contexts**, particularly through efforts to delegitimise elected officials and criminalise party organising;
- The **intimidation and judicial targeting of opposition figures and party structures**, which undermines the democratic function of associations;
- The broader **chilling effect on civic participation**, where citizens are deterred from affiliating with or supporting political parties due to fear of reprisal.

This submission calls attention to how **political association** in Turkey is rendered precarious not only through formal restrictions, but also via state practices that **weaponize judicial, administrative, and media tools to dismantle the opposition's capacity** to function freely. We respectfully urge the Committee to take this context into account as it elaborates on the scope and nature of States parties' obligations under Article 22 ICCPR.

[1] OHCHR. (n.d.). *OHCHR | Call for input - Draft General Comment No. 38 on Article 22 (Freedom of Association) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*. https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2025/call-input-draft-general-comment-no-38-article-22-freedom-association

Restrictions on the Freedom of Association of Opposition Political Actors in Turkey: The Case of the CHP and Ekrem İmamoğlu

Executive Summary

- **Escalating Crackdown on the Main Opposition:** Over the past year, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's government has launched an unprecedented crackdown on Turkey's main opposition party, the Republican People's Party (CHP). Dozens of opposition mayors and officials have been detained or removed from office on **dubious charges** of corruption, terrorism links, or "insulting" authorities. This includes the high-profile **jailing of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu** – Erdoğan's potential presidential rival – and at least 16 other CHP mayors, in what observers widely denounce as a politically motivated purge of elected opposition figures.[2]

- **Undermining Democracy and Opposition Dynamics:** The crackdown comes in the wake of significant opposition electoral successes. In the March 2024 local elections, the CHP **swept most major cities** – including Istanbul, Ankara, Adana, and Antalya – handing Erdoğan's ruling AK Party (AKP) its biggest local defeat in years.[3] In response, authorities have systematically **targeted the CHP's power base**, jailing mayors, **imposing state trustees over CHP-run municipalities**, and even meddling in the party's internal leadership. Courts have annulled CHP party congress results and provincial leadership elections, steps seen as aiming to **unseat CHP's new leader Özgür Özel** and destabilise the party from within.[4] [5] These moves threaten to eviscerate Turkey's democratic opposition and **tighten Erdoğan's grip on power** ahead of the next national elections.

- **Human Rights and Rule of Law at Risk:** The methods employed in this crackdown raise **grave legal and human rights concerns**. Opposition figures face **trumped-up prosecutions** and prolonged pre-trial detentions, undermining judicial independence and due process.[6] There are reports of **ill-treatment and torture** of detainees – including the strip-search and abuse of female protestors in custody[7] –

[2] See Annex below.
[3] Reuters. (2025, 10 July). Key facts on Turkey's legal crackdown on main opposition party CHP. *Reuters*. https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/turkeys-legal-crackdown-main-opposition-party-chp-2025-07-10/
[4] See Annex below.
[5] Turkish Minute. (2025, 16 September). Erdoğan denies his party's role in legal case that could oust main opposition leader. Turkish Minute. https://www.turkishminute.com/2025/09/16/erdogan-denies-his-partys-role-in-legal-case-that-could-oust-main-opposition-leader/
[6] See footnote 2.
[7] See Annex below.

and politically driven denial of medical care to imprisoned opposition members, some of whom are seriously ill[8]. Mass arrests of protestors and **blanket bans on public gatherings** have violated the rights to freedom of expression and assembly.[9] The **impartiality of Turkey's judiciary is widely questioned**, as courts and prosecutors appear to selectively pursue opposition members while insulating ruling-party figures – a pattern that **signals the erosion of the rule of law** in Turkey.

- **Assault on Media Freedom and Civil Society:** The crackdown has been accompanied by **sweeping censorship and intimidation of media and civil society**. Independent news outlets and journalists face harsh reprisals for reporting on opposition activities: Turkey's media regulator (RTÜK) has **banned broadcasts** on opposition-friendly TV channels and threatened others over their protest coverage.[10] Social media platforms are pressured to **censor content** critical of the government – with Twitter (X) blocking hundreds of accounts at Ankara's request and a Turkish court banning access to sites that published an opposition boycott call.[11] Journalists covering anti-government protests have been **detained, deported, or prosecuted**, stifling press freedom.[12] Meanwhile, authorities have violently dispersed peaceful demonstrations with tear gas and rubber bullets, and **arrested over 1,800 protesters** in the wake of İmamoğlu's arrest along.[13] This multi-pronged suppression of dissent has cultivated a climate of fear, further **shrinking Turkey's civic space**.

- **Implications and International Response:** Erdoğan's crackdown on the CHP – Turkey's oldest political party – marks a **dangerous escalation in the country's authoritarian drift**. By effectively criminalising the mainstream opposition, the Turkish government risks **destroying democratic competition** and leaving millions of voters disenfranchised. The crackdown has already sparked the **largest street protests Turkey has seen in a decade**[14] and drawn condemnation from opposition groups, human rights organisations, and international observers who call it a **blatantly anti-democratic campaign**.[15] This report provides a detailed chronology of these developments and analyses their political context and legal ramifications. It concludes with actionable recommendations for the international community, human rights bodies, and democratic governments to address this **rapidly deteriorating situation** and to support the restoration of democratic norms and human rights in Turkey.

[8] See Annex below.
[9] Ibid.
[10] Ibid.
[11] Ibid.
[12] Ibid.
[13] Ibid.
[14] See footnote 2.
[15] Ibid.

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Introduction

Turkey is experiencing one of the most **significant political crackdowns** in its recent history. President Erdoğan's administration, long criticised for authoritarian tendencies, has turned its sights on the country's largest opposition bloc – the secular center-left Republican People's Party (CHP). In the past year, a series of events has unfolded that suggests a **concerted campaign to weaken or incapacitate the CHP** and its leading figures. This campaign intensified dramatically with the **detention of İstanbul's Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu** in March 2025 on dubious charges, a move that many view as an attempt to eliminate Erdoğan's most formidable political rival.[16] İmamoğlu, a charismatic figure who twice defeated Erdoğan's party in Istanbul's mayoral races (2019 and 2024) and was being **touted as a possible presidential candidate**, became a central target. Notably, just one day before his arrest, **İstanbul University annulled İmamoğlu's college diploma** – a constitutional prerequisite for presidential office – in what was widely seen as a *preemptive strike* to bar him from running in the 2028 elections.[17]

This report draws on a detailed chronology of events from late 2024 through 2025 documenting the crackdown on the CHP and İmamoğlu. It provides a contextual analysis of these developments, examining the **political motivations** behind Erdoğan's actions and the **consequences for Turkey's democracy**. It also explores the **legal and human rights implications**, as the crackdown has involved mass arrests, alleged abuses of the justice system, and violations of fundamental rights. Furthermore, the report discusses how media freedom and the right to protest have been curtailed during this period, silencing dissent and shielding the government's actions from scrutiny.

The stakes are high: The CHP, founded by the republic's founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, is not only Turkey's oldest political party but also the primary representative of nearly half the Turkish electorate in recent elections. A state-led onslaught against the CHP thus represents an **assault on pluralism and the democratic process** itself. Understanding the breadth of this crackdown – from courtroom manoeuvres to street-level repression – is crucial for the international community, legal experts, NGOs, and human rights defenders who are monitoring Turkey's trajectory. In the sections that follow, we chronicle key events in Erdoğan's offensive against the opposition, analyse the broader political context and implications, and finally present recommendations for how global actors can respond to support democracy and human rights in Turkey.

[16] See Annex below.
[17] Ibid.

Political Context: Erdoğan's Dominance and Opposition Under Siege

A Campaign to Nullify Electoral Defeat

Erdoğan's aggressive actions against the CHP must be viewed in the context of Turkey's recent electoral politics. In the March 2024 local elections, the CHP and its allies dealt a **stinging blow to Erdoğan's AK Party (AKP)** by winning mayoralties in many of Turkey's largest cities. Istanbul – the country's economic and cultural hub – remained in CHP hands with Ekrem İmamoğlu's re-election, and other major metros like **Adana, Antalya, Ankara, and İzmir** were governed by opposition mayors. This urban victory was described as the AKP's "biggest ever electoral defeat" at the municipal level.[18] For an embattled Erdoğan, who had narrowly secured his own presidential re-election in 2023, the prospect of a reinvigorated opposition controlling key cities and building momentum was clearly unwelcome.

Rather than accepting the electorate's choices, Erdoğan's government appears to have opted for **nullifying the opposition's gains through the courts and police**. Shortly after these elections, authorities began targeting CHP-run municipalities with investigations and raids. In fact, the **legal crackdown began in late 2024**: on 31 October 2024, a CHP district mayor in Istanbul (Esenyurt Mayor Ahmet Özer) was jailed pending trial for alleged links to the outlawed PKK militant group.[19] In early January 2025, another opposition mayor in Istanbul (Beşiktaş Mayor Rıza Akpolat) was arrested in a so-called corruption probe involving public tenders.[20] These moves signalled the opening salvo of a campaign that would soon widen to encompass dozens of local officials across Turkey.

By mid-2025, the scale of this purge was unmistakable. **At least 16 CHP mayors had been jailed** (with additional mayors placed under house arrest or suspended) since the opposition's local election triumph, according to opposition tallies.[21] Even CHP mayors of *major metropolitan areas* have not been spared. For example, in July 2025, the elected mayors of **Adana, Antalya, and Adıyaman** were simultaneously detained in pre-dawn operations on vague corruption allegations.[22] The CHP decried these high-profile arrests as *"politically motivated efforts to undermine the 2024 local election results"*.[23] Similarly, in İzmir – another opposition stronghold – authorities launched a massive sweep: **120 people were detained on 4 July** as part of a probe into a municipal company, including İzmir's former mayor Tunç Soyer and the CHP's provincial chair, with 60 of those detained formally arrested.[24] This level of **simultaneous, nationwide action** against opposition officials is unprecedented in Turkey's multi-party history.

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[18] See footnote 2.
[19] Ibid.
[20] Ibid.
[21] See Annex below.
[22] Ibid.
[23] Ibid.
[24] Ibid.

Dismantling Opposition Strongholds and Installing Trustees

A defining feature of Erdoğan's crackdown is the strategy of **ousting elected CHP officials and replacing them with government-aligned trustees or appointees**, effectively undoing election outcomes. This tactic was employed extensively in the past against pro-Kurdish mayors, but is now being used against the CHP. Following the waves of arrests, the Interior Ministry and courts have moved to **remove opposition mayors from office** on various pretexts. For instance, after Istanbul Mayor İmamoğlu's detention in March 2025, the Interior Ministry swiftly **suspended İmamoğlu and two Istanbul district mayors** (in Beylikdüzü and Şişli), and appointed a state trustee to at least one of those municipalities (Şişli) pending new council elections.[25] In another case, in August 2025, the government **removed the CHP mayor of Beyoğlu (İstanbul)** from office entirely, ostensibly due to a corruption investigation – a move critics said was part of a broader purge of opposition mayors under false pretenses.[26] By June 2025, the Interior Ministry had also *suspended or removed 11 CHP district mayors* across the country following their arrests on various charges.[27]

These actions mirror the AKP's past treatment of Kurdish HDP mayors (many of whom were replaced by Ankara-appointed "trustees" after 2016), and their extension to CHP officials underscores an **expansion of authoritarian control** beyond traditional targets. In effect, voters in opposition-held areas are seeing their chosen leaders criminalised and **replaced by unelected authorities**, calling into question the meaningfulness of local democracy in Turkey. As one CHP figure put it, the government is "cracking down on opposition mayors under the guise of corruption probes" to reverse election outcomes.[28]

Targeting the CHP's Organisational Structure

Beyond individual office-holders, the crackdown has encroached into the **CHP's party organisation itself**, suggesting an attempt to weaken the party at its core. In late 2023, the CHP underwent a leadership change after its long-time chairman Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu was defeated in an intra-party election by challenger Özgür Özel. Not long thereafter, Turkey's judiciary took a keen interest in CHP internal matters. In February 2025, prosecutors opened an investigation into the CHP's 38th Ordinary Congress (where Özel was elected leader), even **summoning former leader Kılıçdaroğlu for questioning** as a witness.[29] The ostensible rationale was to probe allegations of voting irregularities in the party election – an **extraordinary intrusion** of the state into the affairs of an opposition party.

By mid-2025, this meddling escalated. On **30 August 2025**, İstanbul prosecutors **indicted 10 CHP officials**, including the party's Istanbul provincial chairman, on charges of *election*

[25] Ibid.
[26] Ibid.
[27] Ibid.
[28] Ibid.
[29] Ibid.

irregularities during the 2023 CHP provincial congress.[30] And in early September, an Istanbul court went so far as to **annul the CHP's recent Istanbul provincial congress** altogether, dismissing the elected CHP provincial chair (Özgür Çelik) and his board, suspending nearly 200 party delegates, and installing a five-member **caretaker board** to run the province's CHP branch.[31] Critics immediately warned that this move *"paves the way for annulling the party's national leadership vote"* in an upcoming court hearing.[32] In other words, there is a genuine fear that the judiciary may overturn Özgür Özel's election as CHP leader and force the party into chaos or new internal elections – a scenario that would delight the AKP. (Indeed, President Erdoğan publicly welcomed recent defections of some CHP mayors to the AKP and spoke glowingly of disarray in opposition ranks.[33]) CHP leader Özgür Özel has characterised the onslaught of legal cases as a **"coup attempt" against the opposition**, aimed at incapacitating the AKP's chief rival.[34]

Erdoğan's Motives and the Road to 2028

Erdoğan's motivations for this crackdown are deeply intertwined with his long-standing hold on power and plans for the future. Having led Turkey for 22 years, Erdoğan is constitutionally **term-limited from running again in 2028** – unless he can justify an early election or a legal workaround.[35] Many analysts believe Erdoğan may seek to extend his rule, and **eliminating popular opponents like İmamoğlu is crucial for that agenda**. İmamoğlu in particular, a telegenic mayor with broad appeal, has consistently polled ahead of Erdoğan in hypothetical matchups.[36] His imprisonment not only removes a key challenger from the political field but also serves as a warning to any other ambitious opposition figures.

Furthermore, by portraying the crackdown as a fight against "corruption" and "terrorism," Erdoğan aims to **rally his base and justify extraordinary measures**. He has claimed that the sweeping probes into CHP municipalities are necessary to "clean up" a vast network of graft. However, given the selective focus on opposition strongholds, few outside Erdoğan's circle take these justifications at face value. Opposition leaders and international observers widely regard the crackdown as **politically driven persecution** rather than an even-handed application of law. Indeed, the timing – immediately after significant AKP electoral defeats – strongly suggests a retaliatory motive.

In sum, the political context of Erdoğan's crackdown on the CHP is one of an authoritarian leader moving to **safeguard his incumbency at all costs**. By wrenching control of local governments away from the opposition and crippling the CHP's capacity to organise, Erdoğan is effectively attempting to **rewrite the outcome of elections** and dictate the terms of political competition. This sets the stage for a profoundly uneven playing field heading

[30] Ibid.
[31] Ibid.
[32] Ibid.
[33] See footnote 4.
[34] See footnote 2.
[35] Ibid.
[36] Ibid.

into Turkey's next general elections. The following sections will explore how these political maneuvers have entailed serious violations of legal norms and basic rights.

Legal and Human Rights Implications of the Crackdown

The ongoing crackdown not only carries political significance but also represents a **severe challenge to the rule of law and human rights in Turkey**. Legal experts and rights advocates observe that Erdoğan's government is weaponising the judiciary and law enforcement to **punish and intimidate the opposition**, eroding judicial independence and due process guarantees. This section examines key legal concerns arising from the crackdown, including **politically motivated prosecutions**, erosion of fair trial standards, and allegations of **serious human rights abuses** such as arbitrary detention and torture.

Politically Motivated Prosecutions and Erosion of Judicial Independence

A hallmark of the crackdown is the proliferation of **criminal cases against CHP politicians and officials** that appear to be driven more by politics than evidence. The charges range from corruption and fraud to terrorism links and insulting the president – broadly framed allegations that are routinely levelled against critics of the government in today's Turkey. What makes the CHP cases stand out is their sweeping, coordinated nature and the targeting of individuals who are *political obstacles* to the ruling regime.

One clear example is the case of **Ekrem İmamoğlu**. Officially, İmamoğlu was arrested on corruption and "misuse of office" charges related to municipal contracts. Yet, prosecutors have conspicuously failed to issue any detailed indictment months later, and the CHP flatly maintains that the charges are fabricated. The context – coming days before his expected nomination as presidential candidate – suggests that **neutralising İmamoğlu politically was the true objective**. Similarly, numerous CHP mayors arrested in 2024-2025 were suddenly accused of past misconduct (such as "tender rigging" or vague corruption dating back years) only after their electoral victories over AKP rivals. For instance, when the **CHP mayor of Esenyurt was jailed in October 2024 on terrorism-link charges**, it marked the start of this campaign. Notably, Esenyurt is a large Istanbul district the AKP has long hoped to control, raising suspicions about the prosecution's timing.

The **breadth of investigations** also raises eyebrows. As of mid-2025, **hundreds of CHP members and municipal staff have been detained or jailed** on accusations ranging from graft to terror links.[37] Entire city councils and administrative departments in CHP-run cities have been subjected to police raids. For example, Istanbul's municipal government saw **47 officials hit with detention warrants in a single sweep on 31 May 2025** – a move critics labelled a blatant effort to paralyse the opposition-led city administration.[38] Likewise, in Antalya, police detained 17 people in the CHP-run metropolitan municipality in September 2025, after the arrest of the city's mayor, in what the opposition called a **"politically**

[37] Ibid.
[38] See Annex below.

motivated crackdown" rather than a genuine corruption inquiry.[39] The pattern is striking: investigations tend to coincide with political flashpoints (e.g. immediately after protests or electoral defeats for the AKP), and they disproportionately target opposition figures, whereas corruption allegations involving pro-government officials often go untouched. This fuels the perception that **law enforcement is being selectively used as a tool against the ruling party's opponents**.

The independence of the judiciary is also under question. High-profile judges and prosecutors known for **ruling in favour of government interests** have been involved in key cases against CHP figures. A notable example cited by observers is Judge Akın Gürlek, who gained notoriety for decisions in cases against Erdoğan critics, and is now leading several investigations against CHP mayors in Istanbul.[40] The climate in Turkey's courts has grown so politicised that CHP leader Özgür Özel himself is under investigation simply for publicly criticising the Istanbul Chief Prosecutor's perceived bias.[41] The **message to the judiciary is clear**: those who advance cases against the opposition are rewarded, and those who rule otherwise risk their careers. Such an environment gravely undermines due process. Opposition lawyers note that **standard legal safeguards are being ignored** – for instance, lengthy pre-trial detentions have become routine, bail is frequently denied without clear justification, and indictments (if filed at all) often lack concrete evidence linking defendants to actual crimes.

International and domestic legal communities have sounded alarms over these trends. The sheer scale of the crackdown – *"hundreds of people detained or jailed"*, including lawyers and elected officials – has been **criticised as anti-democratic and politicised by opposition parties, human rights groups and some European leaders**, although the government insists the judiciary acts independently.[42] The Council of Europe, to which Turkey is a party, has mechanisms (such as the European Court of Human Rights) that have previously found Turkey in violation of political rights in similar cases (e.g. rulings on imprisoned Kurdish politicians). In the current CHP crackdown, the **legal harassment of a mainstream opposition party on this scale is without precedent in Turkey's post-1980 history**. It represents a full-frontal assault on the concept of an opposition free to challenge those in power within a democratic system.

Arbitrary Detentions and Politically-Driven Charges

Many of the legal actions taken against CHP members appear to violate basic principles of criminal justice, particularly the requirement that charges be based on clear evidence of wrongdoing rather than political expression. Several common charges have been leveraged against CHP figures during this period, often in an abusive manner:

[39] Ibid.
[40] Ibid.
[41] Ibid.
[42] See footnote 2.

- **"Insulting" Offenses:** Turkey's penal code criminalises insulting the President or state officials, provisions that have been widely used to stifle dissent. During the crackdown, **CHP officials and even citizens have been arrested for alleged "insults"** over remarkably trivial incidents. In one case, 10 members of a leftist party (TİP) were detained for chanting slogans deemed insulting to Erdoğan at a CHP rally.[43] In another, union leaders in İzmir were arrested simply because they chanted slogans against İmamoğlu's jailing that allegedly insulted the President.[44] Such uses of "insult" laws clearly aim to punish political speech. Even a CHP lawmaker, Cemal Enginyurt, faced an **investigation for "insulting and threatening" Erdoğan** based on a parliamentary speech critical of the President.[45] These examples reflect how **ordinary political expression is being criminalised**. The European Court of Human Rights has repeatedly ruled against Turkey's misuse of insult laws, but the practice continues unabated.

- **Terrorism-Related Charges:** Another troubling aspect is the recourse to **terrorism charges without compelling evidence**, in order to detain opposition figures. The October 2024 jailing of the Esenyurt mayor on **PKK affiliation** claims is one instance.[46] More broadly, authorities have suggested that some CHP-run municipalities covertly aided terrorist groups – for example, alleging that public contracts were funnelled to a far-left militant group (DHKP/C) years earlier. This led to the arrest of a dozen people including a former CHP mayor on **terror charges** in March 2025.[47] The timing and selective nature of these terrorism allegations raise red flags. By branding opponents as security threats, the government can justify draconian measures and lengthy detentions. Yet independent observers note that the **evidence presented is often scant or based on secret witness testimony**, heightening concerns of **arbitrary detention**. Even CHP's most prominent figure, İmamoğlu, was absurdly linked by pro-government media to terrorism (suggesting his administration hired workers with terror group ties) – a claim used to muddy the waters as his corruption case faltered.

- **Retrospective Corruption Investigations:** Many CHP mayors are accused of corruption (fraud, bid-rigging, bribery) in relation to municipal contracts or services. While corruption must be taken seriously, the context here is suspect. **Investigations have overwhelmingly focused on opposition-controlled cities**, and they intensified only after the CHP's electoral wins. For instance, a **bid-rigging probe in Istanbul's Beşiktaş municipality** in April 2025 led to the detention of a deputy mayor and others.[48] In May 2025, Istanbul prosecutors charged a dozen individuals, including İmamoğlu, for alleged "vote manipulation" at a 2023 party

[43] See Annex below.
[44] Ibid.
[45] Ibid.
[46] See footnote 2.
[47] See Annex below.
[48] Ibid.

congress – effectively treating an internal party election dispute as a criminal conspiracy.[49] Moreover, the government's double standards are evident: it has **financially pressured CHP municipalities** for debts while rarely scrutinising AKP-run cities. In one notable act of economic coercion, the Treasury in December 2024 **froze bank accounts or imposed sanctions on six opposition-run city governments** (including Istanbul and Ankara) over debts to the social security fund, a move seen as punitive since such debts are typically restructured without such drastic action.[50] This selective enforcement suggests the *law is being wielded as a political bludgeon* rather than applied impartially.

Combined, these practices indicate a collapse of the **line between criminal conduct and political opposition** in Turkey. The **right to a fair trial** as enshrined in Turkey's constitution and international law (e.g. Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights) is under severe strain. When opposition figures are detained en masse on dubious charges, kept in custody without timely indictment, and tried in courts where outcomes seem predetermined, the fundamental presumption of innocence and equality before the law is fatally undermined. It creates a system of **de facto political offences** – something fundamentally at odds with democratic governance and the rule of law.

Human Rights Abuses: Ill-Treatment, Health Neglect, and Suppression of Basic Freedoms

The human cost of Erdoğan's crackdown is increasingly apparent in the numerous reports of rights violations against those caught in its net. Beyond the legal injustices, there are **credible allegations of inhumane treatment of detainees and prisoners**, as well as broad violations of basic freedoms such as expression, assembly, and media freedom (the latter two will be addressed in the next section).

Several CHP-affiliated mayors and officials in custody have **suffered serious health issues**, amid accusations that authorities are neglecting or even aggravating their conditions as a form of pressure. A prominent example is **Mehmet Murat Çalık**, the CHP mayor of Istanbul's Beylikdüzü district, who was arrested and later diagnosed with a possible recurrence of lymphoma (cancer). Despite medical reports advising urgent treatment and even release on health grounds, Çalık was **sent back to prison** in August 2025 by order of the state's Council of Forensic Medicine, raising an outcry that his life was being endangeringly politicised.[51] Around the same time, **Şükrü Genç**, a 71-year-old former CHP mayor imprisoned on questionable terror charges, was reported to be "slowly dying" of untreated colon cancer and other ailments in Silivri Prison.[52] Family and supporters allege he has been denied adequate care, highlighting a pattern of **medical neglect that critics say is driven by political vendetta**. International standards, including the UN's Nelson Mandela Rules for

[49] Ibid.
[50] Ibid.
[51] Ibid.
[52] Ibid.

prisoner treatment, insist that prisoners have access to proper healthcare; the accounts from Turkey suggest these standards are being willfully ignored for political prisoners.

Treatment of detainees during arrests and custody has also raised alarm. As mass arrests of protesters unfolded in March–April 2025, **reports of police brutality and torture emerged**. The Ankara Bar Association documented the cases of seven women who were detained on 22 March for protesting İmamoğlu's arrest and later alleged they were **subjected to torture and ill-treatment**, including **strip searches and physical abuse** while in custody.[53] One detainee placed under house arrest described being **sexually harassed and violently assaulted by police** during detention, prompting a legal complaint and bar association monitoring.[54] Such abuses suggest a disturbing willingness of security forces to inflict degrading treatment to instill fear. The fact that Turkey's **own lawyers' associations and the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)** have intervened – the CPT even conducted an *ad hoc* visit to Turkey in April 2025 to investigate these mistreatment claims[55] – underscores the severity of the allegations. Torture and inhuman treatment are absolutely prohibited under both Turkish law and international conventions (like the European Convention on Human Rights, Article 3), yet the persistence of such reports indicates a **climate of impunity** for security personnel dealing with opposition protesters.

The crackdown has also run roughshod over freedoms of expression and association in less overtly violent ways. The government has routinely **banned opposition demonstrations, censored speech, and punished individuals for peaceful activism** during this period. For instance, in the immediate aftermath of İmamoğlu's arrest, several local governors (who are centrally appointed) issued blanket **bans on all protests and public gatherings** – Ankara banned protests for six days, İzmir for four days[56] – essentially outlawing the opposition's right to rally support at a critical moment. On another occasion in April 2025, the Ankara Governor's Office even **denied the CHP permission to hold a march to celebrate a national holiday**, a march that was a symbolic protest against the crackdown.[57] By forbidding even such commemorative gatherings, authorities signalled that *any* show of collective opposition, no matter how symbolic or peaceful, would be suppressed.

Civil society groups and ordinary citizens have also been targeted. Students at state-run dormitories who participated in anti-government protests were **threatened with eviction and disciplinary action**, with some indeed being expelled from their housing – despite court precedents that peaceful protest should not result in loss of student rights.[58] A teachers' union (Eğitim Sen) faced a criminal investigation merely for supporting a student boycott in

[53] Ibid.
[54] Ibid.
[55] Ibid.
[56] Ibid.
[57] Ibid.
[58] Ibid.

protest of İmamoğlu's detention.[59] These examples demonstrate the **expansion of repression to every corner of society**: not just politicians and journalists, but also educators, students, and activists face repercussions for any form of dissent. The cumulative effect is a severe **chilling effect on public life**.

In summary, the legal and human rights dimensions of the crackdown paint a picture of a state that is **departing from core democratic values and international norms**. The principles of transparent justice, presumption of innocence, protection from torture, and the freedoms of speech and assembly – all guaranteed under Turkey's constitution and the international treaties it has signed – are being overridden by security-state tactics aimed at silencing opposition. The next section will delve further into how media freedoms and public dissent have been curtailed, as those are key battlegrounds in this confrontation between Erdoğan's government and its critics.

Media Freedom Under Fire and Suppression of Dissent

Free media and the right to protest are the lifeblood of any democracy; in Turkey, these have been prime casualties of Erdoğan's crackdown. In tandem with the legal assault on the opposition, authorities have moved forcefully to **control the narrative** and prevent mobilisation by silencing journalists, censoring news and social media, and crushing public demonstrations. This section discusses how media outlets and reporters have been targeted, and how protesters and civil society have faced heavy-handed repression, as documented in the chronology of events.

Censorship, Broadcast Bans, and Targeting of Journalists

The Turkish government's response to opposition and public dissent has included an aggressive campaign of **media censorship and intimidation**. As CHP-led protests and criticism of the crackdown grew, state institutions acted swiftly to curb independent reporting and critical voices:

- **Broadcast Blackouts:** The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK), Turkey's state media regulator headed by ruling-party allies, has imposed severe penalties on broadcasters deemed sympathetic to the opposition. Notably, RTÜK issued a **10-day broadcast ban on Sözcü TV**, a pro-opposition television channel, accusing it of "inciting public unrest" through its coverage of the protests following İmamoğlu's arrest.[60] This draconian sanction effectively took the channel off air during a crucial period when the public was seeking information about the mass demonstrations. Around the same time, RTÜK also **sanctioned other opposition-aligned stations** for their protest coverage[61] and even publicly **warned TV broadcasters not to allow personal commentary** on İmamoğlu's detention – threatening them with further

[59] Ibid.
[60] Ibid.
[61] Ibid.

punishment for any narrative diverging from the official line.[62] Such actions blatantly violate freedom of the press, as they amount to state censorship of content and viewpoints that the government finds inconvenient.

- **Social Media Clampdown:** Social media – one of the few spaces for relatively free discourse in Turkey – has been another front of the censorship push. Turkish authorities have leveraged new internet laws and their influence over tech companies to **block or filter online content about the protests and opposition actions**. In the days after İmamoğlu's arrest, the government ordered the blocking of 126 social media accounts (many belonging to journalists, activists, or student groups) that were sharing protest information.[63] Platform X (formerly Twitter), under pressure, initially complied by **blocking access to certain critical accounts within Turkey[64]**, though it later legally challenged some of these orders at Turkey's Constitutional Court.[65] Additionally, X was found to have **blocked the account of Bianet**, a well-respected independent news outlet, following government demands during the protests.[66] Meanwhile, Facebook's parent company Meta reportedly resisted some censorship demands and was hit with a substantial fine by Turkish regulators for not suspending protest-related accounts – illustrating the government's willingness to even penalise global companies to enforce information control.[67] Perhaps most tellingly, when the CHP publicly called for a boycott of pro-government businesses and media (to protest biased coverage), a Turkish court **banned access to websites that published the boycott list[68]**, an extraordinary intervention to shield government-friendly enterprises from a peaceful opposition campaign. Even İmamoğlu's own voice was muzzled online: courts ordered access bans on his official Twitter accounts, forcing him to communicate through lawyers with messages decrying the "political censorship" against him.[69]

- **Harassment and Detention of Journalists:** On the ground, reporters trying to cover opposition events have faced obstruction, violence, and arrest. The chronology records multiple incidents: In late March 2025, as protests raged in Istanbul, **at least seven journalists and photojournalists were detained by police** while covering the demonstrations, prompting public outrage and their eventual release.[70] International media were not spared: the **BBC's Istanbul correspondent Mark Lowen was detained and deported** simply for reporting on the protests[71], and a Swedish journalist arriving to cover the unrest was immediately **detained at the airport and**

[62] Ibid.
[63] Ibid.
[64] Ibid.
[65] Ibid.
[66] Ibid.
[67] Ibid.
[68] Ibid.
[69] Ibid.
[70] Ibid.
[71] Ibid.

expelled the next day.[72] These actions sent a chilling message to foreign press to stay away. Turkish journalists have also been targeted in unrelated incidents that appear aimed at discouraging investigative reporting. For example, in January 2025 a local journalist, Cihan Polat, was **detained by gendarmes over an article exposing alleged corruption involving an AKP politician's family**[73]; a CHP city council member quoted in that article was detained as well.[74] In April 2025, two well-known Turkish journalists, Timur Soykan and Murat Ağırel, were briefly **detained on dubious allegations of "blackmail"** related to a media sale – a move widely interpreted as retaliation for their critical coverage of the government's handling of İmamoğlu's arrest.[75] By June and July, reporting even routine opposition events had become perilous: three reporters from the opposition Cumhuriyet newspaper were **arrested and handcuffed while covering a CHP rally in Istanbul**[76]; and prosecutors sought to jail seven other journalists on charges of participating in unlawful protests, simply because they were reporting from the scene of demonstrations.[77] These patterns indicate that **journalists who do not echo the government narrative are being treated as enemies of the state**.

- **Direct Censorship of Opposition Voices:** The crackdown has extended to directly silencing prominent dissidents in media. A striking example is the treatment of **Can Dündar**, a renowned exiled Turkish journalist. In September 2025, after Dündar urged citizens to protest the government's takeover of CHP institutions, an Istanbul court **blocked access to Dündar's YouTube channel in Turkey**, invoking "national security and public order" grounds.[78] This demonstrates how even from exile, opposition voices are being censored to prevent them from reaching the Turkish public.

The cumulative impact on media freedom has been devastating. Turkey was already ranked among the lowest countries for press freedom, and this latest campaign further cements state domination over information. The **public's right to know** is severely compromised when broadcasters are muted, online content is filtered, and independent journalists are removed. In effect, **Erdoğan's administration is shielding its crackdown from scrutiny by cutting off the platforms that can expose abuses and amplify dissenting opinions**. This media stranglehold goes hand-in-hand with the legal crackdown; each enables the other by limiting oversight and criticism.

[72] Ibid.
[73] Ibid.
[74] Ibid.
[75] Ibid.
[76] Ibid.
[77] Ibid.
[78] Ibid.

Suppression of Protests and Public Dissent

Parallel to silencing the media, the Turkish authorities have taken extreme measures to **suppress street protests and intimidate citizens** who oppose the crackdown. The right to peaceful assembly has been systematically curtailed through a mix of legal bans, police violence, and punitive legal actions:

- **Protest Bans and Dispersal:** Immediately after the detention of İmamoğlu on 19 March 2025, spontaneous protests erupted in Istanbul and spread nationwide, reportedly becoming the **largest anti-government demonstrations Turkey had seen in a decade**.[79] The state's response was swift and heavy-handed. Security forces in Istanbul used **tear gas, water cannons, and rubber bullets** to disperse crowds near City Hall, with reports of police chasing and beating protesters through side streets.[80] Within days, officials essentially outlawed protests through blanket orders: the governors of Ankara and İzmir **banned all public gatherings** for days on end to pre-empt solidarity demonstrations.[81] Even in the face of these bans, protests continued in dozens of provinces, often met with force. The Interior Minister justified zero-tolerance policing by framing the protests as "attempts to provoke chaos".[82] By late March, the **Interior Ministry announced over 1,800 arrests** of protesters, with at least 260 people kept in pre-trial detention, essentially **criminalising mass protest**.[83] Videos and eyewitness accounts described how police in Istanbul's Saraçhane district fired plastic bullets at crowds and made violent arrests.[84] Such scenes, more reminiscent of martial law than a democracy, highlighted the **state's willingness to use brutality to crush dissent**.

- **Criminalising Protest Participation:** In the aftermath of these demonstrations, authorities launched a legal offensive against those who took to the streets. Istanbul prosecutors filed **20 separate indictments against 819 individuals** for simply partaking in anti-government protests, with hundreds of these protesters (278 as noted) held in custody awaiting trial.[85] Many of those indicted are charged with offenses like resisting police or violating protest bans; notably, **16 young protesters were charged with "insulting the president"** due to slogans they chanted, and 14 of them were kept in jail for 45 days before trial.[86] The sheer number of people facing prosecution for protest activity is staggering – clearly intended to deter future protests by making an example of participants. The government even targeted those supporting protests indirectly: as mentioned, a teachers' union faced investigation

[79] See footnote 2.
[80] See Annex below.
[81] Ibid.
[82] Ibid.
[83] Ibid.
[84] Ibid.
[85] Ibid.
[86] Ibid.

for endorsing a student boycott, and the CHP itself was castigated for encouraging peaceful civil disobedience (such as the economic boycott campaign). By treating protests as a criminal conspiracy, Erdoğan's administration is effectively **outlawing dissent in public spaces**.

- **Police Abuse and Use of Force:** The behaviour of law enforcement during the crackdown has raised serious human rights issues. Apart from the earlier noted instances of torture of detainees, there were numerous credible allegations of **excessive force** during protest policing. Plastic bullets and tear gas were used at close range; lawyers documenting the protests were themselves harassed; even elected opposition MPs were not immune – one CHP MP, Mahmut Tanal, who staged a solitary peaceful protest outside the Justice Ministry, had his protest tent **forcibly torn down by police**.[87] The **disproportionate use of force** against essentially unarmed civilians points to an unofficial policy of intimidation. Such conduct contravenes domestic laws on police conduct and Turkey's commitments under international law to respect the right of peaceful assembly.

- **Intimidation Beyond the Streets:** The crackdown on dissent has extended into other realms of civil society and everyday life, aiming to punish or preempt any expression of solidarity with the opposition. When some Turkish celebrities and artists supported a social media protest (a "boycott" of certain pro-government media), they faced swift retribution: **state-run TV projects dropped actors and entertainers** who had backed the protests, one well-known actor was even detained for his involvement.[88] The message was clear – even cultural figures are expected to toe the government line or face career-threatening consequences. Additionally, some opposition supporters have responded creatively – for example, activists in Diyarbakır hung banners saying "Free İmamoğlu" in Kurdish ("Azadi") on city walls – but even this peaceful act led to arrests and confiscation of the banners by police.[89] There is thus virtually **no outlet for dissent** that the government has not tried to stifle, from street marches to symbolic gestures.

The overall effect of these repressive measures on media and protests is the **closing of Turkey's democratic space**. Citizens are being denied the avenues to express discontent or to hear uncensored information, which are essential pressure valves in any society. Without these outlets, political grievances fester and the risk of instability or radicalisation can grow. Moreover, when a government refuses to tolerate peaceful protest and independent media, it often signals that **institutional accountability is failing** – the government no longer accepts being answerable to the public except on its own terms. This erosion of checks and balances is precisely what observers warn is happening in Turkey.

[87] Ibid.
[88] Ibid.
[89] Ibid.

In the final section, we turn to what can be done about this situation. The international community, human rights bodies, and democratic governments all have a stake in preventing Turkey – a NATO member and key regional player – from sliding further into authoritarianism. The following recommendations outline steps those actors can take to support Turkish democracy and pressure the government to change course.

Recommendations

In light of the developments detailed above, a robust response from international actors is crucial to uphold democratic principles and human rights in Turkey. The following recommendations are directed at the international community at large – including intergovernmental organisations – as well as human rights bodies and democratic governments that value the rule of law. These steps are intended to support Turkey's embattled opposition and civil society, and to **hold the Turkish authorities accountable** to their obligations under domestic and international law:

- **Publicly Condemn the Crackdown and Demand Accountability:** International and regional organisations – from the United Nations and its Special Rapporteurs to the **Council of Europe** and **European Union** – should issue strong, coordinated statements **condemning the politically motivated crackdown** on the CHP and other opposition voices. Such statements should call for the **immediate release of political prisoners** (including Ekrem İmamoğlu and the many detained mayors and activists) and urge Turkey to **halt prosecutions lacking credible evidence**. Diplomatic pressure should emphasise that jailing opposition leaders and suppressing dissent is unacceptable conduct for a member of the international community, and it **violates Turkey's commitments** under instruments like the European Convention on Human Rights. High-level dialogues and international forums (e.g. the UN Human Rights Council, OSCE meetings) should consistently spotlight these issues, countering Ankara's narrative and keeping global attention on those unjustly detained.

- **Leverage Political and Economic Relations:** Democratic governments with ties to Turkey – such as the United States, United Kingdom, EU member states, and others – should use bilateral channels to press for change. This includes raising the crackdown in meetings with Turkish officials and linking progress on human rights to the broader bilateral agenda. For instance, the EU should consider making any advances in Turkey's EU customs union update or other partnerships **contingent on tangible improvements** in democratic norms (e.g. releasing opposition mayors, stopping misuse of anti-terror laws). Similarly, countries involved in defence or trade deals with Turkey should **evaluate those deals in light of Turkey's human rights record**. Parliaments and congresses abroad can pass resolutions condemning the repression and **urging targeted sanctions** if the situation worsens. The message must be clear that Erdoğan's actions carry a cost to international goodwill and cooperation.

- **Impose Targeted Sanctions on Rights Abusers:** Where dialog and statements prove insufficient, democratic governments should be prepared to employ **targeted sanctions** against individuals and entities complicit in human rights abuses. Using tools like the Global Magnitsky-style sanctions, they can sanction Turkish officials (for example, senior police commanders, prosecutors, judges or political figures directly responsible for ordering arrests and torture of dissidents) for their role in the crackdown. Such sanctions – visa bans, asset freezes – signal that the world is watching and that perpetrators of political repression will pay a personal price. Importantly, these measures should be carefully targeted to avoid harming the Turkish populace at large, focusing instead on those undermining democracy. Even the **threat** of sanctions or international legal action (for example, possible proceedings in international courts for torture allegations) can exert pressure on Turkish authorities to reconsider their approach.

- **Support Turkish Civil Society and Independent Media:** Human rights organisations, NGOs, and supportive governments should ramp up support for Turkey's **civil society and free media**, which are under severe strain. This can involve increasing funding and emergency assistance to independent Turkish media outlets (including those operating in exile) so they can continue providing uncensored news to citizens. It also means backing NGOs and lawyers in Turkey who are providing legal aid to detainees, documenting abuses, and campaigning for justice. Where Turkish organisations face censorship or closure, international NGOs might help amplify their voice or adopt their causes transnationally. For example, press freedom groups should continue to **advocate for detained Turkish journalists**, and legal defence funds could assist in high-profile cases (like appeals to the European Court of Human Rights on behalf of jailed mayors and activists). **Solidarity visits or observer missions** by international NGOs and bar associations to political trials in Turkey can also shine a light on judicial proceedings and deter overt bias or mistreatment.

- **Ensure International Monitoring and Fact-Finding:** International bodies should step up **monitoring mechanisms** with respect to Turkey's situation. The Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) should be urged to publish its findings from the April 2025 Turkey visit and conduct follow-up visits to detention centres where political detainees are held. The OSCE could be invited to send observers for any upcoming Turkish elections or by-elections to report on fairness given the current climate. The UN Human Rights Council could consider a special session or a **fact-finding mission** focused on Turkey's crackdown on opposition and civil liberties. Moreover, democratic countries' embassies in Turkey should continue (or increase) the practice of **attending trials of journalists, politicians, and activists** – their presence can discourage blatant miscarriages of justice and shows moral support to those on trial. By keeping an international spotlight on events, it becomes harder for abuses to occur in darkness.

- **Encourage Dialogue and Mediation:** While pressure is key, the international community can also explore avenues for **dialogue to de-escalate** Turkey's internal conflict. For instance, quiet diplomacy could be used to encourage reforms – perhaps offering Turkey expertise or support in **judicial reforms** that bolster independence, or platforms for dialogue between the government and opposition (though the latter is challenging in the current atmosphere). Friendly nations might remind Ankara that a genuine democracy with a loyal opposition ultimately leads to stability and prosperity – whereas one-man rule and perpetual crackdowns invite instability. International mediators or respected figures could offer to facilitate a resolution in specific cases (for example, finding a face-saving way to release İmamoğlu and other mayors). While Erdoğan's government has shown little appetite for conciliation, sustained international engagement combined with pressure can sometimes open space for compromise.

- **Reiterate Support for Democratic Forces in Turkey:** Finally, it is vital that democratic governments and international political groupings **maintain relationships with Turkey's democratic forces**. This means continuing to engage with CHP representatives and other opposition voices through official visits, invitations, and dialogue in international forums, thereby according them legitimacy and moral support. For example, international political party alliances (Socialist International, European Parliament political groups, etc.) should speak out in solidarity with the CHP and its imprisoned members, and if feasible, **invite CHP leaders or their proxies to speak on global stages** about the situation. The aim is to show the Turkish people that they have allies abroad who care about their democratic rights – a reassurance that can strengthen public resolve to stand up for those rights.

In conclusion, these recommendations seek to unite the efforts of global actors in **upholding the fundamental values of democracy and human rights in Turkey**. President Erdoğan's crackdown on the CHP and İmamoğlu is not an "internal matter" to be ignored; it is part of a broader pattern of democratic backsliding that, if left unchecked, could destabilise Turkey and set a troubling example in the region. A concerted international response, combining principled criticism with concrete actions, is essential to encourage a reversal of this authoritarian course and to support the Turkish people's aspiration for a free and democratic future.

By implementing the steps above – from high-level advocacy and conditional diplomacy to on-the-ground support for civil society – the international community, human rights organisations, and democratic governments can help create pressure and incentives for Turkey to return to a path of respect for the rule of law, **ensure accountability for abuses**, and ultimately, safeguard the space for peaceful democratic opposition in the country.

Legal Update (as of 11 November 2025): Indictment of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu and CHP Officials

Charges and allegations: On 11 November 2025 Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor Akın Gürlek announced a sweeping corruption indictment against Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu and other Republican People's Party (CHP) figures.[90] The 3,900+ page document names over 400 suspects and charges Imamoğlu with 143 separate criminal acts. Key allegations include **establishing and leading a criminal organisation**, **bribery**, **money laundering**, **fraud against public institutions**, as well as **extortion and rigging of public tenders**.[91] Prosecutors assert Imamoğlu directed a "vast corruption network" that siphoned state funds (reported losses of roughly ₺160 billion) through kickbacks on municipal contracts.[92] In particular, the indictment lists 12 counts of bribery and 7 counts each of money laundering and fraud for Imamoğlu.[93] Other allegations (which Imamoğlu vehemently denies) include concealment of evidence, illicit collection and dissemination of personal data, obstruction of justice, intentional environmental pollution, and violations of tax, forestry and mining laws.[94]

Statutes and legal provisions: The prosecution invokes numerous laws. Imamoğlu is accused of crimes under the Turkish Penal Code (e.g. Article 220 §5 on organising or leading a criminal group).[95] Charges of bribery, fraud and money laundering fall under the relevant articles of the Penal Code and related financial crime statutes. The indictment also cites provisions of other laws (e.g. the Tax Procedure Law, Forestry Law and Mining Law) in relation to specific offences.[96] In a separate action linked to the case, the prosecutor's office formally alerted the Court of Cassation (Yargıtay) under **Article 69 of the Turkish Constitution** and Article 101 et seq. of Law No. 2820 (Political Parties Law) – constitutional

[90] Spicer, J., & Toksabay, E. (2025, November 11). Turkish prosecutor seeks 2,000 years for jailed opposition mayor of Istanbul. *Reuters*. https://www.reuters.com/world/turkish-prosecutor-seeks-2000-year-jail-term-istanbul-mayor-imamoglu-graft-case-2025-11-11/

[91] Associated Press. (2025, November 11). Prosecutor seeks 2,352-year jail term for Istanbul's jailed mayor over alleged corruption. *The Washington Post*. https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2025/11/11/turkey-indictment-jailed-istanbul-mayor-imamoglu/5c48d76e-beff-11f0-8eee-a78486b4c797_story.html

[92] *Turkish prosecutors seek over 2,000 years for incarcerated Istanbul mayor*. (2025, April 30). OCCRP. https://www.occrp.org/en/news/turkish-prosecutors-seek-over-2000-years-for-incarcerated-istanbul-mayor

[93] See footnote 90.

[94] İBB indictment in 10 questions: A summary of the 4,000-page text. (2025, November 12). *birgun.net*. https://www.birgun.net/haber/ibb-indictment-in-10-questions-a-summary-of-the-4-000-page-text-668420

[95] Ibid.

[96] Ibid.

provisions governing party closure.[97] [98] (The office later clarified that this was a mandatory notification under the parties law, and not a direct motion to dissolve the CHP.[99])

Judicial authorities and procedural status: The indictment was prepared and announced by the İstanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office and has been formally filed with an İstanbul High Criminal Court (İstanbul 2nd High Criminal Court).[100] In court filings and statements, Gürlek identified 402 defendants in the IBB (Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality) case.[101] Of these, roughly 105 individuals (including İmamoğlu) are already in pre-trial detention.[102] Imamoğlu has been held in custody since March 2025 on related graft charges.[103] The prosecutors say that, if convicted on all counts, Imamoğlu faces a cumulative sentence on the order of 2,400 years (reports cite ranges from 828 up to 2,430 years).[104]

Trial proceedings will follow once the court formally "accepts" the indictment. The office indicated that the court will then set a date for hearings.[105] Meanwhile, two CHP members of parliament (Turan Taşkın Özer and Özgür Karabat) named as co-accused in the indictment have parliamentary immunity. Accordingly, the file has been referred to the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor with a request to lift their immunity.[106] In summary, the legal process currently involves the indictment's review by the Istanbul court, a possible immunity vote for the MPs, and any decision by the Court of Cassation regarding the party closure notification.

Judicial references: Charges and evidence in the indictment are said to rely on findings by financial crime investigators and sworn testimony (including secret witnesses). The Chief Prosecutor cited Turkish law throughout his announcement (e.g. Penal Code Article 220/5 for criminal organisation leadership). The formal party-closure notification cited **Constitution Article 69** (and Article 68) together with **Political Parties Law 2820, Art.101ff** as the basis for notifying the Court of Cassation.[107] All procedures to date – filing of the

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[97] Cumhuriyet. (2025, November 11). *İstanbul Cumhuriyet Başsavcılığı'ndan flaş açıklama. CHP'nin kapatılması mı isteniyor?* Copyright (C) 2025 Yeni Gün Haber Ajansı Basın Ve Yayıncılık a.Ş. https://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/turkiye/istanbul-cumhuriyet-bassavciligi-ndan-flas-aciklama-chp-nin-kapatilmasi-mi-isteniyor-2451802

[98] Hürriyet Daily News. (2025, November 11). İmamoğlu faces up to 2,000 years in prison in graft case. *Hürriyet Daily News*. https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/imamoglu-faces-up-to-2-000-years-in-prison-in-graft-case-215615

[99] News. (n.d.). *"Statement from the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office regarding the allegations of a request to close the CHP."* Haberler.com. https://en.haberler.com/statement-from-the-chief-public-prosecutor-s-19242909/

[100] See footnotes 90 and 91.

[101] See foonotes 89 and 91.

[102] See footnote 91.

[103] See footnote 89.

[104] See footnotes 90 and 93.

[105] See footnotes 90 and 97

[106] See footnote 97.

[107] See footnote 96.

indictment, transfer to the High Criminal Court, and notification to Yargıtay – have been publicly acknowledged by the prosecutor's office.

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ANNEX: Chronology of Erdogan's Crackdown on CHP and İmamoğlu

[This is a detailed chronology of events between late 2024 and 2025 documenting the crackdown (see the links cited for specific incidents and dates), as well as reports from news agencies and human rights monitors that corroborate these developments.]

11 November 2025: Turkish prosecutor Akin Gürlek has **filed** a long-awaited indictment of İstanbul's jailed mayor, Ekrem İmamoğlu, accusing him of leading a vast criminal network and committing 142 offenses that could result in a sentence of up to 2,430 years in prison

13 September 2025: İstanbul prosecutors **ordered** the detention of Bayrampaşa Mayor Hasan Mutlu and 46 others on corruption charges, with police raiding 72 sites as part of a broader crackdown on CHP-run municipalities that has already seen major opposition figures jailed.

10 September 2025: Turkish authorities **jailed** three people and released others under supervision after detaining 14 over social media posts urging gatherings outside the CHP's İstanbul headquarters, amid a court-ordered takeover of the opposition party's provincial branch.

10 September 2025: Turkish police **detained** 17 people in a pre-dawn raid on Antalya's CHP-run municipality as part of a corruption probe that earlier saw Mayor Muhittin Böcek jailed, in what opposition leaders call a politically motivated crackdown on local governments.

7 September 2025: An İstanbul court **blocked** exiled journalist Can Dündar's YouTube channel on "national security and public order" grounds after he urged street protests against government-appointed CHP trustees.

3 September 2025: An İstanbul court **annulled** the CHP's October 2025 provincial congress, dismissed chair Özgür Çelik and his board, suspended 196 delegates, and appointed a five-member caretaker board, a move critics say paves the way for annulling the party's national leadership vote in a September 15 hearing.

30 August: The İstanbul chief public prosecutor has **indicted** 10 CHP officials, including İstanbul provincial chair Özgür Çelik, over alleged election irregularities at the party's 2023 provincial congress, seeking prison terms of up to three years in what observers describe as part of a wider judicial crackdown on Turkey's main opposition.

19 August: Beyoğlu Mayor İnan Güney from the CHP has been **removed** from office as part of what critics call a government crackdown on opposition mayors under the guise of a corruption probe.

12 August: Turkish authorities **detained** 30 people in raids on opposition-run municipalities in Antalya and Istanbul as part of widening corruption probes against the CHP, adding to more than 500 detentions since March, including jailed opposition leader Ekrem Imamoglu.

6 August: Despite medical reports indicating serious health risks and possible lymphoma recurrence, imprisoned CHP mayor Mehmet Murat Çalık was **returned** to prison Wednesday, highlighting concerns over politically influenced decisions by Turkey's Council of Forensic Medicine.

30 July: Şükrü Genç, the 71-year-old former CHP mayor of Sarıyer imprisoned on terror charges, is reportedly "slowly dying" from **untreated** colon cancer and other chronic illnesses in Silivri Prison, amid growing criticism of politically influenced medical neglect in Turkey's prison system.

26 July: 10 members of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TİP), including party council member Arzum Yalçın, were briefly **detained** on charges of "insulting the president" over slogans chanted during a CHP rally in İstanbul

8 July: A presidential motion has been **submitted** to the Turkish Parliament seeking to lift the immunity of 61 CHP lawmakers, including party leader Özgür Özel, amid an escalating crackdown on the opposition following their 2024 local election victory.

9 July: A crackdown on Turkey's main opposition CHP has **intensified** since its March 2024 election victory, with 16 mayors jailed, one under house arrest, and investigations targeting 17 municipalities, prompting widespread protests and allegations of politically motivated repression by the ruling AKP.

10 July: Mehmet Murat Çalık, the jailed CHP mayor of Istanbul's Beylikdüzü district, was hospitalized and admitted to intensive care amid suspected cancer recurrence, underwent an angiography and biopsy, but was later **returned** to prison despite medical recommendations for release.

2 July: Cumhuriyet newspaper reporters İrem Karataş, Erdem Öktem, and Engin Deniz İpek were handcuffed behind their backs and **detained** by police while covering a CHP rally in Saraçhane Square, Fatih, İstanbul.

4 July: In a politically charged operation targeting opposition-run municipalities, Turkish authorities **detained** 120 people in İzmir, including former **İzmir Mayor Tunç Soyer** and CHP İzmir Chair Şenol Aslanoğlu, over corruption allegations related to subcontracting at municipal company İZBETON, with 60 of them—Soyer included—formally **arrested**.

5 July: In a widening crackdown on Turkey's main opposition, three more CHP mayors—Zeydan Karalar (Adana), Muhittin Böcek (Antalya), and Abdurrahman Tutdere (Adıyaman)—were **detained** on corruption charges, prompting strong backlash from the party, which denounced the arrests as politically motivated efforts to undermine the 2024 local election results.

7 July: Ankara's chief public prosecutor has **launched** a new investigation into CHP leader Özgür Özel for allegedly insulting President Erdoğan and inciting crime following his strong criticism of recent mayoral arrests.

23 June: Hundreds of lawyers protested at İstanbul Courthouse against the arrest of Mehmet Pehlivan, lawyer for jailed mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, but were **blocked** by police from marching to the İstanbul Bar Association.

25 June: Turkish prosecutors have **filed** a new indictment against jailed İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu for allegedly insulting two prosecutors, seeking up to four years in prison and a public office ban.

17 June: Two local union leaders from the DİSK-affiliated Genel-İş were **arrested** in İzmir for allegedly "insulting the president" during protests against the jailing of opposition mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu.

20 June: Lawyer Mehmet Pehlivan, who represents jailed opposition mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, was **arrested** on charges of membership in a criminal organization, prompting strong condemnation from the İstanbul Bar Association, which called the move a blatant violation of constitutional rights and an attempt to criminalize legitimate legal defense.

11 June: Dr. İpek Elif Atayman, former general manager of İstanbul's municipal media company, has **alleged** abusive treatment and a rights-violating prison transfer following her arrest in a politically charged corruption probe targeting Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu and opposition figures.

5 June: Turkish prosecutors have **launched** an investigation into CHP leader Özgür Özel for allegedly insulting İstanbul Chief Prosecutor Akın Gürlek during a rally, following accusations that pro-government prosecutor Gürlek is targeting opposition figures.

5 June: Turkey's Interior Ministry has **suspended** five more opposition CHP district mayors following their arrests on alleged financial crimes, bringing the total number of removed CHP mayors to 11 amid ongoing investigations and growing accusations of politically motivated repression.

4 June: Turkish prosecutors have **charged** 12 people, including İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, over alleged vote manipulation at the CHP's 2023 congress, seeking prison terms and political bans amid accusations the case is politically motivated.

31 May: Turkish authorities have **issued** detention warrants for 47 officials linked to İstanbul's opposition-led municipality, escalating a series of corruption investigations widely criticized as politically motivated efforts to undermine the main opposition party and its jailed mayor, Ekrem İmamoğlu.

29 May: In Diyarbakır, at least four people, including CHP Diyarbakır Deputy Provincial Chair Remzi Sürek and Bağlar District Chair Çiğdem Özturan, were **detained** by police for hanging

a banner reading “Azadi/Free İmamoğlu” on the city’s historic walls; the banners were confiscated.

29 May: A Turkish court has **accepted** an indictment seeking prison terms up to 15 years and political bans for 26 members of the main opposition Republican People’s Party (CHP), including the party’s İstanbul provincial chair Özgür Çelik, over their alleged involvement in a courthouse protest earlier this year.

28 May: Turkey’s media watchdog RTÜK has **imposed** a 10-day broadcast blackout on pro-opposition Sözcü TV starting June 1, citing incitement of public unrest in its coverage of protests following the arrest of İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu.

22 May: U.S. Senator Adam Schiff has **accused** President Erdoğan of democratic backsliding over the jailing of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, urging the Senate to support a resolution demanding either credible evidence or his release and calling on Secretary of State Marco Rubio to confront Turkey over its anti-democratic practices.

23 May: Turkish police have **detained** 44 more individuals, including İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu’s private secretary, in a corruption probe widely seen as politically motivated, bringing the total to 237 detentions and 92 arrests since the mayor’s jailing two months ago.

15 May: İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, jailed on corruption charges widely seen as politically motivated, **testified** in a new investigation for “insulting public officials” after criticizing prosecutors during a March court hearing.

10 May: After Turkish courts **ordered** access bans on both his main and international X accounts, jailed opposition leader and İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu posted a defiant message condemning the moves as political censorship, vowing that efforts to silence him would only amplify his campaign for justice and democracy.

7 May: Turkish prosecutors have **charged** 16 people, mostly young protesters supporting opposition mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, with “insulting the president” during March demonstrations in İstanbul, leaving 14 in pretrial detention for 45 days ahead of their May 30 trial.

29 April: Ahead of International Workers’ Day, Turkish police **detained** 92 people in İstanbul, mostly linked to banned leftist groups, in a preemptive counterterrorism operation criticized for police violence and seen as part of a broader crackdown on dissent following the arrest of opposition mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu.

26 April: Turkish authorities **detained** 47 people, including senior municipal officials and the brother-in-law of jailed opposition leader Ekrem İmamoğlu, in a sweep targeting İstanbul’s opposition-run municipality, drawing accusations of political repression and judicial abuse.

22 April: Ankara Governor's Office **rejected** the main opposition Republican People's Party's (CHP) request to march from the 1st Parliament building to Anıtkabir for the April 23 National Sovereignty and Children's Day.

19 April: Turkish authorities have **detained** former Devrek mayor Çetin Bozkurt and seven others in a corruption probe, part of a wider crackdown that has seen at least 26 people held this week and multiple CHP-run municipalities targeted.

17 April: Turkish prosecutors **detained** pro-government journalist Rasim Ozan Kütahyalı for spreading alleged disinformation after he claimed the government would seize control of the CHP and raid two of its municipalities.

17 April: Twelve officials, including Deputy Mayor Ali Rıza Yılmaz, were **detained** in a bid-rigging probe targeting İstanbul's opposition-run Beşiktaş Municipality, marking another wave in the government's widening crackdown on the CHP following its major electoral gains and the controversial arrest of Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu.

16 April: University students who joined protests against the detention of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu are **facing** threats of eviction from state-run KYK dormitories, with some already forcibly removed and others under disciplinary investigation, despite legal precedent affirming that peaceful protest participation cannot justify cutting scholarships or housing.

15 April: The Council of Europe's CPT **conducted** an ad hoc visit to Turkey from April 7–11 to investigate allegations of mistreatment during mass detentions following İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu's March 19 arrest and growing concerns over police abuse, prison conditions, and politically motivated repression.

11 April: An İstanbul prosecutor is seeking prison **sentences** for seven journalists detained while covering protests over Mayor İmamoğlu's arrest, accusing them of unlawfully participating in demonstrations despite their claims of performing journalistic duties, prompting condemnation from press freedom groups.

10 April: Seven women detained in Ankara on March 22 for protesting the arrest of İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu were **subjected** to torture and ill-treatment, including strip searches, prompting the Ankara Bar Association to file a criminal complaint and request an administrative investigation from the Interior Ministry.

10 April: Turkish journalists Timur Soykan and Murat Ağırel were briefly **detained** over alleged blackmail linked to a TV station sale, prompting condemnation from media outlets who say the move aims to silence criticism of İstanbul Mayor İmamoğlu's arrest.

8 April: CHP MP Mahmut Tanal's solo protest in front of Turkey's Justice Ministry for jailed students was **disrupted** by police, who dismantled his tent and took security measures, reflecting broader police crackdowns on mass protests following İstanbul Mayor İmamoğlu's arrest.

8 April: İstanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office **announced** that 20 separate indictments were filed against 819 individuals, including 278 in pretrial detention, for participating in protests against the arrest of İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu.

4 April: Turkish authorities have **removed** several celebrities from state-run TV projects and blocked social media accounts after they supported a boycott protesting İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu's arrest, with one actor detained and widespread backlash from artists and unions.

3 April: Meta has been **fined** a "substantial amount" by Turkey for refusing to suspend protest-related accounts after İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu's arrest, while X complied with similar orders amid ongoing nationwide demonstrations.

3 April: German pianist Davide Martello, known for his 2013 Gezi Park performance, was **detained** by Turkish police while trying to play at protests over İstanbul Mayor İmamoğlu's arrest and forced to leave the country.

27 March 2025: Turkey's interior minister has **announced** that more than 1,800 people have been detained and 260 have been put in pretrial detention for participating in protests that erupted after İstanbul's popular mayor, Ekrem İmamoğlu, was taken into custody last week.

27 March 2025: BBC correspondent Mark Lowen has been **deported** from Turkey after being detained in Istanbul while covering protests following the arrest of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu.

27 March 2025: Even photojournalists covering the protests were among the seven journalists first **detained** over their reporting on demonstrations against the jailing of Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, but released Thursday following widespread outrage.

28 March 2025: Swedish journalist Joakim Medin was **detained** upon arrival in Turkey, where he planned to cover protests over Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu's arrest, just a day after British journalist Mark Lowen was deported under similar accusations.

28 March 2025: Ebru Özdemir, Deputy Mayor of İstanbul's Şişli district, was **arrested** on terrorism-related charges amid a broader crackdown following the detention of İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu.

28 March 2025: Mehmet Pehlivan, the lawyer of jailed İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, was **detained** and released after a two-day interrogation.

28 March 2025: A Turkish court **blocked** access to three websites that published a CHP-issued boycott list targeting pro-government media outlets ignoring the protests and their affiliated brands, following a call by the opposition party.

27 March 2025: Turkey's broadcasting watchdog, RTÜK, has **imposed** a 10-day broadcast ban on Sözcü TV and imposed sanctions on three other opposition-aligned stations over their coverage of mass protests following the detention of İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu.

27 March 2025: Following police intervention in protests over the arrest of İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, a woman placed under house arrest **reported** being sexually harassed and violently assaulted in custody, prompting legal action and monitoring by the İstanbul Bar Association and CHP lawyers.

26 March 2025: As mass protests grip Turkey, social media platform X **challenged** a government order blocking 126 accounts, many belonging to critics, students, and media, filing a case at the Constitutional Court, amid growing digital censorship following Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu's detention.

25 March 2025: The İstanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office has **launched** an investigation into the teachers' union Eğitim Sen for allegedly inciting crime after it backed a student-led academic boycott protesting the detention of Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu.

25 March 2025: Following the arrest of İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, the Ankara Governor's Office **banned** all protests and public gatherings for six days from March 26 to April 1, while the İzmir Governor's Office imposed a four-day ban from March 26 to 29 on all demonstrations and press statements.

24 March 2025: During the protests against the arrest of İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, it was reported that police violently **dispersed** crowds in Saraçhane using plastic bullets and tear gas, chasing demonstrators through side streets and detaining many after beating them.

24 March 2025: Social media platform X has **blocked** access in Turkey to Bianet, one of the country's few remaining independent news outlets with over 365,000 Turkish and 11,000 English followers, following government orders over its protest coverage after the arrest of Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu.

23 March 2025: The Turkish Interior Ministry has **suspended** İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu and two district mayors from office following their arrests on corruption and terrorism charges, appointing a trustee to Şişli and scheduling council elections for Mar 26 to replace İmamoğlu and Beylikdüzü Mayor Murat Çalık.

22 March 2025: More than 340 people were **detained** across Turkey following massive protests sparked by the detention of İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, as Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya vowed zero tolerance for what he called attempts to provoke chaos amid growing unrest in over 50 provinces.

21 March 2025: X has **blocked** access to student-run accounts from top Turkish universities at the request of the Turkish government amid nationwide protests over the detention of İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu and the annulment of his university diploma, drawing renewed criticism over the platform's compliance with authoritarian censorship.

20 March 2025: Turkish riot police **fired** rubber bullets and tear gas at thousands of protesters near İstanbul City Hall on Thursday as demonstrations intensified over the detention of Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu.

20 March 2025: Turkey's media watchdog RTÜK, led by President Ebubekir Şahin, a former government appointee with close ties to the ruling AKP, **warned** broadcasters against expressing personal views on the detention of İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu and threatened them with potential sanctions.

20 March 2025: Turkish authorities have **detained** 37 people for allegedly posting "provocative" messages on social media about İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu's arrest, as Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya announced ongoing efforts to track 261 users amid criticism of a broader crackdown on dissent.

19 March 2025: More than 80 people, including İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, two district mayors, city officials, journalists, and businessmen, were **detained** as part of corruption and terrorism investigations seen by critics as a politically motivated effort to block İmamoğlu's expected presidential candidacy, just one day after his university degree was annulled.

18 March 2025: İstanbul University announced that it had annulled the diploma of opposition Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu due to an "obvious error" in graduation records, a politically motivated move to block İmamoğlu's potential 2028 presidential bid, which constitutionally requires a university degree. The decision also affected 27 others, including Prof. Dr. Aylin Ataay Saybaşılı, head of Galatasaray University's Business & Management department.

12 March 2025: Twelve people, including former Sarıyer Mayor Şükrü Genç, were **arrested** in an investigation into allegations that four CHP-led municipalities provided financial support to the DHKP/C, a far-left militant organization designated as a terrorist group by Turkey, with authorities claiming that public contracts were used to channel funds to the group between 2014 and 2016.

4 March 2025: Turkey's Interior Ministry has **removed** Beykoz Mayor Alaattin Köseler, the third opposition CHP mayor in İstanbul to be arrested in four months, amid growing judicial pressure on the party.

26 February 2025: A total of 21 summaries of proceedings seeking to lift the parliamentary immunity of four opposition MPs—CHP's Cemal Enginyurt, DEM Party's Öznur Bartın and Vezir Coşkun Parlak, and TİP leader Erkan Baş—were **submitted** to the Turkish Parliament.

17 February 2025: Turkish prosecutors are **seeking** prison sentences ranging from four to 14 years for Halk TV journalists and executives over airing a phone interview with court-appointed expert, whom İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu accused of bias against the opposition.

11 February 2025: The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office has **launched** an investigation into the Republican People's Party (CHP)'s 38th Ordinary Congress, where Özgür Özel was elected party leader, summoning former CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu and Akif Hamzaçebi as witnesses.

13 February 2025: An İstanbul court **ordered** the arrest of 10 senior municipal officials from the main opposition CHP on terrorism charges, targeting deputy mayors and city council members from nine district municipalities, amid an ongoing crackdown that previously saw two CHP mayors removed from office, with critics warning that the judicial actions aim to discredit İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu and weaken opposition ahead of future elections.

8 February 2025: Turkish authorities **denied** the main opposition CHP a permit for a pro-Palestinian march in İstanbul, sparking criticism over double standards as the ruling AKP recently held a similar rally at the same location.

5 February 2025: Turkish prosecutors are **seeking** up to seven years in prison and a political ban for İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu over his criticism of judicial authorities, accusing him of "insult," "threat," and "targeting individuals fighting terrorism".

5 February 2025: İstanbul prosecutors **launched** an investigation into CHP lawmaker Cemal Enginyurt for allegedly insulting and threatening President Erdoğan during a parliamentary speech, with the probe initiated ex officio.

29 January 2025: A court order **blocked** access to 361 URLs containing news articles and social media posts about former AKP Mersin MP Zeynep Gül Yılmaz's 2021 roadside argument with police during a routine road check, which was publicized by CHP MP Ali Mahir Başarır, citing violations of personal, trademark, and copyright rights.

27 January 2025: Turkish prosecutors **initiated** a new investigation into İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu on accusations of "attempting to influence a judicial officer" and "attempting to influence a fair trial" after he criticized a court expert for allegedly being selectively assigned to cases against opposition-run municipalities.

21 January 2025: Mertcan Üreten, a CHP municipal council member from Manisa's Yunusemre district, was **detained** for sharing İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu's remarks about the İstanbul Chief Public Prosecutor on social media.

20 January 2025: İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu is under **investigation** for allegedly targeting Chief Public Prosecutor Akın Gürlek with remarks made on Monday, following the detention of CHP youth branches head Cem Aydın, as part of ongoing probes into opposition figures and CHP municipalities.

19 January 2025: Eighteen years after the assassination of Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) **criticized** Turkey for failing to ensure justice, as the trials were politicized by the AKP ruling party to target the Gülen movement for political gains, a narrative widely criticized and unconvincing, with controversial decisions by Judge Akın Gürlek—now leading investigations against CHP mayors in Istanbul—drawing particular scrutiny.

11 January 2025: A total of 17 summaries of proceedings seeking the removal of parliamentary immunity were **submitted** to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM), targeting 14 opposition MPs, including the President of the CHP.

10 January 2025: Kocaeli Gazetesi journalist Cihan Polat was **detained** by the gendarmerie due to his article titled 'Shocking Allegations About AKP's Katırcıoğlu's Advisor and Brother.' CHP City Council Member from İzmit, Nazım Gençtürk, who was quoted in the same report, was also detained as part of the same investigation.

16 December 2024: The Turkish government **imposed** financial sanctions on six municipalities run by the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), part of its oppression targeting opposition-run administrations since the ruling party lost control of major municipalities in 2023 election. The ministry is seeking to collect the debt owed by the six cities including the metropolitan municipalities of İstanbul, Ankara, Adana and Mersin in addition to the Şişli district municipality in İstanbul for their unpaid premiums to the Social Security Institution (SGK).

Solidarity With OTHERS

Belgium, December 2025

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Freedom of Association Under Threat:

The Kurdish Political and Civic Movement in Turkey, 2020–2025

[Submission made in response to the United Nations Human Rights Committee's call for input for the preparation of **General Comment No. 38 on Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)**]

Deadline: 19 December 2025

This submission is respectfully presented to the United Nations Human Rights Committee in response to its call for inputs[1] to inform **Draft General Comment No. 38 on Article 22 (Freedom of Association)**. The analysis draws on the report *Freedom of Association Under Threat: The Kurdish Political and Civic Movement in Turkey, 2020–2025*, prepared on the basis of extensive human rights monitoring, case documentation, and publicly available data regarding the situation of Turkey's Kurdish population and the political actors representing them. The submission is coordinated by **Solidarity with Others**, a Brussels-based human rights organisation documenting rights violations across Turkey since 2020.

The purpose of this submission is to contribute evidence-based insights to the Committee's elaboration of contemporary standards on the right to freedom of association—particularly as it concerns **ethnic minority communities, systematically targeted political parties, human rights defenders, and civil society organisations**. In doing so, it seeks to support the Committee's efforts to clarify State obligations under Article 22 and to develop guidance capable of addressing the increasingly complex and sophisticated ways in which the right to freedom of association is being restricted worldwide.

Between 2020 and 2025, Turkey has provided a stark case study of **structural, sustained, and politically motivated restrictions** on the freedom of association of the Kurdish population, its political representatives, and associated civil society actors. Through the combined use of expansive anti-terrorism laws, administrative decrees, politically influenced judicial processes, and the appointment of government "trustees" to replace democratically elected officials, the Turkish Government has significantly curtailed Kurdish political participation and civic organisation. The report documents a near-continuous pattern of:

- **Criminalisation of lawful political activity**, including the prosecution and imprisonment of thousands of members of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) and related parties;
- **Dissolution and disablement of political parties**, through closure cases targeting Kurdish-affiliated parties and efforts to impose sweeping political bans;
- **Suppression of civil society**, including women's organisations, cultural associations, human rights defenders, bar associations, and language rights groups;
- **Disruption of community representation**, notably through the mass replacement of elected mayors in Kurdish-majority municipalities with state-appointed trustees; and

[1] OHCHR. (n.d.). OHCHR | Call for input - Draft General Comment No. 38 on Article 22 (Freedom of Association) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. *https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2025/call-input-draft-general-comment-no-38-article-22-freedom-association*

- **Intimidation and reprisals against lawyers, journalists, and community leaders** engaging in Kurdish-related advocacy.

The report further highlights the evolution of the Turkish government's approach—shifting from overt repression (2015–2023) to a more rhetorical and selective "softening" beginning in 2023–2024. Yet, as the evidence demonstrates, this tactical recalibration did not remove structural constraints on Kurdish political and civic organisation; instead, it often maintained or repackaged pre-existing restrictions. This dynamic underscores the importance of General Comment No. 38 addressing not only explicit violations of freedom of association but also **covert, indirect, and strategically modulated forms of restriction**.

Drawing on these findings, this submission hopes to assist the Committee in:

1. **Clarifying States' positive obligations** to ensure that minorities and marginalised groups can freely form, join, and operate associations without intimidation, discrimination, or collective punishment;

2. **Elaborating protections for political parties**, including those representing minority or dissenting constituencies, against dissolution, arbitrary criminalisation, or administrative interference;

3. **Addressing the misuse of counter-terrorism frameworks** to suppress legitimate political and civic activity, including through vague definitions of "membership" or "support";

4. **Strengthening safeguards for human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, and cultural associations**, particularly those advocating for minority rights; and

5. **Recognising patterns of systematic repression**, including long-term substitution of elected officials and structural constraints on community self-governance, as violations of Article 22.

This submission is offered in the spirit of constructive engagement and in the hope that the Committee's forthcoming General Comment will fortify international standards protecting the freedom of association—especially where it is most vulnerable: among minority communities, opposition political movements, and grassroots civil society actors. The findings illustrate that without robust international norms and scrutiny, the right to freedom of association can be eroded gradually yet profoundly, undermining democratic participation and equality.

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Executive Summary

This consolidated report summarises the findings of the 'Turkey Rights Monitor' Weekly Bulletins by Solidarity with Others[2], covering the period between June 2020 and November 2025. It provides an analytical account of evolving state policies, human rights trends, and political dynamics affecting the **Kurdish population in Turkey** under President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's rule. The six annual chapters reveal a trajectory from systematic repression ('the stick') to calculated de-escalation and rhetorical appeasement ('the carrot').

- **Persistent Repression (2020–2023):** From mid-2020 through 2023, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's government carried out a **systematic campaign of repression** against Turkey's Kurdish population – including politicians, journalists, and civilians. Under the guise of counterterrorism, authorities **detained and prosecuted thousands of Kurdish activists and officials**, removed elected representatives, banned protests, censored Kurdish culture and media, and tolerated torture and ill-treatment in custody*[1][2]*. Virtually all Kurdish political expression was conflated with terrorism, as exemplified by the ongoing imprisonment of Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtaş despite a 2020 European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruling ordering his release*[3]*.

- **Criminalization of Kurdish Politics:** The pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) – the country's second-largest opposition bloc – was relentlessly targeted. **Dozens of elected Kurdish mayors were removed** from office and replaced by state-appointed "trustees," effectively nullifying local election results*[4]*. By early 2021, trustees had been imposed on **48 out of 65 HDP-run municipalities** won in 2019*[4]*. Meanwhile, over **5,000 HDP members and officials** were behind bars on terrorism-related charges*[5]*. In 2021, prosecutors initiated a **closure case to ban the HDP** and over 450 of its politicians*[6]*. Mass trials – such as the so-called "Kobani trial" of 108 Kurdish activists – were used to punish past protests and **silence Kurdish political opposition***[7]*.

- **Censorship and Cultural Suppression:** Kurdish journalists and media outlets faced **pervasive censorship, arrests, and violence**. Independent Kurdish news agencies (e.g. Mezopotamya, JinNews) endured waves of website bans and police raids*[8][9]*. Reporting on Kurdish issues often led to terrorism charges; by late 2022 at least **69 journalists were in prison** in Turkey, many for covering Kurdish-related stories*[10]*. Kurdish language and culture were systematically stifled – from bans on Kurdish-language theatre performances and music*[11]* to the removal of bilingual public signs by appointed trustees*[12][13]*. Even everyday expressions of Kurdish identity (speaking Kurdish in public, on social media, or in prisons) were punished as "propaganda" or "security" threats.

[2] Further details, including case descriptions and incident-by-incident reporting, can be found in Annexes to this report, which provides the full compilation of monitoring data underlying this report as well as the sources.

- **Abuses of Security and Judicial Powers:** Security forces and courts were **deployed as instruments of repression**. Provincial governors maintained blanket bans on Kurdish gatherings (the province of Van, for example, banned public assemblies continuously since 2016)*[14]*. Peaceful protests – including mothers seeking justice for disappeared relatives and Newroz (Kurdish New Year) celebrations – were met with police violence and mass detentions*[15][16]*. **Torture and ill-treatment** of Kurdish detainees were routinely reported*[17]*. Notorious cases like that of Osman Şiban and Servet Turgut – two Kurdish villagers thrown from a military helicopter in 2020, resulting in Turgut's death – underscored the climate of impunity for security forces*[2]*. The judiciary, far from providing redress, was **openly complicit**: courts kept Kurdish leaders jailed in defiance of ECtHR rulings*[18][3]*, relied on secret witnesses and politicized indictments, and even prosecuted lawyers who defended Kurdish clients*[19]*. Turkey's legal system thus served to **legitimize political persecution**, undermining fair trial rights and the rule of law.

- **International Condemnation:** The Turkish government's treatment of Kurds drew strong criticism from international bodies. The ECtHR's Grand Chamber in December 2020 found Demirtaş's continued detention to be **politically motivated** – a rare Article 18 ECHR violation – and ordered his immediate release*[3]*. Ankara's refusal to comply prompted the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers to initiate infringement proceedings for the first time in its history (previously used only in one other case)*[20]*. United Nations experts and the European Parliament also condemned the **erosion of democratic rights**, noting that dozens of HDP mayors had been arbitrarily replaced and that Kurdish politicians faced systematic harassment*[21][22]*. However, despite these rebukes and the threat of sanctions, Erdoğan's administration largely ignored international rulings and appeals, insisting its actions were necessary in the fight against "terrorism."

- **Emerging Rhetorical Shift (2024–2025):** By late 2023 and into 2024, as Turkey headed into critical elections and economic strains, the regime **softened its tone** toward the Kurdish issue without enacting meaningful reforms. The frequency of overt violations against Kurds modestly declined*[23]*, and nationalist coalition leaders began floating surprising gestures of conciliation. In October 2024, Devlet Bahçeli – leader of the ultranationalist MHP and Erdoğan's governing ally – **called for renewed dialogue** with Kurdish leaders, even suggesting that jailed PKK founder Abdullah Öcalan be allowed to address parliament in exchange for endorsing an end to the insurgency*[24][25]*. President Erdoğan in early 2025 publicly embraced the goal of a **"Turkey without terror"**, framing it as a historic opportunity to end the 40-year conflict*[26]*. By June 2025, the weekly human rights bulletins recorded *no* new Kurdish-related violations for the first time in years*[27]*. However, this **"carrot" – a rhetorical peace initiative – came after years of the "stick."** It did not reverse past injustices: Kurdish leaders like Demirtaş remained imprisoned, and elsewhere the government's authoritarian repression merely shifted onto other targets (for example, opposition CHP mayors were detained and replaced with trustees in late 2024)*[28][29]*. The overtures toward Kurds thus appeared largely tactical, aimed at shoring up domestic and international legitimacy while **preserving the regime's centralized control**.

Introduction

Turkey's Kurdish population – estimated at 15–20% of the country (over 15 million people) – has long faced state repression and denial of basic rights. The **Kurdish question** in Turkey centres on the struggle for cultural recognition, political representation, and autonomy, set against the Turkish state's insistence on unitary national identity. Decades of armed conflict with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) (which launched an insurgency in 1984) have been accompanied by harsh government policies towards Kurdish civilians, including forced village evacuations in the 1990s and widespread human rights abuses*[30][31]*. Yet there have also been periods of relative reform. In the early 2000s, Turkey's European Union candidacy spurred some cultural openings (e.g. limited Kurdish-language media) and a briefly hopeful **peace process** with the PKK from 2013 to 2015. That peace process was too collapsed by President Erdoğan in mid-2015, ushering in a new chapter of intense violence and repression in the Kurdish-majority southeast. Kurdish cities like Diyarbakır saw heavy fighting; hundreds of civilians were killed, and entire neighbourhoods were devastated during security operations in 2015–2016*[32]*. President Erdoğan, pivoting from negotiation to a nationalist stance, formed an alliance with the hardline Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) and pursued an unabated "**securitization**" of the Kurdish issue*[33][34]*.

Following the failed coup attempt of 2016 (unrelated to the Kurdish movement), Erdoğan ruled under a ruthless state of emergency, mainly targeting the Gülen movement, and decreed sweeping powers that would later be used to suppress Kurdish political expression. In 2016–2017, dozens of democratically elected Kurdish mayors were summarily **removed and arrested**, and the government appointed trustees to run 94 municipalities in their stead*[35][36]*. In November 2016, the HDP's co-chairs Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ (members of Parliament) were arrested alongside a dozen other HDP MPs. These moves decapitated the legal Kurdish political leadership. Although the state of emergency was lifted in 2018, most emergency decrees were cemented into law, providing a legal facade for continued crackdowns. In 2019, despite this hostile climate, the HDP again won 65 municipalities (mostly in the southeast) in local elections – only to see **nearly three-quarters of those mayors swiftly removed** on terrorism allegations*[37]*. The pattern was clear: when Kurds voted for their chosen representatives, the state nullified the result. By 2020, the stage was set for an intensified campaign to **criminalize Kurdish civic life** entirely, from elected officials and political parties to journalists, activists, and ordinary citizens.

This report documents the **human rights violations committed by the Turkish government against the Kurdish population** from June 2020 through November 2025. It is based on primary data from weekly human rights monitoring bulletins[3] compiled by *Solidarity with Others*, a Brussels-based NGO, supplemented by reports from international bodies (United Nations, Council of Europe), human rights organizations (Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International), court documents (including ECtHR judgments), and official Turkish statements and legal rulings.

[3] Further details, including case descriptions and incident-by-incident reporting, can be found in Annex 1-6 to this report, which provides the full compilation of monitoring data underlying this report as well as the sources.

The aim is to provide a fact-based account of how state repression evolved over this five-year period – tracing a trajectory from **blatant, heavy-handed oppression ("the stick") to a later strategy of calculated appeasement ("the carrot")**. Each section of the report corresponds to a year (mid-2020 being grouped with the second half of 2020), detailing key patterns of violations and notable developments. Thematic sub-sections address recurring issues – such as the **criminalisation of Kurdish politics**, suppression of free expression, cultural rights violations, prison conditions, and international legal responses – to highlight both continuity and change. An overview of major statistical indicators (e.g. number of arrests, media bans, and trustee appointments) is included in tables and figures for reference.

Throughout, the report finds that **President Erdoğan's approach toward the Kurds has been cyclical and instrumental**. Repressive measures were ramped up to quash Kurdish political autonomy and intimidate dissent, especially when Erdoğan's ruling coalition felt secure or challenged by Kurdish electoral success. Conversely, when facing electoral pressure or international scrutiny, the government dialled down visible repression and floated promises of reconciliation – without fundamentally altering the structures of oppression. This dual strategy of *coercion followed by co-optation* was encapsulated in late 2024, when the very architects of the crackdowns began advocating a "Turkey without terror" initiative – essentially inviting Kurdish cooperation on the state's terms after years of violent **subjugation**[4]*[24][38]*. The concluding section of the report examines this strategic shift, questioning whether it represents a genuine step toward peace or merely a tactical reset in service of Erdoğan's consolidation of power.

June–December 2020: Consolidating the Crackdown

Period Covered: 23 June 2020 – 31 December 2020.

The latter half of 2020 marked a **concerted escalation in state repression** targeting Kurdish political representation, freedom of expression, and civil liberties. Building on the post-2015 crackdown, the Turkish authorities intensified measures to dismantle Kurdish opposition. In these six months, the government **framed virtually all Kurdish activism as terrorism**, leveraging the judiciary, law enforcement, and administrative fiat to cement control over Kurdish-majority regions and silence Kurdish voices nationwide.

[4] Even **Ahmet Türk** – a veteran Kurdish politician and former Mardin mayor who has been ousted and replaced by government-appointed trustees three times since 2016 – has now offered striking public praise for President Erdoğan. Türk, now in his 80s and undergoing treatment for lung cancer, gave a *pro-Erdoğan* interview to the government-aligned *Sabah* daily on 3 November 2025 (available at *https://www.sabah.com.tr/yazarlar/tuba-kalcik/2025/11/03/ahmet-turk-cozum-sureci-hakkinda-net-konustu-terorsuz-turkiye-icin-guclu-bir-irade-var*). In it, he lauded Erdoğan as "the most effective leader since Mustafa Kemal [Atatürk]" and credited the President's support for the new "peace process" as the reason it is advancing. He even professed *"great respect"* for ultra-nationalist MHP leader Devlet Bahçeli, extolling Bahçeli's "state-minded" stance in backing Erdoğan's initiative. Observers have viewed Türk's sudden effusive praise – directed at the very authorities who repeatedly removed or jailed him – as a stark symbol of the Kurdish political leadership's subjugation under Erdoğan's dominance.

Political Repression and "Trustee" Takeovers

By mid-2020, the pattern of **ousting elected Kurdish mayors** and replacing them with government-appointed officials (trustee, kayyım in Turkish) had become institutionalized. In July 2020, an Interior Ministry decree was used to remove dozens more mayors on dubious terrorism grounds*[39]*. Of the 65 municipalities won by the HDP in the March 2019 local elections, **47 had been seized by the state and put under trustee administration as of July 2020***[40]*. This effectively disenfranchised millions of Kurdish voters. For example, in June 2020 the trustee appointed to Batman province not only ran the city but even **removed Kurdish-language pedestrian signs**, erasing visible elements of Kurdish culture from public space*[12][13]*. Mayors who had been democratically elected – such as those of Diyarbakır, Mardin, and Van in 2019 – were jailed or prosecuted.[5] In one week of June 2020 alone, authorities detained the ousted HDP mayor of Siirt and six others in dawn raids*[41]*, arrested a former Kurdish district mayor in Erzurum*[42]*, and sentenced **68 Kurdish politicians and activists to up to 10 years in prison** based on alleged PKK links*[43]*. The clear intent was to **cripple Kurdish political capacity** at the local level and deter any future electoral challenges to the ruling party's authority in the southeast*[44][45]*.

Opposition members of Parliament also remained behind bars. **Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ**, former HDP co-chairs and presidential candidates, had been in pre-trial detention since 2016 on trumped-up terrorism charges. In late 2020, Turkish courts *openly defied* an ECtHR Grand Chamber judgment (22 December 2020) that found Demirtaş's imprisonment to be politically motivated and ordered his immediate release*[46][3]*. An Ankara court on 26 December 2020 simply refused to implement the Strasbourg ruling, indicating Turkey's willingness to breach international law rather than release a prominent Kurdish leader*[47]*.[6] President Erdoğan dismissed the ECtHR decision, while his nationalist allies accused European institutions of "supporting terrorists." This **intransigence** set the stage for a protracted standoff with the Council of Europe over Turkey's compliance with human rights obligations.

Freedom of Expression and Media under Attack

The latter half of 2020 saw a **relentless crackdown on Kurdish and independent media**, alongside broader censorship. Journalists reporting on Kurdish issues were harassed with detentions and legal charges. In June, a young Kurdish journalist, Beritan Canözer of JinNews, was sentenced to nearly 2 years in prison for "terrorist propaganda" simply due to her social media posts*[48]*. Over the summer, police raided homes and offices of Kurdish news agencies; reporters from outlets

[5] See footnote 3 for Ahmet Türk's dismissal and his recent reaction to the so-called new "peace process".

[6] At the same time, following the ECtHR Grand Chamber panel's rejection of Turkish government's Selahattin Demirtaş ruling, Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) leader Devlet Bahçeli stated on 4 November 2025 that the legal process regarding Demirtaş had "reached a conclusion" and that his release "would be beneficial for Türkiye." *https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/bahceli-says-release-of-demirtas-beneficial-for-turkiye-215366*

like *Mezopotamya* and *Yeni Yaşam* were among dozens detained*[49][50]*. Courts routinely **blocked access** to Kurdish news websites – JinNews faced over 25 separate website bans by 2020*[51]*. Even artistic expression was targeted: Kurdish musicians and actors found their performances banned, and social media users were arrested for posting in Kurdish*[52][53]*.

At the same time, Turkey's media regulator RTÜK and the Information Technologies Authority (BTK) aggressively shut down alternative narratives. In July 2020, for instance, a court sentenced journalist Rojhat Doğru to life plus 12 years in prison for filming Kurdish protest events years earlier*[54]*. The message to journalists was unmistakable: **reporting on Kurdish perspectives = terrorism**. This created a chilling effect that virtually eliminated critical coverage of Kurdish human rights issues in Turkey's mainstream media by year's end. Only a handful of smaller independent outlets (many online) continued to report on abuses, at great personal risk to their staff.

Restrictions on Assembly and Association

Kurdish civil society and any form of collective action faced blanket suppression throughout 2020. Governors in eastern provinces – empowered by Turkey's broadly worded assembly laws – maintained **indefinite bans on public gatherings**. The governor of Van had continuously banned all protests and demonstrations *since 2016*, renewing the ban every 15 days under emergency pretexts*[55]*. This policy remained in force in 2020, effectively outlawing public expression of dissent in Van for four years running. Other provinces (Diyarbakır, Hakkari, Mardin, Şırnak, etc.) followed suit with recurring protest bans, often justified on grounds of "COVID-19 precautions" or security. In practice, these blanket bans targeted Kurdish-related events – for example, police in Ankara broke up even a small **press conference by HDP MPs** in July 2020, arresting participants for violating a protest ban*[56]*.

When Kurds tried to protest regardless, they met force. Peaceful assemblies – whether **women's rights marches in Diyarbakır or vigils by the Saturday Mothers (relatives of the disappeared)** – were dispersed with pepper spray, beatings, and arrests*[57][58]*. In one incident in late June, police in Istanbul violently arrested Kurdish families protesting the mysterious death of a 13-year-old Kurdish girl during a military curfew, after prosecutors dubiously recorded the child as "killed in clashes with security forces"*[59][60]*. The **right to freedom of assembly (ECHR Article 11)** was thus effectively suspended for Kurdish-focused activism. Additionally, Kurdish NGOs and associations came under intense pressure: the government continued legal moves to shutter organizations like the Kurdish-language institute and women's groups (e.g. Rosa Women's Association) on terrorism allegations*[61][62]*.

Judicial Harassment and Torture

The judiciary in 2020 acted as a rubber stamp for **politically motivated prosecutions** of Kurds, while failing to hold security forces accountable for abuses. Prosecutors charged scores of HDP

members and Kurdish activists under vague Anti-Terror Law provisions (Articles 7/2 and 314 of the Penal Code), often solely for speeches or social media activity*[63][64]*. Courts accepted indictments based on **secret witness testimony and anonymous informants**, making it nearly impossible for defendants to challenge the "evidence"*[65]*. Turkey's **defiance of ECtHR rulings** became blatant: after the ECtHR ordered Selahattin Demirtaş's release in December, an Ankara court quickly cobbled together new justifications to keep him jailed, claiming "different evidence" – a tactic that human rights groups condemned as a bad-faith circumvention of the judgment*[46][66]*. The European Court's binding authority was effectively flouted, undermining Turkey's obligations under the European Convention*[67][3]*.

At the same time, grave allegations of **torture and ill-treatment** of Kurds emerged throughout 2020, with scant accountability. Kurdish detainees frequently reported being beaten, subjected to electric shocks, threatened with sexual assault, and bitten by police dogs during raids*[68][69]*. A particularly egregious case was that of Kurdish politician **Sevil Rojbin Çetin**, who in June 2020 was attacked by police dogs during her arrest at home, suffering serious leg injuries*[69]*. Separately, villagers Osman Şiban and Servet Turgut were detained by soldiers in Van in September; witnesses say they were thrown from a helicopter – Turgut later died of his injuries, while Şiban suffered permanent trauma*[2]*. Leaked hospital reports confirmed they fell from a great height, consistent with these allegations*[2]*. Despite public outcry, no soldiers were prosecuted; instead, journalists who reported on the incident were arrested. The **climate of impunity** was noted by Human Rights Watch, which in its 2021 World Report observed that Turkish authorities made "little progress" in investigating the rising torture allegations of recent years, and that a *"pervasive culture of impunity persists"* for security forces*[70][71]*. This impunity was abetted by political rhetoric from the top: President Erdoğan and Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu consistently praised the security forces' "heroic" counter-terror operations, implicitly greenlighting harsh tactics.

"Stick and Carrot" Beginnings

Already in 2020, one can discern Erdoğan's **dual strategy** toward the Kurdish issue – oscillating between hard and soft tactics. The prevailing approach was the "**stick**": intimidation and punishment to quash Kurdish political agency. Yet there were occasional glimmers of a "**carrot**," if mostly symbolic. For instance, in August 2020, state media allowed a short segment of Kurdish-language programming, and pro-government channels aired songs in Kurdish during a public holiday – gestures likely aimed at projecting tolerance. Officials hinted that **cultural rights might be expanded** once "terrorism is defeated." These moves were marginal and tightly controlled, but they signalled that Erdoğan wished to retain the *option* of rapprochement when expedient. As observers noted, the government seemed to neutralize Kurdish opposition by brute force *while keeping one hand extended diplomatically behind its back*.

In sum, **2020's record was one of unabated state coercion**. The Solidarity with Others documentation for June–December 2020 logged hundreds of individual rights violations against Kurds – from arrests and prosecutions to censorship acts and instances of torture*[72][73]*. Each

of these measures was justified by Ankara as a counter-terrorism necessity. But in reality, as the European Commission and human rights groups observed, the Turkish government was **instrumentalising "terrorism" charges to eliminate a democratically elected opposition** and suppress an entire ethnic minority's cultural expression*[74][75]*. The **extraordinary step of defying a Grand Chamber judgment** in Demirtaş's case underscored that Erdoğan's administration placed its domestic political agenda above the rule of law*[3]*. By the end of 2020, Kurdish political life in Turkey had been largely driven underground or into prisons. The scene was set for even more draconian measures the following year – but also for growing international rebuke and, eventually, the first hints of a tactical shift in Ankara's stance.

2021: Intensification of Repression and International Legal Defiance

Period Covered: 1 January 2021 – 26 December 2021.

During 2021, the Turkish government **deepened its campaign to criminalize Kurdish political dissent**, pursuing a two-pronged strategy: **escalated domestic repression** (the "stick") coupled with selective, cosmetic concessions to manage international fallout. This year saw mass arrests, landmark political trials, and moves to outlaw the HDP altogether – even as Ankara faced mounting judgments and criticism from European institutions. The state's actions in 2021 exemplified what one commentator likened to an "apartheid-like governance" over Kurds, in which an entire community's democratic rights were suspended under a security rationale*[76][77]*.

Crackdown on HDP: Toward a Ban

The HDP remained the prime target of Ankara's repression. Having already jailed many of its mayors and MPs, authorities now sought to **dissolve the party entirely**. In March 2021, Turkey's Chief Public Prosecutor filed an 843-page indictment in the Constitutional Court demanding the HDP's closure for allegedly "acting against the indivisible unity of the state." In June, the Constitutional Court accepted the case, indicating a likely ban was forthcoming*[6]*. The indictment sought not only to ban the party but also to **politically ban 451 HDP figures** – effectively barring nearly all prominent Kurdish politicians (including Demirtaş and Yüksekdağ) from office for five years*[6]*. This extreme move drew condemnation from the EU and USA, but Turkish officials defended it, comparing the HDP to a "terrorist front."

Simultaneously, an enormous **mass trial** – known as the **Kobani trial** – commenced in April 2021. Prosecutors charged 108 HDP politicians and activists for allegedly instigating violence during the 2014 Kobani protests (demonstrations in Turkey in solidarity with the besieged Syrian Kurdish town of Kobani). The defendants included the already-imprisoned Demirtaş and many former HDP MPs. This trial was widely criticized as political theatre: the events in question were seven years old, and the evidence largely consisted of the defendants' speeches and tweets urging people to protest ISIS's attack on Kobani*[7]*. Nonetheless, the proceedings went ahead in a

special high-security courtroom in Ankara. HDP lawyers walked out in protest at the lack of due process, while European Parliament observers noted the court's overt bias. The **Kobani case** epitomized the state's practice of using the courts to rewrite history and punish Kurdish leaders for episodes of civil unrest. By conflating the HDP's calls for protest with PKK militancy, the government reinforced its narrative that the HDP was not a legitimate party but a terror affiliate – thus trying to justify the party's eventual closure.

On the ground, **mass detentions of HDP members accelerated**. Human rights groups estimated that in 2021 alone, at least **5,000 HDP politicians, members, and supporters were detained or investigated** on terrorism-related charges*[78][1]*. These ranged from local party officials arrested for organizing Newroz celebrations, to youth members detained for social media posts. Police conducted sweeping raids, often pre-dawn, in Kurdish-majority cities like Diyarbakır and Van, rounding up dozens at a time. In February, for example, 718 people (including many HDP members) were detained nationwide in a coordinated "anti-terror" operation*[79]*. Virtually none were accused of violent acts; most were arrested for attending rallies or posting political commentary. **Criminalizing routine political activity** became the norm. Courts frequently ordered those detained to pre-trial imprisonment, meaning many HDP activists spent 2021 behind bars awaiting trial. Notably, even as the HDP prepared to run in early 2022 local elections in some regions, hundreds of its would-be campaigners were in custody, undercutting the party's organizational capacity.

Silencing Media and Free Expression

The assault on media freedom – especially Kurdish and critical media – hit new highs in 2021. According to **Freedom House**, over **90% of Turkish media** by this time was under government influence or ownership*[80]*. Independent Kurdish voices thus played a crucial role in reporting abuses, and they paid a heavy price. Throughout 2021, **Kurdish journalists faced arrests, indictments, and violent attacks**: - In January, police detained Mezopotamya Agency reporter Mehmet Aslan on terrorism charges for his news reports on Kurdish issues*[81]*. - In February, freelance journalist and photographer Ruşen Takva was arrested in Van after covering a protest; he was accused of PKK propaganda simply for taking photos*[82]*. - In June, a chilling incident underscored the dangerous climate: an ultra-nationalist gunman stormed the HDP's İzmir office and **murdered a party employee, Deniz Poyraz**. In the aftermath, HDP leaders pointed to months of demonizing rhetoric on pro-government media linking the HDP to "terrorism" as encouragement for such attacks*[83][84]*. Human Rights Watch noted that "there were physical attacks on HDP offices, *most notably* in June in İzmir where a gunman shot dead party member Deniz Poyraz"*[84]*. Rather than prompt soul-searching, some officials seemed to justify the violence – one AKP MP even suggested the attacker "did what was necessary," illustrating official hate speech's role*[85][86]*. - In the latter half of the year, dozens of Kurdish journalists and editors were prosecuted under Turkey's sweeping anti-terror and defamation laws. By September, **69 journalists and media workers were in prison** on charges related to their work (up from 48 in 2020)*[80][87]*. This included journalists who had exposed security force abuses – for instance,

several reporters who covered the Osman Şiban/Servet Turgut torture case were jailed on charges of "revealing state secrets."

Censorship also took new forms in 2021. The government introduced a draft **"disinformation law"** criminalizing the spread of "false information" online, widely seen as a tool to police social media dissent*[88]*. Even though this law passed later (in 2022), its chilling effect was already felt. Citizens, including minors, were arrested for "insulting the President" or "spreading terror propaganda" on social platforms*[89]*. A striking case involved a 14-year-old Kurdish boy detained for posting a satirical comment about Erdoğan. Additionally, internet censorship surged: Turkey topped Twitter's global censorship list, and in 2021 courts blocked over 11,000 URLs (web addresses) for content deemed critical of the government*[90]*. **Kurdish language content** was especially targeted – e.g., Etkin News Agency's web portals were repeatedly banned*[54]*, and even academic websites documenting Kurdish history were filtered. In sum, by the end of 2021, the **space for Kurdish voices in Turkey's public sphere had shrunk to near zero** outside social media – and even there, expressing Kurdish political grievances meant risking prosecution.

Freedom of Assembly: Protests Crushed

The **right to peaceful assembly** for Kurdish-related causes remained effectively non-existent in 2021. Provinces with large Kurdish populations continued their blanket protest bans. Van's continuous ban (in force since 2016) was extended yet again*[14]*, as were similar bans in Hakkari, Şırnak, and Mardin. The authorities showed zero tolerance even for solitary or small-scale demonstrations: - In March, police in Batman broke up a women's day march organized by a Kurdish women's group, arresting participants for violating the governor's ban. - Through much of 2021, a Kurdish mother, **Emine Şenyaşar**, held a quiet vigil outside a courthouse in Urfa seeking justice for her family members killed by an AKP lawmaker's relatives. Her one-woman protest was **repeatedly suppressed**; police detained her dozens of times, tore up her signs, and at one point dragged her away violently*[91][92]*. The image of an elderly Kurdish mother being manhandled by police merely for demanding justice starkly illustrated the state's intolerance of Kurdish civilian protest. - Newroz (Kurdish New Year) celebrations in March 2021, which tens of thousands of people peacefully attended in cities like Diyarbakır, were heavily policed. Afterwards, authorities opened **mass investigations** against those who performed traditional Kurdish dances or waved Kurdish flags at Newroz events. In Tunceli, 19 people were indicted for "terror propaganda" simply for participating in Newroz festivities*[93]*.

Protests connected to the removal of mayors or other HDP issues were met with swift, often brutal crackdowns. In June, after the HDP İzmir office attack (the Poyraz murder), solidarity demonstrations were banned and several gatherings broken up by riot police. In one instance, in Cizre (Şırnak province), police used water cannon and rubber bullets against mourners marching for Poyraz. Later, in December when an HDP MP attempted to read a press statement in Istanbul about Kurdish prisoners' rights, police intervened and arrested him along with onlookers.

The **routine suppression of assembly** was coupled with arbitrary punishments. Courts in 2021 started handing out **administrative fines** to Kurdish protesters even when charges weren't

pressed. For example, in Van, 25 people were each fined for attending a women's march, under a civil misdemeanour law that penalizes participation in unlawful protests*[94]*. This was effectively a method to **deter Kurdish civil activism through financial pressure**.

Torture, Prison Conditions, and Enforced Disappearances

Despite international law and Turkey's own legal prohibitions, **torture and ill-treatment of Kurds remained systematic in 2021**, both in police custody and in prisons. Reports compiled by the Diyarbakır Bar Association noted a *"significant increase in rights violations and worsening conditions in prisons in 2021"[95]*. Key patterns included: - **Physical and psychological abuse in detention:** Many Kurdish detainees reported being subjected to severe beatings, threats, and sexual humiliation. In a viral January 2021 video, special operations police in Diyarbakır were filmed kicking and roughing up a Kurdish man on the street; outrage led to two officers being put under investigation, but such incidents were widespread*[96]*. Detainees often emerged from police custody with bruises and fractures. One activist detained at a protest recounted police telling him "There's no law for Kurds here" while beating him. - **Prison abuse:** Kurdish political prisoners endured harsh treatment. They were frequently **placed in solitary confinement** or punitive isolation for minor infractions like speaking Kurdish to a fellow inmate*[97][98]*. Some prisons banned letters in Kurdish, absurdly labelling them "unknown language" and disciplining inmates who wrote in Kurdish*[99][100]*. Medical neglect was another issue – ill Kurdish prisoners, such as Aysel Tuğluk (an ex-MP with dementia) and former mayor Ayşe Gökkan, were denied release or adequate care, effectively jeopardizing their lives in custody*[101][102]*. The Forensic Medicine Institute often declared gravely ill prisoners "fit to remain in prison," aligning with political wishes to keep Kurdish figures jailed*[102]*. - **Deaths in custody:** Several Kurdish inmates died under suspicious circumstances that authorities hastily ruled as "suicides." In one case, a young Kurdish man, Mehmet Sıddık, was found dead in his cell days after reporting guard abuse; the prison claimed suicide, but family and lawyers believed he was beaten to death. Investigations, if any, were shrouded in secrecy (files sealed under privacy orders). - **Enforced disappearances:** After a hiatus, reports of **short-term abductions** by state agents resurfaced in 2021. HDP members in Ankara and Istanbul reported being picked up by men identifying as intelligence officers, threatened or pressured to become informants, and then released on remote roads. At least a dozen such cases were documented by human rights groups, reminiscent of the 1990s. These incidents created a climate of fear, sending the message that Kurdish activists could be made to "disappear" without trace if they persisted.

Turkey's security forces faced virtually no accountability for these abuses. Prosecutors often refused to open investigations, or if they did, they quickly issued non-prosecution decisions. By contrast, Kurdish lawyers and human rights defenders who tried to expose torture risked being arrested themselves. For instance, in March 2021, police detained several members of the Human Rights Association (İHD) in Batman after they documented torture claims; the activists were accused of "spreading terrorist propaganda." This inversion of justice – persecuting those who report torture rather than the torturers – further entrenching impunity.

International Legal Showdown

In 2021, Turkey's intransigence on high-profile Kurdish political prisoner cases escalated into a rare confrontation with the Council of Europe. The **ECtHR's Demirtaş (No.2) Grand Chamber judgment** of December 2020 was unequivocal that Turkey must free Demirtaş immediately, and it found Turkey in violation of Article 18 (misuse of powers) – a strong rebuke indicating his imprisonment was to silence pluralism*[3]*. Yet through 2021, President Erdoğan's government refused compliance. In September, the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers (which oversees execution of ECtHR judgments) issued an ultimatum: it **"reiterated its call"** for Demirtaş's immediate release, noting with concern Turkey's failure to abide by the Court's binding judgment*[20]*. The Committee warned that if Turkey did not release Demirtaş by its next meeting (November 2021), it would initiate **infringement proceedings** – a process that could ultimately lead to Turkey's suspension from the Council of Europe*[20]*. This was a highly unusual measure, previously invoked only once (against Azerbaijan for the Mammadov case).

Parallelly, a similar saga played out with Osman Kavala (a civil society leader, though not Kurdish). In Kavala's case, by late 2021 the Committee of Ministers actually triggered the infringement process as Turkey had blatantly ignored the ECtHR's order to free Kavala*[20]*. This set a precedent likely to be followed for Demirtaş if non-compliance continued. Turkey responded defiantly: Erdoğan threatened to expel 10 Western ambassadors after they called for Kavala's release, and his ministers lambasted the Council of Europe for "interfering in Turkey's judiciary." Domestically, Turkish courts doubled down – in late 2021, they merged new charges into Demirtaş's case (the Kobani-related accusations) to claim that his detention was now for a "different matter" than the one the ECtHR ruled on, a move the Committee of Ministers explicitly rejected as illegitimate*[46][66]*.

Also in the international arena, **Turkey withdrew from the Istanbul Convention** (the Council of Europe treaty on preventing violence against women) in March 2021. While not directly a Kurdish issue, this withdrawal disproportionately affected Kurdish and minority women who face both gender-based and ethnic discrimination. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and UN Special Rapporteurs condemned the withdrawal, warning it would embolden abusers and marginalize those (including many Kurdish women) who had relied on the Convention's framework for protection*[103][104]*. Kurdish women's rights activists, such as those in the Rosa Women's Association, felt the impact keenly: they had already been branded "terrorists" for advocating women's rights in Kurdish communities*[105][106]*, and now a key legal instrument for their cause was gone.

The **European Union**, for its part, maintained a very strained relationship with Turkey. In its 2021 progress report, the European Commission noted "continued backsliding" on the rule of law and **an increase in repressive measures** against Kurds and dissidents*[107][108]*. EU accession talks remained frozen. The European Parliament in May 2021 went as far as to call for suspending accession negotiations entirely if the democratic regression persisted (citing the HDP closure case specifically as unacceptable). However, the EU stopped short of concrete sanctions, constrained

by strategic considerations (migration deals, etc.). Still, the **reputation cost** for Turkey was significant: by end of 2021, Turkey was viewed in Brussels as veering into authoritarianism unbecoming of an EU candidate, largely due to its **treatment of the Kurdish opposition**.

Conclusion: A Year of Authoritarian Deepening

The year 2021 **reaffirmed the Turkish state's uncompromising stance** on the Kurdish issue. Domestically, it was arguably the harshest year in decades for Kurdish political and civil rights: the state attempted to ban the main Kurdish party, jailed or tried virtually its entire leadership cadre, crushed street protest, and silenced free media. President Erdoğan's nationalist alliance, bolstered by sweeping control over institutions under Turkey's new presidential system, pursued what HDP officials described as a project to **"wipe out Kurdish political representation"**. Indeed, by late 2021, the HDP's future was in peril – its assets were frozen during the closure trial, its members of parliament were under constant threat of losing immunity, and thousands of its grassroots were behind bars*[109][1]*.

Internationally, Turkey's brazen disregard for ECtHR rulings and democratic norms triggered reactions that the government could not entirely ignore. The **threat of Council of Europe sanctions** hung in the air, an unprecedented situation for Turkey in its 70-year membership of that body*[20]*. Erdoğan's administration appeared to calculate that domestic political gains from suppressing the Kurds outweighed any international costs, at least in the short term. However, the rumblings of discontent from Europe likely planted the seeds for Ankara's later tactical adjustments. Facing potential diplomatic fallout, Erdoğan would soon look for ways to ease pressure **without conceding core control**.

In essence, 2021 showed that the "**stick**" – arrests, bans, and brutality – remained Erdoğan's primary instrument for dealing with Kurdish aspirations. Any "**carrot**" extended was minimal or insincere. A brief example occurred in September 2021: after intense lobbying, **HDP MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu** (a prominent human rights advocate) was reinstated to Parliament when the Constitutional Court overturned his conviction for a Twitter (X) post*[110]*. This was touted by pro-government media as proof of Turkey's functioning rule of law. Yet Gergerlioğlu's case was an outlier; scores of other HDP MPs were still in prison or exile. The broader policy did not change. The government's strategy continued to be *"neutralize, isolate, and vilify"* the Kurdish movement, even as it mouthed occasional platitudes about unity or hinted at cultural reforms.

2021 concluded with Turkey more authoritarian than it began, especially toward the Kurdish minority. The stage was set for 2022 with two divergent possibilities: either further escalation (a court-ordered ban of the HDP, etc.) or a pivot to mitigate international and domestic concerns as elections loomed. As the next section shows, elements of both occurred – the repression persisted, yet by year's end Ankara began to ever so slightly recalibrate its approach, laying the groundwork for the "carrot" that would fully emerge by 2024–2025.

2022: Persistent Persecution with Glimmers of Tactical Moderation

Period Covered: 27 December 2021 – 25 December 2022.

In 2022, Turkey's repression of its Kurdish population remained **institutionalized and intense**, but the first faint signs of a tactical shift started to appear. President Erdoğan's government **continued its hardline approach** – carrying out large-scale arrests, censorship, and intimidation – even as it faced international legal consequences and an upcoming 2023 general election. However, toward the end of 2022, with economic troubles mounting and diplomatic pressure growing, Ankara made a few **rhetorical and cosmetic gestures of inclusion**. These were widely seen as attempts to balance domestic control with Turkey's global image, rather than genuine improvements in Kurdish rights*[111][112]*.

Ongoing Political Repression and Legal Warfare

Throughout 2022, the HDP (and its allies) remained under siege. The **HDP closure trial** at the Constitutional Court advanced steadily. In January, the court agreed to freeze HDP's treasury funds (a key source of election financing) as requested by prosecutors – a move criticized by the Council of Europe's Venice Commission as undermining fair political competition. By mid-2022, final hearings were underway, and a verdict banning the party was expected in early 2023. HDP officials, preparing for the likelihood of a ban, formed a contingency party (the Green Left Party) to run in elections. But authorities harassed this new party too, raiding its provincial offices and arresting its organizers on terror allegations. The intent was clear: to **forestall any resurrection of Kurdish political representation** even if the HDP was dissolved.

Mass arrests of Kurdish politicians continued unabated: - In February 2022, ahead of an HDP congress, police detained some **50 local HDP executives and activists** in Ankara and Diyarbakır, accusing them of PKK ties for planning political meetings. - Former HDP MPs already in prison, like **Aysel Tuğluk**, were kept there despite deteriorating health (Tuğluk, suffering from dementia, had a court petition for release denied after a state medical report oddly proclaimed her fit to remain jailed*[102]*). - **Mayors and municipal councillors**: Dozens more were removed or kept out of office. Notably, the veteran Kurdish politician Ahmet Türk, who had been elected Mardin mayor in 2019 and removed, remained under a travel ban and faced new charges, preventing any return to office. By 2022, essentially **all significant Kurdish municipalities were under state trustees**, a situation unchanged since 2020*[36]*. - Legal harassment extended to the next tier of Kurdish activists – for instance, members of the Democratic Regions Party (DBP), a sister party of the HDP operating at the local level, were rounded up. In December 2022, a court sentenced **nine HDP members** to prison on terror charges in a single trial in İstanbul, acquitting only one co-defendant*[113][114]*. These kinds of bulk convictions indicated that, in practice, simply being affiliated with HDP/DBP was treated as a crime.

One particularly disturbing trend in 2022 was the **targeting of Kurdish civil society organizations and NGOs**. The Human Rights Association (İHD), Turkey's leading rights group, faced unrelenting pressure: its co-chair Öztürk Türkdoğan was indicted and put on trial for "membership in an armed group" merely because the association documented abuses in the southeast*[115]*. Offices of İHD in Kurdish-majority cities like Van were repeatedly raided by police. Smaller cultural NGOs promoting Kurdish language education found their applications for legal status denied by governors, or saw their events banned*[116]*. The government's message was that *any* organized Kurdish civic activity – even in non-political realms like language or culture – was suspect and could be stamped out via terrorism allegations.

Meanwhile, the **Kobani trial** that began in 2021 dragged on through 2022. Defendants delivered spirited defences exposing how the indictment cherry-picked their 2014 social media posts and ignored the context (that they were urging protests against ISIS, not against Turkey). European diplomats observed some sessions, but Turkish judges showed little concern for fair trial norms. By year's end, it appeared likely the court would convict many of the 108 defendants in 2023, which indeed it eventually did (handing Demirtaş and others heavy sentences). The trial underscored Turkey's use of the judiciary to *retroactively criminalize* Kurdish political actions from years past – ensuring that the **threat of imprisonment loomed perpetually over Kurdish politicians**.

Suppression of Media and Speech Continues

2022 remained a perilous year for journalists, especially those reporting on Kurdish issues or state abuses: - Early in the year, in January, a Van court acquitted four journalists (Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi, Zeynep Durgut) who had been jailed for months for covering the helicopter torture of Osman Şiban*[117]*. However, one journalist in the case, Nazan Sala, was convicted and sentenced to over a year in prison*[117]*. The partial acquittal was touted by authorities as judicial independence, but the fact that these reporters had been detained at all – and one convicted – for exposing a true story of military abuse spoke volumes. - In June 2022, authorities conducted one of the **largest mass arrests of Kurdish journalists** in recent memory. Police raided offices and homes in Diyarbakır, detaining 20 journalists working for Kurdish media outlets (including *Mezopotamya* and *JinNews*). After days in custody, 16 of them were arrested by the court pending trial for "terrorist propaganda" and "membership in [the PKK]". This crackdown, which became known as the "Diyarbakır journalists case," was widely condemned by press freedom groups as a blatant attempt to silence remaining independent journalism in the Kurdish regions. - Censorship orders proliferated. Courts banned not only news websites but also specific news *articles*. For example, when news outlets reported on allegations that Turkish armed forces used chemical weapons against PKK fighters in northern Iraq, the courts swiftly issued gag orders on the stories, and prosecutors opened investigations into those who made the allegations – including prominent forensic doctor **Şebnem Korur Fincancı***[118]*. Dr. Fincancı, head of the Turkish Medical Association and a long-time human rights defender, was arrested in October 2022 after she called for an independent inquiry into the chemical weapons claims. She was charged with "terrorism propaganda." Her case, though not ethnically Kurdish, became

emblematic of how any narrative challenging the state (often originating from Kurdish areas or conflict-related) was criminalized. - The new **"Disinformation Law"** (officially an amendment to the Press Law) passed in October 2022. It introduced a vaguely defined crime of spreading "false or misleading information" with the intent to disturb public order, punishable by up to 3 years in prison. Journalists and opposition figures warned this law could be used arbitrarily to jail reporters – particularly those in Kurdish regions who report security force misconduct. Indeed, it didn't take long for the law to be applied: in November, a journalist in Bitlis was detained for "disinformation" after tweeting about alleged corruption in local government. The chilling effect was immediate and palpable.

By late 2022, the **few Kurdish cultural outlets left were under siege**. A Kurdish-language children's magazine was shut down on claims it was spreading PKK ideology to kids. Kurdish musicians faced venue bans: popular singer **Aynur Doğan** had concerts in Bursa and Ankara cancelled by authorities at the last minute, ostensibly for lacking "appropriate permission," widely seen as code for her singing in Kurdish*[11]*. Even a Kurdish translation of a world classic novel was seized by customs for inspection, highlighting the absurd lengths of linguistic repression.

Civil Liberties and Cultural Rights

Basic civil liberties for Kurds – freedom of assembly, association, and cultural expression – continued to be severely curtailed in 2022: - **Permanent protest bans** remained in effect in multiple southeastern provinces. Van's uninterrupted ban surpassed 6 years. Hakkari, Şırnak, and Siirt renewed bans on gatherings for 15-day intervals throughout the year*[119]*. These bans were used to pre-emptively outlaw events like International Women's Day rallies (which Kurdish women's groups tried to organize) and memorials for victims of past atrocities. - When Kurdish groups attempted lawful events, they were quashed. In March 2022, Newroz festivities again saw heavy police monitoring; afterwards dozens of Kurdish youths were detained for singing Kurdish anthems, and some were later indicted as in previous years*[93][120]*. In another instance, an environmental protest in Hasankeyf (against Ilısu Dam flooding Kurdish heritage sites) was blocked by gendarmes citing the governor's ban on demonstrations. - **Associational life** for Kurds remained under threat. Any NGO perceived as Kurdish-oriented risked closure or arrests of its members. The **Mesopotamia Culture Association**, which taught Kurdish language classes, was shut down in mid-2022 after police accused it of being infiltrated by PKK sympathizers. Women's associations (like Rosa in Diyarbakır) saw continuing trials of their members. Even volunteering could be risky – volunteers of a Kurdish-language literacy campaign in Mardin were detained and interrogated for "spreading terrorist organization propaganda" merely for teaching the Kurdish alphabet. - On the cultural front, local administrations (run by trustees) erased Kurdish identity symbols. In Diyarbakır, the trustee-run municipality removed the word "Kurdistan" from a memorial plaque commemorating the famous Kurdish writer Ehmedê Xanî. In several towns, **bilingual street signs and municipal services in Kurdish were discontinued** by orders of the appointed mayors*[121]*. The use of Kurdish in public ceremonies was effectively banned; in one

absurd incident, a chemistry student in Van was disqualified from a science fair because he presented his project in Kurdish.

Despite these bleak trends, there was one notable positive legal development: in October 2022, Turkey's Constitutional Court issued a decision **upholding the right to use Kurdish language in public spaces**, overturning a prior court's ban on a Kurdish phrase ("Ji bo Bîr Nabin" – "Let's not forget" – which had been prohibited on a banner). The Court held that such bans violated free expression. However, this high-court ruling had **"no discernible effect on domestic practice,"** as Human Rights Watch observed*[122]*. Local authorities simply ignored it – continuing to ban Kurdish slogans on banners, for example, under the broad claim of protecting public order. This encapsulates a core issue: even when Turkey's own institutions acknowledge Kurdish rights, implementation on the ground is nil.

Transnational Repression and Conflict Spillover

Turkey's Kurdish policy in 2022 also had a significant **transnational dimension**. The Turkish military stepped up cross-border operations against Kurdish armed groups in Iraq and Syria. Operations *Claw-Lock* and *Claw-Sword* launched in spring and autumn 2022 involved airstrikes and commando raids in Iraqi Kurdistan and Syrian Kurdish-held areas*[123][124]*. While aimed at the PKK and its Syrian affiliate YPG, these attacks caused civilian casualties and stoked regional tensions*[123][124]*. Domestically, the government hyped these operations as successes in the "war on terror," using them to rally nationalist sentiment (especially after a deadly November 2022 bombing in Istanbul that authorities, controversially, blamed on Kurdish militants from Syria).

Meanwhile, reports emerged of **extraterritorial abductions** of Kurdish activists abroad. In mid-2022, Belgian and French security services reportedly foiled suspected Turkish intelligence plots to assassinate or kidnap Kurdish diaspora activists on European soil*[125]*. Such covert activities expanded Turkey's repression beyond its borders, drawing condemnation from European governments. In one documented case, a Kurdish political asylum-seeker in Austria was beaten by unknown assailants linked to Turkey's intelligence, after he organized a protest against Erdoğan. These incidents indicate that **Turkey's "long arm"** was reaching into Europe to intimidate Kurdish opposition figures – a trend closely monitored by EU agencies.

By 2022, Turkey also continued pressuring other countries to extradite or deport Kurdish refugees and political exiles. A high-profile example was Turkey's objection to Sweden and Finland's NATO membership bids, where Ankara demanded those countries surrender individuals accused of PKK or FETÖ links as part of the deal. This put the spotlight on cases of Kurdish activists in exile whom Turkey labelled terrorists. While negotiations on NATO enlargement were ongoing, the episode underscored how **Kurdish dissidents abroad became bargaining chips** in Turkey's international relations.

First Signs of Softening Tone

As 2022 progressed toward its end, political analysts noted a subtle shift in Erdoğan's tone regarding Kurdish issues. This was partly driven by pragmatic concerns: - **Elections approaching:** With general elections scheduled for June 2023, Erdoğan's AKP was polling poorly due to economic woes (inflation above 80%) and some voter fatigue. Kurdish votes – often a swing factor in national elections – suddenly mattered more. There were indications that AKP strategists wanted to **avoid alienating Kurdish swing voters** in western provinces. Thus, the government in late 2022 became somewhat quieter in its public vilification of the HDP. For instance, pro-government media reduced their daily tirades against "HDP = PKK" as the opposition Nation Alliance mulled tacit cooperation with the HDP for the presidential vote. - **International pressure:** The looming threat of Council of Europe infringement action on the Demirtaş case (expected in early 2023 if he remained jailed) and Turkey's desire to project a more moderate image while seeking foreign investment forced Erdoğan to consider gestures of goodwill. Around November 2022, behind closed doors, AKP emissaries reportedly engaged in indirect talks with some Kurdish opinion leaders to gauge if any **conciliatory steps** would win hearts without costing the AKP nationalist support. There was talk of possibly allowing Öcalan (held in İmralı prison) to have family visits or releasing a few high-profile Kurdish prisoners on humanitarian grounds. Indeed, in October, one such prisoner – Gültan Kışanak, former Diyarbakır Mayor – was quietly transferred to house arrest due to health, and eventually released in May 2024 after serving over 7 years*[126]*. - **Rhetorical shifts:** In December 2022, Devlet Bahçeli (MHP leader) made an unusual statement, saying "Kurds are our brothers" and that his problem was only with the PKK. While he had said similar in the distant past, this signalled a moderation of rhetoric. President Erdoğan too, in public addresses in late 2022 in Diyarbakır and Şanlıurfa, refrained from his usual barbs against the HDP; instead he spoke of "unity and brotherhood of Turks and Kurds forged over 1000 years," language reminiscent of past peace talk periods*[127][128]*. These speeches were accompanied by small promises – e.g. Erdoğan announced that a long-delayed **Kurdish cultural festival** would receive government support the next year.

Notably, one concrete "carrot" emerged: in September 2022, a court unexpectedly **freed four Kurdish journalists** (the remainder of the "Diyarbakır 16" arrested in June) pending trial, after three months' detention. While their trial on terror charges continued, their provisional release was seen as likely influenced by the government's wish to ease criticism. Such calibrated leniency – **"token gestures of tolerance"** as described in one rights report*[129]* – were carefully timed to coincide with diplomatic moments (for example, just before an EU progress report release).

Despite these nuances in tone, it's crucial to stress: **2022 did not bring substantive improvement in Kurdish rights**. The machinery of repression kept turning. Hundreds of new cases were opened against Kurdish activists; prisons swelled with Kurdish political detainees (HDP's own tally of its members imprisoned reached ~4,000 by year's end). Censorship of Kurdish expression was as strict as ever. What changed was mostly the optics and intensity: the **open brute force somewhat ebbed in late 2022**, and hints of a "softer" approach emerged, mainly for strategic reasons.

Conclusion

The year 2022 demonstrates that Erdoğan's administration had **not truly shifted toward inclusion or reconciliation**; rather, it had **refined its repressive model** while laying groundwork for possible tactical adjustments. Through most of 2022, the "stick" – surveillance, prosecution, and force – remained the default approach to Kurdish demands. The government **institutionalized a state of exception for Kurds**, effectively making ordinary political activity a criminal offense for that community*[130][131]*. Anti-terror laws continued to be misused to lock up Kurdish politicians and journalists, and courts ignored or circumvented binding European legal decisions*[18][3]*. International legal norms were an inconvenience Turkey sought to dodge, as seen in the Demirtaş saga.

Yet, as 2022 closed, Erdoğan began **dangling the "carrot"** – albeit superficially. The **"Turkey without terror" discourse** was not yet public, but initial moves (like moderated language and symbolic prisoner releases) hinted at what would become more explicit in 2023–2024. In essence, Erdoğan was preparing to *flip the script if needed*: to go from demonizing the Kurdish movement to co-opting it with talk of peace, should that prove advantageous for his hold on power.

Thus, 2022 consolidated a **regime of managed repression**. It showed Erdoğan's adeptness at **authoritarian adaptation** – maintaining coercive control over Kurdish society, while being ready to recalibrate tactics (and rhetoric) in response to evolving political calculus. The **underlying power structures did not change**: Kurdish regions were still run by unelected governors; Kurdish leaders were mostly in jail or exile; Kurdish cultural expression was muzzled. But in the background, a script for a possible détente was being written by the regime. The following year would reveal how Erdoğan might play this next card in his enduring "stick and then carrot" strategy.

2023: Softening Tone under Electoral Pressure, Continued Structural Repression

Period Covered: 26 December 2022 – 31 December 2023.

In 2023, Turkey's approach to the Kurdish issue underwent a **notable but calculated tempering**. With critical national elections held in May, President Erdoğan and his ruling alliance appeared to dial down the *visible* intensity of anti-Kurdish repression, aiming to avoid alienating Kurdish voters and to project a semblance of "normalization." The **tone became less openly hostile**, and there were fewer mass arrests in the latter half of the year, giving the impression of a thaw. However, this moderation was largely superficial: the **structural apparatus of repression remained intact**, and Kurdish political rights were still severely curtailed behind the scenes. In effect, 2023 marked the beginning of Erdoğan's "**carrot after stick**" phase – offering symbolic leniency after years of brute force – while ensuring that the state's coercive grip did not fundamentally loosen*[132][133]*.

Electoral Calculus: The Green Left and Kurdish Voters

A major development in 2023 was the role of Kurdish voters in tightly contested elections. Facing a united opposition for the first time, Erdoğan knew the roughly 10-12% Kurdish voting bloc could swing the outcome. The HDP, anticipating a potential ban from the closure case, ran its candidates under the banner of the **Green Left Party (Yeşil Sol Parti, YSP)** in the May 14 parliamentary elections. Despite ongoing legal harassment, the HDP/YSP coalition managed to campaign in the southeast and some western cities. The government, interestingly, allowed the YSP's participation without interference at the ballot box (likely because fully excluding them might have delegitimized the elections). However, repression was still evident: - In the run-up to voting, police carried out **pre-emptive sweeps**: for instance, in April 2023, over **120 Kurdish activists and politicians were detained across 21 provinces** in a single day, accused of plotting "provocations" around election time. Among them were campaign organizers for the YSP and members of the Kurdish trade union movement. While many were released after short detentions, the raids disrupted Kurdish political mobilization*[134]*. - State media largely blacked out the HDP/YSP election messaging. Unlike past elections where HDP leaders could sometimes appear on television, in 2023 none of the pro-Kurdish candidates got significant airtime. This information blackout was part of the subtle suppression – less overt than arrests, but impactful in limiting their reach. - Erdoğan adopted a different rhetoric on the campaign trail in Kurdish areas compared to previous years. Rather than excoriating the HDP as terrorists at every rally, he spoke more about **economic development and infrastructure** in the southeast. He also hinted at possible **reforms**, saying in Diyarbakır: "After elections, we will solve all issues through unity and democracy" – a vague but softer tone than his 2019 line that "there is no Kurdish issue anymore." This seemed designed to peel off Kurdish votes from the opposition's presidential candidate by implying Erdoğan might revive a form of the peace process if re-elected.

The results bore out some success for Erdoğan's tactics. While the YSP (HDP) still won about 8.8% of the national vote and 61 parliamentary seats, their vote share dipped compared to previous HDP performance, and **Erdoğan narrowly won the Kurdish-majority provinces of Şanlıurfa and Bingöl**, for instance – indicating that conservative Kurdish voters stuck with him, swayed perhaps by his tempered approach and the lack of a compelling alternative. Notably, the imprisoned Demirtaş – from his cell – endorsed the opposition's Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu in the presidential race. But Kılıçdaroğlu, under nationalist pressure, ran on a somewhat anti-migrant, law-and-order platform that did not strongly court Kurds. In the end, Erdoğan secured a presidential runoff victory. The elections thus reinforced his power, but also showed that **millions of Kurds still backed the opposition** (Erdoğan lost in many Kurdish-majority areas to Kılıçdaroğlu).

Controlled Tolerance and Symbolic Gestures

After the elections, having secured another term, Erdoğan's government made a few **symbolic gestures of reconciliation** toward the Kurdish community: - In June 2023, authorities allowed the family of **Abdullah Öcalan** to make a long-denied visit to him in İmralı Island prison. This was the

first family visit in over 2 years (Öcalan had been kept in near-total isolation). The government did not publicize it widely, but Kurdish media reported the visit occurred. Many interpreted it as a gesture to the Kurdish public that *something* was moving – possibly a harbinger of renewed dialogue. Indeed, Devlet Bahçeli (normally vehemently opposed to Öcalan having any platform) gave tacit approval, saying "if our state sees fit to allow a visit, so be it." - The broadcasting regulator RTÜK quietly eased some restrictions on Kurdish music on radio/TV. In August, a state TV channel aired a program with **Kurdish folk songs**, which was unusual. Pro-government press hailed this as cultural opening, though cynics noted it coincided with Erdoğan's attempts to win Kurdish goodwill ahead of local elections. - Some Kurdish **political prisoners were released or had sentences reduced** on appeal. For example, in October 2023 an appeals court overturned part of the conviction of former HDP MP *Çağlar Demirel*, leading to her release after 7 years in prison. Similarly, a couple of long-term detained Kurdish journalists were released pending appeal. These were isolated cases, often due to legal technicalities, but the timing suggested an effort to generate a narrative that the judicial climate was improving.

Despite these gestures, **underlying policies remained repressive**: - **Trustee rule** persisted. Even after the elections, in late 2023 most Kurdish-majority municipalities were still governed by state appointees; elected councils were sidelined. The Interior Minister (Süleyman Soylu until June, then Ali Yerlikaya) publicly defended the trustee system, with Soylu boasting that "we removed 45 HDP mayors under Erdoğan's instructions" and would do it again if needed*[135]*. This admission*[136]* showed that nothing had changed structurally: if anything, the government had normalized the idea that Kurds are not entitled to self-government. - The **HDP closure case** remained formally pending. In a somewhat farcical twist, the Constitutional Court postponed its verdict on banning the HDP until after the elections – likely under government influence to avoid a backlash before voting. Then, as 2023 ended, the case was still unresolved (the Court eventually delayed it into 2024). In practice, the HDP had already run via YSP, so the threat of a ban hung like a sword but was not executed yet – another example of strategic delay rather than change of heart. - Perhaps the starkest evidence that the "carrot" was limited to rhetoric was the **continued imprisonment of Selahattin Demirtaş and other HDP leaders**. Throughout 2023, Demirtaş remained behind bars in Edirne Prison. In fact, in May – just days before the election – a Turkish court piled on a new **sentence of 2 years 6 months** on Demirtaş for allegedly insulting the judiciary, demonstrating that hardliners were still keen to ensure he wouldn't be freed anytime soon*[137]*. Similarly, former co-chair Figen Yüksekdağ was still incarcerated, and in September 2023 a court convicted her on another charge, extending her sentence. These moves flew in the face of the ECtHR rulings and belied any notion of true liberalization. - On the ground, **fewer street protests occurred** mainly because Kurds had been demobilized by fear or discouraged by calls for calm during the election period. But when protests did occur, the response was familiar. For example, in July 2023 when villagers in Siirt protested a new military outpost's land seizure, soldiers broke it up violently and detained 15 people. There was no lasting media coverage or outrage, partly because the public was fatigued and focused on post-election politics.

International Engagement and Image Management

In 2023, Erdoğan was keen to mend fences internationally after years of tension. Turkey's more moderate posture on Kurdish rights was partly a talking point in this diplomatic push: - In talks with the EU over reviving aspects of Turkey's accession process or updating the customs union, Turkish diplomats subtly hinted that "the Kurdish issue is calming down" and that Turkey might undertake democratic reforms after elections. This was aimed at persuading European counterparts that Turkey under Erdoğan's new term would be more stable and possibly more rights-respecting. The actual steps were minimal, but the rhetoric played its role. The European Commission's 2023 country report did note "some decrease in tensions in the southeast," yet maintained harsh criticism of the ongoing trustee system and legal oppression of Kurds. - The Council of Europe's infringement process for Demirtaş was put on temporary hold as the Committee of Ministers awaited the outcome of the Turkish elections and gave Ankara a bit more time. By late 2023, with no release in sight, the Committee signalled it would resume steps in 2024. Turkey's representatives in Strasbourg argued that a new "domestic legal process" (the Kobani trial) was underway and asked for patience – essentially **buying time** while Turkey adjusted its stance domestically. This delay can be seen as Turkey stalling until it could unveil its own initiative (which turned out to be the "Turkey without terror" plan in 2024). - Notably, Sweden and Finland's NATO accession saga continued into 2023. Turkey finally agreed to Finland joining in March, and to Sweden by July, but only after extracting certain commitments, including Sweden's promise to **tighten anti-terror laws targeting the PKK**. This resulted in Sweden criminalizing more PKK-related activities and extraditing a few individuals Turkey wanted (though none high-profile HDP figures). While separate from Turkey's internal Kurdish policy, it underscored Erdoğan's stance that the **"fight against Kurdish terrorism" was non-negotiable** – he was even exporting that fight to Europe diplomatically. However, once NATO deals were done, Erdoğan softened his language towards Western partners and emphasized Turkey's constructive role – trying to turn the page on being seen as an obstructive authoritarian.

Structural Discrimination and Social Dynamics

Even with less overt violence, the **day-to-day discrimination against Kurds** in Turkey remained deeply entrenched in 2023. Anecdotal reports and surveys indicated that Kurdish citizens still faced significant barriers: - A study by a Turkish university in late 2023 found that over 60% of Kurdish respondents reported experiencing discrimination in job applications or public services because of their ethnicity or accent. This rate had not improved appreciably from previous years*[138]*. - The education system continued to marginalize Kurdish identity. School curriculums did not include Kurdish language, and indeed some schoolbooks contained revisionist claims like describing the Kurdish language as a dialect of Turkish (an example being a Ministry of Education booklet calling Kurdish "mountain Turkish" which sparked controversy)*[139][140]*. The year saw no reform toward elective Kurdish language courses in public schools either, despite long-standing requests. - Hate speech incidents persisted though somewhat less frequently reported.

Early in 2023, an AKP-linked imam in Ankara gave a sermon implying that voting for the "supporters of the terrorists" (widely understood as HDP) was religiously forbidden. Such rhetoric, while still present, was toned down by the party leadership post-election, but its residue in society remained. - Isolated **racist attacks** against Kurds occurred, though none as deadly as in prior years. In one case in September, a Kurdish family traveling in western Turkey was harassed and assaulted by a mob after they were heard speaking Kurdish at a gas station. Police intervened to stop the violence, but no one was prosecuted, with local officials calling it a "misunderstanding." These incidents, replayed on Kurdish social media, kept mistrust high, even as the state publicly spoke of "brotherhood."

In short, the **lived reality for Kurdish people in Turkey in 2023 was still that of second-class citizenship**, even if fewer were being shot or arrested than in the peak crackdown years. Freedom to speak Kurdish, to celebrate Kurdish culture, to elect Kurdish leaders – all were still severely limited, just with a friendlier face in Ankara promising that peace was on the horizon.

Conclusion

The year 2023 illustrates a **subtle yet deliberate transition** in Ankara's Kurdish policy: from open, hard repression to a more **strategic moderation** in the service of political expediency*[133]*. President Erdoğan sought to maintain his ultranationalist alliance (and thereby the status quo of state dominance in Kurdish regions) while **selectively appealing to Kurdish voters** and mollifying international critics*[141][142]*. This balancing act gave rise to what can be called a "controlled tolerance." The government offered *selective acquittals*, allowed a bit more cultural visibility, and reduced the frequency of headline-grabbing crackdowns*[143][132]* – all without dismantling any apparatus of suppression.

Crucially, the **structural framework of discrimination and securitization stayed fully intact***[144]*. Kurds remained under the thumb of a politicized judiciary and militarized local governance. By year's end, **Turkey's treatment of its Kurdish population still amounted to a dual system**: one in which normal democratic rights were suspended if one was Kurdish or spoke up for Kurdish issues, but where on the surface Ankara could claim things were "normalizing."

This dichotomy embodied Erdoğan's "**first the stick, now the carrot**" methodology*[142]*. After battering the Kurdish movement into a weakened state over several years, the regime in 2023 moved to dangle the prospect of reconciliation – not necessarily to genuinely solve the Kurdish issue, but to **sustain Erdoğan's power** under a veneer of reformism*[142]*. As elections were won and international pressure tentatively eased, Turkey was poised to unveil a new initiative in 2024 that would put this approach into full play. The following section details how this "carrot" was formally introduced and what it entailed, set against the backdrop of an ever-watchful authoritarian state.

2024: “Turkey without Terror” – Political Reorientation amid Ongoing Control

Period Covered: 1 January 2024 – 29 December 2024.

In 2024, the Turkish government launched a dramatic **rhetorical pivot** regarding its Kurdish policy – encapsulated in the phrase “**Turkey without Terror**,” a slogan heralding a supposed new peace initiative. This year can be characterized by a dual dynamic: on one hand, the regime **further softened its public stance** toward Kurdish issues, making overtures about reconciliation and even involving the previously demonized PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan in political discourse *[24][25]*. On the other hand, systemic repression of Kurdish political and cultural rights **continued in practice**, albeit at a somewhat reduced intensity, and the state **redirected some of its repressive focus onto other opponents** (namely the secular opposition CHP). In effect, President Erdoğan’s “stick then carrot” strategy entered its “carrot” phase – but it was a **tactical carrot**, aimed at rebalancing Turkey’s internal politics and international standing, rather than a genuine transformation in attitudes toward Kurdish rights*[145][146]*.

Announcing the “Turkey without Terror” Initiative

The turning point came in October 2024. Devlet Bahçeli, the fiercely nationalist MHP leader and Erdoğan’s coalition partner, stunned observers during an MHP parliamentary group meeting by extending a **public invitation to Abdullah Öcalan** – the imprisoned PKK founder – to “address Parliament” on the condition that he call for the PKK to lay down arms and disband*[24][25]*. Bahçeli declared that if Öcalan would renounce terrorism, he should be granted the “right to hope” (a hint at some form of clemency)*[25][147]*. Coming from Bahçeli, who for decades had vilified Öcalan as “terroristbaşı” (chief terrorist), this was an **extraordinary rhetorical U-turn**.

Within days on 28 February 2025, President Erdoğan endorsed Bahçeli’s remarks in careful terms. Erdoğan said Turkey had “entered a new phase through the ‘Turkey without terror’ efforts” launched by Bahçeli, framing it as a chance to **“tear down the wall of terror”** separating Turks and Kurds*[148][26]*. Government media began referring to a nascent process aimed at finally ending the 40-year conflict. Notably, the messaging emphasized that this was *not a return to the 2013–2015 peace process*, which had involved negotiations with the HDP and PKK in a context of mutual ceasefire. Rather, officials insisted “there will be no new peace process – we seek unconditional surrender of the terrorists”*[149]*. The **tone was one of magnanimous victor**: the state would offer an olive branch, but only if the PKK capitulated entirely. Still, the mere talk of **dialogue with Öcalan** and the use of words like “peace” represented a sea change in public narrative.

A likely catalyst for this shift was the fact that by mid-2024, the **PKK insurgency had been largely contained** to outside Turkey’s borders (Northern Iraq and parts of Syria) and was at a low ebb inside Turkey. The government possibly calculated that it could afford to act conciliatory without

appearing weak. Additionally, with local elections due in March 2024 (including in big cities like Istanbul and Ankara), Erdoğan had a political incentive to court Kurdish voters again. Indeed, some analysts speculated that Erdoğan sought a grand bargain: Kurdish support in cities in exchange for some concessions on cultural or political rights.

In practical terms, after Bahçeli's statement, the government **took steps to operationalize the "Turkey without Terror" roadmap**: - A special intra-government committee was reportedly formed in late 2024 to liaise with "relevant parties" (widely assumed to include intelligence contacts to Öcalan). The National Intelligence Organization (MİT) was said to be pivotal, just as it had been during the 2013 talks. - The Justice Ministry in November 2024 quietly eased Öcalan's prison isolation slightly by allowing a delegation from a newly formed parliamentary commission (with AKP and MHP MPs) to visit İmralı. This visit (never officially confirmed at the time) was essentially to get a message from Öcalan. And indeed, soon after, pro-government outlets carried an indirect report: Öcalan was "ready to support a solution if the PKK heeds the state's call"*[150]*. - At the same time, the MHP's tone continued to soften: by November, an MHP deputy chairman openly called for **Demirtaş's release**, citing the ECtHR ruling as binding and saying "the court will order release" – a stark departure from the party's prior stance*[151][152]*. Bahçeli himself commented that freeing Demirtaş "will be auspicious for Turkey"*[153]*.[7] This appeared coordinated to show good faith in the new initiative – essentially admitting that to credibly engage Kurds, the government might eventually need to free prominent Kurdish political prisoners.

Internationally, these developments drew cautious optimism. The EU and US welcomed "steps toward a peaceful resolution" of Turkey's Kurdish conflict, though human rights groups warned that excluding the legal Kurdish political movement (HDP/YSP) from the process and demanding unconditional PKK surrender was a one-sided formula.

A Moderating Climate for Kurds?

In tandem with the "Turkey without Terror" narrative, the **frequency of reported violations against Kurds continued to decline modestly in 2024***[154]*. Solidarity with Others' data showed fewer weekly incidents on average than in prior years. For example, the weekly bulletins recorded *zero* incidents in some weeks of mid-2025 – something unheard of during 2016–2022*[27]*. Of course, part of this was because so much of Kurdish political life had already been crushed; there were simply fewer HDP offices left to raid or Kurdish journalists left free to arrest. But it also seemed that orders had come from Ankara to **avoid major crackdowns** unless absolutely necessary, so as not to derail the nascent political détente: - No new HDP or YSP mayoral removals occurred in 2024 until the very end of October, when – notably *after* Bahçeli's Öcalan invitation – the Interior Ministry did remove three newly elected DEM (HDP successor) mayors (in Mardin, Batman, and Şanlıurfa's Halfeti district) for alleged terror links*[29]*. This triggered protests and was criticized by HRW as violating voters' rights*[28][29]*. Why did this happen during

[7] At the time of writing as of 11 November 2025, Demirtaş is still not released from Edirne prison.

a peace overture? It highlighted that while rhetoric changed, the regime still reflexively resorted to repression when convenient (and indeed those mayors were removed ostensibly because of pending convictions on appeal). However, beyond those, most other Kurdish mayors had already been replaced long before, so the practice was not as visible simply for lack of remaining targets. - **Fewer terrorism trials were launched** against Kurdish activists in 2024. Many ongoing cases continued (Kobani trial ended in May with heavy sentences, as expected), but new indictments dropped. There was, for instance, a noticeable decrease in social media-related arrests of Kurds. Prosecutors were likely instructed to hold off on initiating big new cases against HDP figures, given the political climate. - Cultural events proceeded with less hindrance. The **Newroz 2024 celebrations** were among the most peaceful in years – large crowds gathered in Diyarbakır and other cities, and police largely stood back. For the first time since 2015, state television covered parts of a Newroz event (showing Erdoğan's congratulatory message). Similarly, a prominent Kurdish film festival in Istanbul was allowed to open in September with minimal interference, featuring Kurdish-language films that previously might have been banned.

However, it would be a mistake to interpret these signs as true liberalization. **Kurdish rights remained precarious and dependent on the political winds**. The core legal architecture – anti-terror laws, broad police powers, the trustee decree – all stayed in place. And tellingly, **repression was not reduced but rather refocused** onto other perceived threats: - In 2024, the government intensified its crackdown on the main **opposition CHP**. For the first time, CHP mayors faced the same fate long suffered by HDP mayors. The most significant case was Istanbul's district of Esenyurt: its CHP mayor, *Ahmet Özer*, was detained on October 30 on charges of PKK membership (based on years-old phone calls as "evidence") and promptly removed from office, replaced by a government trustee (the Istanbul Deputy Governor)*[155][156]*. Days later, the Interior Ministry dissolved the entire elected council of Esenyurt, essentially replicating the trustee model in Turkey's largest city*[156][157]*. HRW decried this as a "significant blow to democratic governance" and noted it was **the first time a CHP mayor was ousted in this manner***[28][158]*. Concurrently, the CHP mayors of Mersin and Yalova were arrested on unrelated charges. The pattern indicated that Erdoğan's regime was willing to use the tools perfected against the Kurds now also against non-Kurdish opposition. - For Kurdish activists, this broadening of targets was double-edged: on one hand, it meant slightly less spotlight on them; on the other, it signalled that the **authoritarian playbook had simply expanded**. Kurdish politicians saw the writing on the wall – today trustees in Diyarbakır, tomorrow in Istanbul. Some HDP figures cynically remarked that the government's newfound "peace" with Kurds was *because it had found new enemies to go after*. Indeed, in November, a third removal of a CHP-related mayor occurred (Bolu's mayor, a dissident CHP figure, was also suspended). So, while Kurdish regions were somewhat quieter, the **coercive structures had not slackened but proliferated**.

International and Legal Developments

2024's shifts did yield some noteworthy legal outcomes: - The **ECtHR Demirtaş (No.2) judgment** continued to loom. Faced with Turkey's overt non-compliance, the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers prepared a draft decision in late 2024 to refer the case back to the ECtHR

for infringement proceedings (as it had done for Kavala). However, Turkey pleaded that it was working on a "solution" domestically – likely alluding to the Turkey without Terror initiative. In a December session, the Committee gave a final warning, urging Demirtaş's release by its next meeting in 2025, lest infringement move forward. The Turkish government took this seriously; it did not want the embarrassment of suspension from the Council of Europe while rolling out a peace narrative. Hence the signs by year's end that Demirtaş might be transferred from prison to house arrest as a "goodwill gesture" – something advocated by some AKP insiders and MHP's sudden change of tune in November*[159][160]*. - The **Constitutional Court's role** was also interesting. It had delayed the HDP closure case, possibly indefinitely, reading the political tea leaves that an outright ban might undermine the new initiative. Indeed, many expected the case to be quietly shelved if the "peace process 2.0" progressed. And in a surprising liberal move, the Court in October ruled in favour of a Kurdish musician (Hozan Canê) who had been convicted of insulting the President; the Court found her conviction violated free expression*[161]*. This was a small victory that had no immediate effect on practice (courts kept jailing people for insult), but it showed how high courts were calibrating decisions to appear more rights-friendly in a changing political context. - The European Union signalled possible positive engagement if Turkey's initiative bore fruit. EU officials noted that **progress on Kurdish rights** would greatly help thaw relations. There was talk (optimistic perhaps) that by addressing the Kurdish issue, Turkey could unlock chapters in the accession process that had been frozen over human rights concerns.

By the end of 2024, the **overall picture** was that Turkey was entering a new phase: one of official reconciliation discourse after years of open hostilities. **Bahçeli's overtures**, Erdoğan's endorsement, and some concrete steps (Öcalan's communication, talk of Demirtaş's release) all pointed to a concerted plan*[162][38]*. Yet Kurdish sceptics warned that the **"carrot" was largely performative** – an attempt to secure regime stability rather than to truly recognize Kurdish aspirations. After all, **none of the Kurdish movement's core demands** (education in mother tongue, local autonomy, release of political prisoners, etc.) had been substantively addressed. The "peace" being offered was one where Kurds surrender arms and resistance in exchange for promises of being treated better under the same system.

Conclusion

The year 2024 records a **controlled de-escalation rather than a genuine improvement** in Kurdish rights*[163]*. The Turkish government maintained the instruments of systematic repression but **tempered its visibility**, shifting its coercive apparatus partly toward other opponents (the CHP)*[164][165]*. Erdoğan's enduring strategy of authoritarian adaptation was on full display: after years of punitive force, he pivoted to *tactical conciliation* – "first the stick, now the carrot" – not as an admission of wrongdoing, but as a means to **preserve power amid shifting dynamics***[166][145]*.

Bahçeli's surprising peace process rhetoric and the engagement of Öcalan were best understood as **political theatre** – instruments in a broader calculus to rebalance domestic alliances and sustain the regime's hegemony*[145][146]*. Indeed, many Kurdish observers felt the government

was effectively saying: *"We have suppressed you; now we'll talk – but on our terms, from a position of strength."*

By the close of 2024, Kurdish society in Turkey was in a peculiar state of limbo. There was cautious hope among some that perhaps this time Erdoğan might follow through with reforms (having neutralized the ultranationalists by bringing them on board). Others were deeply cynical, noting Erdoğan's track record of using and discarding peace overtures. **What was undeniable is that the cycle had turned** – open stick had given way to dangling carrot. The next year, 2025, would test whether this carrot would lead to any lasting change or whether it was merely a pause before another turn of the cycle.

2025: Rhetorical Reconciliation Amid Entrenched Authoritarianism

Period Covered: 1 January 2025 – 30 November 2025.

The first eleven months of 2025 saw the Turkish government **further its narrative of reconciliation** with the Kurdish population, even as the substance of its policies remained authoritarian. This period effectively marked the culmination of Erdoğan's "stick then carrot" strategy: after a decade of crackdowns, the regime actively promoted a message of national unity and an end to conflict – symbolized by the "**Turkey without Terror**" campaign unveiled by MHP leader Bahçeli and embraced by President Erdoğan*[26][38]*. The tangible result was a **dramatic fall in reported Kurdish-rights violations** – by mid-2025, for the first time in many years, a week passed with *no* new incidents of repression recorded*[27]*. However, this was not due to fully restored freedoms or structural reforms, but largely because the Kurdish movement had been effectively demobilized (there were fewer targets left) and because the state was holding its fire as a political tactic. Meanwhile, Turkey's broader authoritarian trajectory continued, exemplified by the imprisonment of high-profile opposition figures like Istanbul's mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu on politically motivated charges*[167]*. Thus, 2025 was a year of **rhetorical peace and selective restraint** in the Kurdish context, coexisting with ongoing intolerance of dissent in general.

A "Peace Discourse" Takes Centre Stage

By early 2025, Ankara's official discourse was dominated by talk of ending the Kurdish conflict: - In January, as parliament resumed, President Erdoğan gave a speech celebrating how Turkey had **"greatly reduced terrorism"** and suggesting the country was on the verge of a new era of unity. He referenced the absence of major PKK attacks on Turkish soil in the past year and said families in the southeast could now "sleep in peace." - The **"Turkey without Terror" process** was formalized in February 2025 when Erdoğan announced that a *"new phase"* had begun and that "we have the opportunity to take a historic step on the path to tearing down the wall of terror between our thousand-year-old brotherhood"*[127][148]*. This remark, made at a high-profile event in Istanbul, was broadcast widely. It underscored that Erdoğan was fully aligning himself with the initiative Bahçeli had kicked off. Importantly, Erdoğan credited Bahçeli for the "bold

initiative" and said it was advancing with their joint determination*[26]* – signalling to any sceptics (especially nationalist constituencies) that this was a unified establishment project, not a concession forced by Kurdish resistance. - Crucially, on February 15, 2025 (the anniversary of Öcalan's 1999 capture), a **message attributed to Abdullah Öcalan** was reported by state media: Öcalan called on all PKK-affiliated groups to **dissolve themselves and end the armed struggle***[148][168]*. The message, apparently obtained via the parliamentary delegation that visited him, urged an end to the "40-year terror campaign" and said further armed resistance was futile. Coming from Öcalan himself, this was groundbreaking. It was exactly what the government sought – an effective *declaration of defeat* from the insurgency's founder, delivered from his prison cell under obviously orchestrated circumstances. Nonetheless, it carried weight among PKK fighters; indeed, by spring 2025, Turkish intelligence reported an uptick in PKK militants laying down arms or deserting. (Sceptics noted we only had Ankara's word on Öcalan's message, as independent observers weren't present.) - Following Öcalan's message, President Erdoğan in late February triumphantly declared that **"a new phase has been entered"** in eliminating terrorism with Bahçeli's initiative and "our determined stance"*[26]*. He portrayed it as Turkey finally defeating the plots that had sown division (referring to the Kurdish insurgency as an imperialist plot) and said the winners of a terror-free Turkey would be *"all 85 million citizens, whether Turk, Kurd, Alevi, Sunni"[169][170]*. This inclusive rhetoric – explicitly naming Kurds as equal beneficiaries – was virtually unprecedented for Erdoğan, who in earlier years rarely acknowledged Kurds except in negative contexts.

These developments culminated in what many dubbed the **"Newroz Deal"** of 2025: at Newroz (March 21), massive celebrations took place in Diyarbakır with an atmosphere of cautious optimism. The government permitted a large festival. An envoy from Ankara even attended and read a statement conveying Erdoğan's greetings and commitment to a peaceful future. In turn, HDP (YSP) politicians, while sceptical, refrained from harsh criticism during their Newroz speeches, instead focusing on hopes for democracy and mentioning Öcalan's call as a positive step. It was as close to a celebratory peace moment as Turkey had seen since the 2013 Newroz when Öcalan's ceasefire letter was read out.

However, it must be underscored: this was a **top-down, tightly controlled peace narrative**. Unlike in 2013-2015, when HDP politicians were active mediators and the process was somewhat public, the 2025 version involved **no direct negotiations with the HDP or PKK cadres**. It was essentially an offer of surrender: the state held all the cards and was dictating terms, with Öcalan co-opted as a mouthpiece. Kurdish civil society had no formal role. Many Kurdish activists and the diaspora criticized this as a stage-managed "peace" that left Kurds voiceless regarding their own demands.

Collapse of Violations: First Week with None

One undeniable positive outcome was the **sharp drop in overt repressive incidents** affecting the Kurdish population. According to the Solidarity with Others weekly monitor, **Week 260 (9–15 June 2025) marked the first week with zero recorded Kurdish-related human rights violations**

since the monitoring began in 2020*[27]*. This milestone was emblematic of the trend throughout much of 2025: - Political arrests of Kurds had virtually ceased by the spring. There were no large-scale anti-HDP raids or new prosecutions of journalists for Kurdish-related coverage. A handful of local incidents still occurred (e.g., a skirmish at a protest in Van in April led to a few brief detentions), but these were isolated and resolved quickly. - Incidents of **torture or mistreatment** of Kurdish detainees also diminished in reporting. Partly because there were far fewer new detainees, and also possibly because security forces had been cautioned to avoid scandals that could sabotage the political process. Family visits, such as to Kurdish prisoners, were more regularly allowed; even Öcalan's brother was permitted a short visit in July, which had been unheard-of during his prior isolation. - The overall **security presence in the southeast was somewhat relaxed**. Military operations against the PKK in Turkey had already wound down as the PKK presence in Turkey was minimal. The focus shifted entirely to cross-border operations (which continued in Northern Iraq against remaining PKK bases, albeit with less fanfare). Checkpoints in some Kurdish towns were scaled back; long-standing curfews in rural areas were lifted. For example, villagers in parts of Diyarbakır reported that, for the first time in a decade, they didn't have to undergo daily ID checks by gendarmes. This created a sense of normal life returning.

It's important to note that **this drop in violations did not stem from institutional reforms or improved human rights protections** – it was largely a result of political directive. The laws enabling repression were unchanged, but the political order of the day was restraint. As one Kurdish lawyer put it, "The gun is still loaded, but they've taken the finger off the trigger for now."

In another symbolic milestone, the **Interior Ministry did not renew a number of protest bans** in Kurdish provinces after June 2025. Van's infamous continuous ban was finally allowed to expire that month (likely under pressure to show goodwill). While authorities reserved the right to issue new bans if needed, for a time it meant that theoretically Kurds could assemble without automatic prohibition – a first since 2016. Indeed, in Van, a group of women's rights activists held a permitted march in July calling for justice for victims of ISIS (including Yazidi women), an event that previously might have been banned but now passed peacefully.

Deepened Authoritarianism Elsewhere

While Kurdish-focused violations abated, the broader **authoritarian context in Turkey did not ameliorate – it arguably worsened**. One stark illustration was the **Imprisonment of Ekrem İmamoğlu**, the popular CHP mayor of Istanbul and potential presidential contender. In December 2022 he had been sentenced to 2 years 7 months and political ban for allegedly insulting election officials. In 2023 he remained free pending appeal. However, in October 2025, the Court of Appeals *upheld his sentence*, immediately triggering his removal from office and arrest to serve the prison term*[167]*. This event, mentioned in the Solidarity with Others summary for 2025*[171]*, underscored that Erdoğan's regime *continued to eliminate major opposition figures through the judiciary*, even while making peace gestures to Kurds. In fact, some interpreted the timing – Imamoğlu's imprisonment just a week after Bahçeli launched the "Turkey without

Terror" – as evidence that Erdoğan was trading one form of repression for another: easing up on Kurds but cracking down on the secular opposition.

Additionally, throughout 2025, **civil society and media nationwide remained under heavy pressure**. Turkey's ranking in press freedom indices did not improve. The new disinformation law was actively enforced, resulting in dozens of journalists (mostly not Kurdish) being prosecuted for online posts about corruption or the government's handling of economic crisis. None of these systemic issues changed as a result of the Kurdish initiative – indicating it was a circumscribed endeavour, not a democratization.

For Kurds, this raised the question: what good is a "peace process" that doesn't expand democracy? If the outcome was simply that Kurds wouldn't be killed or jailed as long as they acquiesced, but they still couldn't freely criticize the government, then it wasn't a just peace – it was an enforced silence. Many Kurdish intellectuals and the HDP (YSP) leadership stressed in statements that any genuine resolution must involve democratization for all of Turkey, not just a ceasefire. They called for the **release of all political prisoners (Kurdish and otherwise)**, restoration of free elections in the southeast (i.e., end the trustee regime), and constitutional changes to guarantee minority rights. By November 2025, however, the government had not concretely addressed these demands.

One minor positive was that in May 2025, as part of the attempt to show progress, a few **Kurdish political prisoners were released** on probation after serving lengthy sentences (for example, a former mayor was let out 2 months early "for good behaviour"). And there were rumours that Demirtaş and Yüksekdağ might be moved to house arrest or released by late 2025.[8] Indeed, as reported on November 4, 2025, an MHP official publicly urged compliance with the ECtHR and said *"the court will order Demirtaş's release"[151][152]*, essentially preparing the ground for his freedom. This was a remarkable turnaround, and by the end of November, Turkish media were speculating that Demirtaş could be freed in early 2026 as part of a broader amnesty or legal reform package. (Demirtaş himself, still writing from prison, remained sceptical and insisted via his lawyers that any reconciliation would be empty without true democratic reforms.)

Conclusion

The decline in overt repression in 2025 **signalled the end of a decade-long cycle of persecution** and the beginning of a *politically choreographed de-escalation[172]*. President Erdoğan's government, having achieved its aims of crushing organized Kurdish political resistance, now applied strategic restraint and symbolic inclusion to turn the page. Bahçeli's rhetoric of reconciliation – calling it a "historic opportunity" not to be missed – and Erdoğan's championing of a terror-free future formed part of a **cyclical governance model**: extreme coercion followed

[8] It is worth to note that at the time of writing as of 11 November 2025, Demirtaş is still not released from Edirne prison.

by controlled conciliation*[26][173]*. This model is fundamentally about **sustaining power**, not necessarily resolving deep-rooted issues*[172]*.

In summary, from 2020 through 2025, the Turkish state's treatment of its Kurdish population went from one of **unrelenting stick** to a carefully meted **carrot**. Thousands of lives were upended by imprisonment, and dozens killed or tortured, in the first phase; in the second phase, Kurds were courted with promises of peace and a few high-profile overtures. The underlying drivers – the state's insistence on unitary national identity, its refusal to entertain true decentralization or bilingualism, and the instrumental use of Kurdish issues in domestic politics – remain intact. As of November 2025, while open conflict has abated and the Kurdish issue is entering a quieter chapter, the **future is uncertain**. Whether Erdoğan's "carrot" will lead to a durable reconciliation or whether it is merely a lull before another cycle of repression will depend on how genuinely Turkey's rulers address Kurdish grievances going forward.

What is clear is that **Erdoğan's strategic transition from harsh repression to rhetorical reconciliation has been executed on his terms** – having first debilitated the Kurdish movement, he now extends a hand, expecting acquiescence rather than negotiating as equals. International actors may welcome the reduction in violence, but they and Turkey's democratic forces must remain vigilant that this process yields real improvements in human rights and not just a more palatable facade on continued authoritarian rule.

International Legal and Human Rights Responses (2020–2025)

Throughout the 2020–2025 period, the international community – including legal bodies, intergovernmental organizations, and NGOs – closely monitored and responded to Turkey's human rights violations against the Kurdish population. Reactions ranged from **court judgments and diplomatic pressures to fact-finding reports and public advocacy**, all of which exerted some influence (albeit limited) on Turkey's calculations.

European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and Council of Europe

The **European Court of Human Rights** played a pivotal role by issuing landmark judgments on cases stemming from Turkey's crackdown: - **Selahattin Demirtaş v. Turkey (No. 2)**: In a Grand Chamber judgment on 22 December 2020, the ECtHR ruled that Turkey had violated Demirtaş's rights on multiple counts – including freedom of expression, liberty, and **Article 18** (misuse of power for political purposes) – by detaining him to sideline him from politics*[3]*. Crucially, the Court ordered Demirtaş's **immediate release***[46][3]*. This was one of the strongest ECtHR rulings against Turkey in years. Turkey's refusal to execute this judgment triggered an escalation: the **Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers** (which supervises ECtHR judgment compliance) repeatedly demanded Demirtaş's release*[20]*. In late 2021, seeing no progress, the Committee initiated **infringement proceedings** under Article 46(4) of the ECHR – a process only used once before (against Azerbaijan)*[20]*. By 2022, the Committee formally referred Turkey's non-

compliance in the *Osman Kavala* case back to the ECtHR for a finding, and it warned a Demirtaş referral was imminent*[20]*. Facing this, Turkey stalled and eventually, as noted, co-opted Demirtaş's potential release into its 2024 "carrot" strategy. As of November 2025, Turkey still had not released him, keeping the infringement threat alive, but the Demirtaş case stands as a **test of the Council of Europe's resolve**. The Committee of Ministers has maintained intense pressure, with repeated resolutions "deeply deploring" Turkey's non-compliance and calling it a breach of Article 46 obligations. - **Other ECtHR cases**: The ECtHR issued multiple judgments on related Kurdish issues – for example, in 2021 it ruled on the case of politician **Figen Yüksekdağ**, similarly finding her prolonged pre-trial detention unlawful (echoing Demirtaş). In 2022, the Court found Turkey violated the right to freedom of assembly of academics who had signed a peace petition about Kurdish regions, ordering compensation. Additionally, long-running cases about the 1990s village burnings and disappearances continued to yield judgments (e.g., *Chop v. Turkey*, 2022), underlining **systemic issues of impunity**.

Turkey's reaction to these judgments was largely defiant. Government officials accused the ECtHR of bias and insisted Turkish courts were not bound by "foreign" rulings in terrorism cases – a stance clearly at odds with Turkey's legal commitments. This stance led the **Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)** to adopt resolutions condemning Turkey's non-execution of judgments (in particular, a September 2021 PACE resolution explicitly called out Turkey for not freeing Demirtaş and Kavala, warning of consequences*[20]*).

European Union and European States

The **European Union** repeatedly criticized Turkey's treatment of Kurds in its annual reports and statements: - The **European Commission's Turkey Progress Reports** (2020, 2021, 2022) highlighted the backsliding on rule of law and minority rights. The 2020 report noted "serious deficiencies" in democracy and that "the government's broad definition of terrorism continues to negatively affect the Kurdish community"*[174][175]*. The 2021 report condemned the closure case against HDP and removal of elected mayors as undermining pluralism. And the 2022 report, as mentioned, cited increased repressive measures and the continued detention of Demirtaş as evidence that Turkey was distancing itself from EU norms*[107][176]*. - In the **European Parliament**, members were vocal. In May 2021, the Parliament adopted a resolution on human rights in Turkey that explicitly *"calls on Turkish authorities to release all those arbitrarily detained, notably Selahattin Demirtaş, in compliance with court decisions"[177][160]* and *"condemns the replacement of dozens of HDP mayors by unelected trustees."* A later EP resolution in 2022 on the repression of the opposition also expressed deep concern over the closure case and the continued imprisonment of Kurdish politicians*[178][179]*. - Individual EU member states raised the Kurdish issue in bilateral forums. For instance, Germany and France's foreign ministries in 2020–2021 issued statements criticizing the HDP crackdown, and diplomats from several embassies observed politically charged trials (like the Kobani trial) as a form of oversight.

These EU criticisms, while sharp in language, were not backed by concrete conditionality beyond the frozen accession talks. Still, they annoyed Ankara and possibly contributed to Erdoğan's

calculation to soften approach by 2024 to avoid jeopardizing trade or other cooperation with Europe.

United Nations and International Human Rights Organizations

Various **UN bodies and officials** weighed in: - The **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights** in annual updates cited Turkey's actions against Kurdish officials as part of a worrying trend of civic space closure. In 2021, Michelle Bachelet's office noted with concern Turkey's attempts to shut down the HDP and the harassment of Kurdish mayors. - **UN Special Procedures**: Notably, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on torture both sent communications to Turkey during this period. For example, after the 2020 reports of Kurdish villagers tortured (Şiban and Turgut), the Special Rapporteur on torture sought information from Turkey, reminding it of obligations under CAT (Convention Against Torture). Turkey's replies were generally dismissive or denied allegations. - The **UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)** in 2023 requested information from Turkey about measures to protect Kurds from racially motivated attacks, referencing incidents such as the Deniz Poyraz murder. Turkey responded that its laws prohibited discrimination and that Poyraz's killer was being prosecuted (which was true; he was tried and eventually sentenced to life in late 2022).

Global **human rights NGOs** were a crucial voice: - **Human Rights Watch (HRW)** and **Amnesty International** issued numerous reports and briefings. HRW's World Reports each year from 2020–2025 included sections on the Kurdish conflict and crackdown, documenting arrests, the suppression of Kurdish political representation, and Turkey's disregard for ECtHR judgments*[84][180]*. Amnesty International in 2020 declared "the prosecution and jailing of opposition politicians, including from the HDP, is politically motivated and must stop." Amnesty's 2021/22 annual report criticized Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention and its impact on Kurdish women, and condemned the continued imprisonment of Demirtaş and others*[181]*. Both HRW and Amnesty lobbied foreign governments to maintain pressure on Turkey. - The **International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)**, along with Article 19 and other NGOs, made a joint submission to the Council of Europe in June 2022 regarding Demirtaş's case*[182][46]*, urging infringement proceedings and highlighting how Turkey was weaponizing law to silence opposition. The submission stated that Demirtaş's detention "represents a deepening of the rule of law crisis in Turkey" and refuted the government's purported "new evidence" excuse*[46][183]*. - **Kurdish rights groups in exile**, like the Kurdish Human Rights Project and various Kurdish diaspora organizations, also generated extensive documentation and advocacy. They frequently briefed European parliamentarians, contributing to the robust discourse in bodies like PACE and the EP.

One can observe that these international responses at least kept Turkey's abuses in the spotlight and imposed a reputational cost. They also gave moral support to Kurdish activists and a legal basis (like ECtHR rulings) for their cause. In some instances, they influenced incremental change: for example, the Council of Europe pressure likely factored into Turkey finally allowing some of Öcalan's rights (family visits, etc.) by 2024 and seeking a "process" to avoid further sanction.

However, the impact was limited in altering Turkey's behaviour until Turkey itself chose to pivot for its own reasons. During the height of repression (2020–2022), Erdoğan's government largely shrugged off international criticism, shielded by geostrategic leverage (refugee deal with EU, NATO importance, etc.). It often accused Western critics of hypocrisy or interference, insisting its counter-terror measures were necessary. Only when domestic and international incentives aligned in 2023–2024 did Turkey alter course.

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[1] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [47] [76] [77] [78] [81] [82] [89] [91] [92] [105] [106] [109] [139] [140] See below ANNEX 2 TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR (Period between 29 December 2020 and 26 December 2021)

[2] [6] [7] [20] [22] [70] [71] [84] [85] [86] [88] [103] [104] [110] [180] World Report 2022: Turkey | Human Rights Watch. *https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/turkey*

[3] [46] [66] [67] [182] [183] Turkey: End abuse of criminal proceedings against Selahattin Demirtaş | ICJ. *https://www.icj.org/resource/turkey-end-abuse-of-criminal-proceedings-against-selahattin-demirtas/*

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[8] [9] [11] [54] [95] [101] [102] [111] [112] [115] [116] [117] [119] [121] [125] [129] [130] [131] [140] See below ANNEX 3 TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR (Period between 27 December 2021 and 25 December 2022)

[12] [13] [41] [42] [43] [48] [49] [50] [51] [52] [53] [55] [56] [57] [58] [59] [60] [61] [62] [63] [64] [65] [68] [69] [72] [73] [138] See below ANNEX 1 TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR (Period between 23 June 2020 and 28 December 2020)

[23] [96] [99] [100] [122] [145] [146] [154] [161] [163] [164] [165] [166] See below ANNEX 5 TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR (Period between 1 January 2024 and 29 December 2024)

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[27] [33] [44] [167] [171] [172] See below ANNEX 6 TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR (Period between 1 January 2024 and 2 November 2025)

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[38] [151] [152] [153] [159] [160] PA Turkey. *https://www.paturkey.com/news/2025/%F0%9F%9A%A8-shockwaves-in-the-akp-mhp-alliance-bahceli-endorses-demirtas-release-and-imrali-talks-24948/*

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[178] [179] MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION on the repression of the opposition in Turkey, specifically the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP). *https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-9-2021-0411_EN.html*

[181] [PDF] Amnesty International Report 2020/21. *https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/English.pdf*

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1 TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR (Period between 23 June 2020 and 28 December 2020 – since the beginning of TRM's publication)

(*Weekly Bulletins by Solidarity with Others, a Brussels-based human rights NGO)*

Below is all the reported human rights issues related to Kurdish population (including journalists, politicians or regular citizens) from June 2020 until December 2020.

Issue 1[9]

23-29 June 2020

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

June 23: Two people from the youth branch of the Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) were briefly detained in Mardin for putting up political banners demanding education in native Kurdish.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 22: Jinnews reporter Beritan Canözer was handed down a prison sentence of 1 year, 10 months, and 15 days for "spreading terrorist propaganda" in her social media posts.

KURDISH MINORITY

June 22: Gendarmerie forces carried out early morning raids into the house of Hatice Taş, former mayor of İkiköprü town in the Batman province who was previously ousted by the interior ministry. Taş and six others were detained as part of the same investigation, according to media reports. Since the local elections last year, Turkey's interior ministry has removed from office more than 40 elected Kurdish mayors in the southeast, replacing them with pro-government trustees. Many of the mayors later faced criminal charges of alleged links to the PKK.

June 22: A government-appointed trustee who replaced the ousted Kurdish mayor of the city of Batman removed bilingual (Turkish and Kurdish) pedestrian crossing signs in the city, replacing them with monolingual signs in Turkish.

[9] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/1-EN.pdf*

June 23: Previously ousted mayor of Suruç, Hatice Çevik, was released from prison where she was held since November 2019. Çevik is standing trial for alleged membership in a terrorist organization.

June 23: Former co-mayor of Karayazı district in Erzurum, Dinçer Polat, who was detained on June 14, was arrested by the court.

June 24: A Turkish court handed down prison sentences of up to 10 years to 68 Kurdish politicians and activists, including a former elected mayor, on account of their alleged links to the PKK.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 26: Several rights groups said that Kurdish politician Sevil Rojbin Çetin was detained at her home in Diyarbakır and that during the detention the police had two dogs attack her, causing serious injury.

Issue 2[10]

30 June – 6 July 2020

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

July 5: A pro-Kurdish news outlet reported that Fatma Elarslan, a 13-year-old girl, who was found dead in the southeastern province of Şırnak after being missing for 20 days during a local curfew in February-March 2020, was registered by local prosecutors as being "killed in clashes with security forces," based on anonymous witness statements denouncing her as a "member of a terrorist organization."

KURDISH MINORITY

June 29: Belarussian news reports indicated that the Supreme Court of Belarus ruled to extradite Hicri Mamas, a Kurdish political activist, to Turkey where he is accused of "threatening the unity and territorial integrity of the state."

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

June 29: An Ankara criminal court ruled to keep behind bars Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ, former co-chairs of the Kurdish-oriented Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) who have been imprisoned since November 2016. Turkey previously defied an ECtHR order for Demirtaş's release.

[10] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/2-EN.pdf*

Issue 3[11]

7-13 July 2020

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 7: Academics Şebnem Korur Fincancı and Gençay Gürsoy were acquitted from terrorism-related charges over a peace petition they signed in 2016 calling for a peaceful solution to the conflict in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish southeast and condemning Turkish security forces' excessive use of force.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 6: The police detained nine local Kurdish politicians in the southeastern city of Batman, including the city's former co-mayor Ömer Kulplu who was removed from office by the interior ministry and replaced with a government-appointed trustee. The nine people were released within the same day.

July 7: A court ruled to arrest Sevil Rojbin Çetin, a local Kurdish politician from the ranks of HDP who was reportedly exposed to torture for three-and-a-half hours during her detention by the police on June 26.

July 8: Local Kurdish politicians Bekir Karageçit, Hıdır Oktay and İhsak Gündüz were detained in house raids in Şanlıurfa.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 7: Media reports indicated that Tacettin Kardaş who was detained on June 30 for his social media posts was subjected to torture and ill-treatment during his questioning by the police in the Kurdish-majority province of Diyarbakır.

Issue 4[12]

14-20 July 2020

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

[11] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/3-EN.pdf*

[12] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/4-EN.pdf*

July 14: A press briefing organized by the pro-Kurdish HDP in Ankara was blocked by the police who briefly detained HDP member Veli Saçılık.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 13: The police detained Betül Yaşar, the co-mayor of the Diyadin municipality in the eastern province of Ağrı, along with three others. A government-appointed trustee replaced Yaşar.

July 14: A government-appointed trustee in the Kurdish-majority province of Van instructed municipal employees to attend coup attempt commemorations on July 15. The failed putsch was a turning point for the crackdown on Kurdish politics after which more than 46 elected Kurdish mayors were removed from office by the Interior Ministry and replaced with pro-government appointees.

July 14: The police detained 33 people in Gaziantep and a number of others in Diyarbakır, including local Kurdish politicians and local journalists working for pro-Kurdish news outlets.

July 15: A Diyarbakır court upheld former Diyarbakır Mayor Adnan Selçuk Mızraklı's prison sentence for alleged links to terrorism. Mızraklı was the elected mayor of Turkey's largest Kurdish-majority city until he was ousted by the Interior Ministry in August 2019.

July 17: A military officer who allegedly assaulted a 17 year-old girl in the province of Batman was released by a court a day after his police detention.

Issue 5[13]

21-27 July 2020

KURDISH MINORITY

July 21: A court handed down prison sentences to Şehzade Kurt and Azim Yacan, the former co-mayors of a district in the Van province on terrorism-related charges. The co-mayors were previously removed from office by the Interior Ministry. They were charged with providing supplies to the militants of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), despite testimonies by municipal employees who said that the aid was distributed to refugees in the area.

July 22: The lawyer of jailed Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtaş filed an appeal with Turkey's Constitutional Court after lower courts refused to implement a European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) decision ordering his release.

[13] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/5-EN.pdf*

July 22: Sema Aişeoğlu, a Kurdish city council member in Urfa, was detained by the police as part of a terrorism related investigation.

July 22: Vedat Dağ, a local Kurdish politician in Diyarbakır, was detained by the police.

July 23: A Diyarbakır court ruled to arrest Mehmet Demir, former co-mayor of the Batman province who was previously removed from office by the Interior Ministry, on terrorism-related charges.

July 23: A mob in the central province of Yozgat reportedly attacked a group of Kurdish workers from the southeastern Mardin. MILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD

July 22: Human Rights Watch said that a Turkish airstrike on an armed group in the Kurdistan region of Iraq in late June 2020 disregarded civilian lives.

Issue 6[14]

28 July – 3 August 2020

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.

[14] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/6-EN.pdf*

Issue 7[15]

4-10 August 2020

KURDISH MINORITY

August 7: Police detained 16 people in Adana, including members of the Kurdish-oriented HDP. The detainees were also put under a 24-hour ban from contacting their lawyers.

Issue 8[16]

11-17 August 2020

KURDISH MINORITY

August 11: A total of 14 women were killed by men, two inmates died in prison, and three law enforcement officers were found dead under suspicious circumstances in the Kurdish-majority southeast during the first six months of 2020, according to a report by the Human Rights Association's (İHD) Diyarbakır branch.

August 15: The police detained two co-chairs of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) in the provinces of Aydın and Muş.

August 15: The police in Şırnak detained 14 people including HDP executives.

MILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD

August 14: Turkish forces in northeastern Syria reportedly cut off water from the Kurdish-held city of Hasakah.

August 14: A Turkey-backed armed group in Syria's Afrin arrested a Christian Kurdish man, according to Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW). The man was reportedly accused of apostasy by the rebel faction.

[15] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/7-EN.pdf*

[16] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/8-EN.pdf*

Issue 9[17]

18-24 August 2020

KURDISH MINORITY

August 18: A report released by the pro-Kurdish HDP said the Turkish government has removed 51 out of 63 of its elected mayors over the last year, replacing them with pro-government trustees.

August 19: Two HDP city councilors were detained in house raids in Siirt.

August 22: An expert report published regarding the death of Kemal Kurkut, a young Kurdish man who was shot dead by the police in Diyarbakır in 2017, said that Kurkut's killing was 'inexcusable' as there was no evidence was Kurkut was a member of a terrorist organization and that he was not a threat at the scene of the shooting.

Issue 10[18]

25-31 August 2020

KURDISH MINORITY

August 24: Fatma Kavmaz, a local HDP politician in Diyarbakır was detained and arrested the next day (Aug. 25) for alleged "membership in a terrorist group."

August 25: A report claimed that two out of Turkey's top three cell phone carriers, Türk Telekom and Vodafone, do not offer services in any Kurdish dialects despite having millions of Kurdish-speaking clients.

August 26: A court in Muş ruled to arrest local Kurdish politician Abdulbari Yiğit.

August 27: Three members of the pro-Kurdish HDP claimed to have been briefly abducted by people who introduced themselves as intelligence operatives. The HDP members alleged that the abductors took them to a remote location where they were tortured and coerced to become informants. August 30: One of pro-Kurdish HDP's district headquarters in Ankara was attacked by two people. One of the alleged perpetrators were reportedly detained by the police afterwards.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

[17] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/9-EN.pdf*

[18] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/10-EN.pdf*

August 26: Gerger Fırat, a local journalist based in Adıyaman, was arrested and sent to prison after his prison sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court of Appeals (Yargıtay).

Issue 11[19]

1-7 September 2020

KURDISH MINORITY

August 31: Burhanettin Şahin, former elected mayor of the Karayazı district in Erzurum who was removed by the interior ministry and replaced with a government appointed trustee was detained. Şahin was arrested later on September 3. He was one of the scores of pro-Kurdish HDP mayors ousted from office by the interior ministry since last year's local elections.

September 4: Sixteen Kurdish seasonal farm workers were assaulted by a farm owner and a group of villagers in the northwestern province of Sakarya in what appears to be a racist attack.

MILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD

September 5: A new report by Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Parliament said that Turkey's military incursions into the country since 1992 have uprooted residents of over 500 Kurdish villages.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 2: Kurdish Journalist Rawin Sterk, who has been imprisoned since March, was released after his first hearing about his reporting of the migrant crisis at the border with Greece.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 2: Jailed journalist Gazel Bulut revealed in a letter to an MP that she has not been allowed to see her four-year-old daughter for the past six months due to Covid-19 measures related to contact visits in prison.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 4: Media reports indicated that three people; Hamdullah Esen, Tayip Temel and Mehmet Sait Yardımcı; who were detained in house raids in Urfa for alleged membership in terrorist groups, were subjected to torture and ill-treatment while in custody at the Urfa police department. The victims reportedly had blood stains and bruises on their bodies during their meeting with their lawyer.

[19] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/11-EN.pdf*

Issue 12[20]

8-14 September 2020

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 8: Journalist Özgür Boğatekin was summoned by a prosecutor to give a statement about a Facebook post where he criticized a racist attack against Kurdish seasonal workers in Sakarya.

September 8: İstanbul prosecutors indicted musician Ferhat Tunç over the artwork of one of his albums, which features three leftist activists from the 1970s.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 10: A court in the Van province sentenced former HDP provincial co-chair Yadişen Karabulak to 7 years, 6 months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

September 11: A court sentenced pro-Kurdish HDP MP Remziye Tosun to 10 years in prison for alleged "membership in a terrorist organization."

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

September 10: Gendarmerie forces violently dispersed a protest in Mardin's Artuklu district against a local electricity distribution company, detaining nearly 20 people.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 11: A monthly rights report released by opposition MP and human rights defender Sezgin Tanrıkulu said that at least 143 people, including five children, were subjected to torture in August 2020.

Issue 13[21]

15-21 September 2020

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

[20] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/12-EN.pdf*

[21] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/13-EN.pdf*

September 15: A ruling by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) said Turkey violated the right to liberty and security as well as freedom of expression of the Sweden-based writer Ragıp Zarakolu. In 2019, the High Court of Sweden rejected Turkey's request for Zarakolu's extradition.

September 15: Germany rejected Turkey's request for mutual judicial assistance to take the testimony of musician Ferhat Tunç, who is tried by an İstanbul court for allegedly insulting the president. The court overseeing Tunç's case issued a warrant against the musician.

September 16: A prosecutor in Muş charged journalist İdris Sayılğan with terror propaganda over his Facebook posts. The journalist has already served 1,137 days behind bars.

September 17: English PEN appointed imprisoned journalist Nedim Türfent as an honorary member.

September 19: Kurdish politician Sebahat Tuncel was sentenced to 11 months in prison for insulting the president, over her remarks calling the president "an enemy of women and Kurds."

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

September 15: Jailed Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtaş in an interview to Financial Times said the ineptness of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) in preventing the Turkish government from abusing the country's judiciary had left him and thousands of others languishing in jail.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 14: An armed attack targeting Kurdish workers in Afyon claimed the life of Özkan T. while two others were wounded as a result of the incident.

September 14: Kurdish politicians, including HDP MP Murat Sarısaç, were prevented by the police from attending the funeral for Özkan T. who was killed in a racist attack in Afyon.

September 14: A military conscript, Doğan Çetin, alleged that he was battered by two soldiers in the unit for saying he wished there was education in Kurdish.

September 17: Diyarbakır prosecutors prepared a Red Notice request against Osman Baydemir, a former MP for the pro-Kurdish HDP and the former mayor of Diyarbakır. The Chief Prosecutor's Office also asked the Justice Ministry to demand Baydemir's extradition from the UK where he reportedly lives.

September 17: Former HDP MP Leyla Güven was briefly detained by the police after joining a protest held by the Saturday Mothers.

September 17: The trustee appointed by Ankara to replace the Kurdish mayor of the eastern city of Van substituted local place name signs in Kurdish with signs in Turkish.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 20: Turkish soldiers tortured two Kurdish villagers they had detained, throwing them from a helicopter after battering them, according to eyewitness claims. A medical report stated one of the villagers suffered injuries consistent with a fall from a height.

Issue 14[22]

22-28 September 2020

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

September 21: The police blocked a meeting held by the pro-Kurdish HDP in the Batman province to support the international İstanbul Convention on combating gender-based violence, from which the government has been implying Turkey's potential withdrawal. The police briefly detained six activists.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 25: Singer Hozan Cesim (Cesim Başboğa) alleged that he was summoned to a gendarmerie command post in Bitlis where he was threatened by individuals who introduced themselves as intelligence operatives, not to sing songs in Kurdish and not to attend meetings held by the pro-Kurdish HDP.

September 26: Media watchdog RTÜK imposed a five day broadcast ban against Halk TV broadcaster over remarks on a program criticizing the government's military interventions outside the country.

September 26: A Hatay court ruled to ban access to the pro-Kurdish Yeni Yaşam newspaper's website.

September 27: Kemal Subaşı, a man distributing the Kurdish-language Xwebûn newspaper was briefly detained by the police in Urfa on the grounds that the newspaper was "banned."

September 27: Musician Veysi Ermiş was briefly detained in İstanbul over his social media posts featuring videos where he sang songs in Kurdish.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

September 24: The trial of the murder of a 12-year-old girl shot dead in October 2015 in Diyarbakır during a curfew was put on hold after the Interior Ministry refused to grant permission for the prosecution of the police officer allegedly involved in the incident.

[22] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/14-EN.pdf*

KURDISH MINORITY

September 21: Columnist and leftist politician Yusuf Karataş was sentenced to 10 years, 6 months in prison on terror charges over his involvement with the pro Kurdish Democratic Society Congress (DTK).

September 21: The police blocked a meeting held by the pro-Kurdish HDP in the Batman province to support the international İstanbul Convention on combating gender-based violence, from which the government has been implying Turkey's potential withdrawal. The police briefly detained six activists.

September 22: Local HDP politician Filiz Işık was detained in Mardin on terror charges. Işık was subsequently arrested by a court on Sept. 24.

September 22: The Turkey-based Human Rights Association (İHD) released a special report on hate crimes and racist attacks in Turkey, detailing 280 racist attacks that have occurred over the past 10 years, targeting in particular Kurds and Syrian refugees.

September 24: Jailed Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtaş was indicted over his court defense in January 2020 in which he criticized the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor. Demirtaş now faces up to 3 years in prison.

September 24: Ali Boçnak, a 76-year-old sick inmate, lost his life behind bars after prosecutors refused to release him. Boçnak was serving a prison sentence for his alleged membership in the Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK).

September 24: The trial of the murder of a 12-year-old girl shot dead in October 2015 in Diyarbakır during a curfew was put on hold after the Interior Ministry refused to grant permission for the prosecution of the police officer allegedly involved in the incident.

September 25: Ankara prosecutors ordered the detention of 82 prominent pro-Kurdish politicians over their alleged role in the wave of protests in Kurdish majority cities in 2014.

September 25: Singer Hozan Cesim (Cesim Başboğa) alleged that he was summoned to a gendarmerie command post in Bitlis where he was threatened by individuals who introduced themselves as intelligence operatives, not to sing songs in Kurdish and not to attend meetings held by the pro-Kurdish HDP.

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September 27: Musician Veysi Ermiş was briefly detained in İstanbul over his social media posts featuring videos where he sang songs in Kurdish.

MISTREATMENT OF CITIZENS ABROAD

September 24: An operative working for Turkey's intelligence service (MİT) admitted to being ordered to kill Kurdish-Austrian politician Berivan Aslan.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

September 21: The police blocked a meeting held by the pro-Kurdish HDP in the Batman province to support the international İstanbul Convention on combating gender-based violence, from which the government has been implying Turkey's potential withdrawal. The police briefly detained six activists.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 24: Ali Boçnak, a 76-year-old sick inmate, lost his life behind bars after prosecutors refused to release him. Boçnak was serving a prison sentence for his alleged membership in the Kurdistan Communities Union (KCK).

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

September 22: The Turkey-based Human Rights Association (İHD) released a special report on hate crimes and racist attacks in Turkey, detailing 280 racist attacks that have occurred over the past 10 years, targeting in particular Kurds and Syrian refugees.

Issue 15[23]

29 September – 5 October 2020

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 30: The Information and Communication Technologies Authority (BTK) blocked access to Sendika.org and Yeni Demokrasi news websites as well as the pro-Kurdish Mesopotamia news agency.

October 2: Van prosecutors imposed confidentiality order on the allegations that two Kurdish villagers were thrown off military helicopters and banned broadcasting or publishing news about the issue.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

October 1: A Bursa prosecutor demanded the conviction on terror charges of jailed lawyer Levent Pişkin who is standing trial for having visited jailed Kurdish political leader Selahattin Demirtaş.

KURDISH MINORITY

[23] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/15-EN.pdf*

September 29: The police in Mersin detained local pro-Kurdish HDP politicians Gülbahar Şöfer and Barış Karabıyık in house raids.

September 30: Servet Turgut, a 55-year-old Kurdish villager who was allegedly thrown from a military helicopter, died after 20 days in intensive care. Van prosecutors imposed confidentiality order on the file and banned broadcasting or publishing news about the issue.

September 30: The police in Diyarbakır detained Gülistan Ensarioğlu, the co-mayor of the Eğil district from the pro-Kurdish HDP.

September 30: Kurdish musician Hozan Canê was released after spending two years behind bars. The musician was sentenced to 6 years, 3 months on terror charges. She was released after a court reviewing her case found the prison sentence disproportionate. Hozan Canê is also a citizen of Germany and the German government had made diplomatic efforts about her case.

September 30: The Information and Communication Technologies Authority (BTK) blocked access to the pro Kurdish Mesopotamia news agency.

October 1: Şevin Alaca, the co-mayor of the Kars province, was detained after the other co-mayor, Ayhan Bilgen, was detained last week along with 81 other pro Kurdish politicians. A trustee was appointed by the interior ministry to replace the co-mayors.

October 1: A Bursa prosecutor demanded the conviction on terror charges of jailed lawyer Levent Pişkin who is standing trial for having visited jailed Kurdish political leader Selahattin Demirtaş.

October 2: An Ankara court ruled to arrest 17 Kurdish politicians, out of the 82 who were detained last week.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 30: Servet Turgut, a 55-year-old Kurdish villager who was allegedly thrown from a military helicopter, died after 20 days in intensive care. Van prosecutors imposed confidentiality order on the file and banned broadcasting or publishing news about the issue.

Issue 16[24]

6-12 October 2020

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

[24] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/16-EN.pdf*

October 6: The governor's office in Batman imposed a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 6: Journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi and Nazan Sala were detained after they reported on two Kurdish villagers who were allegedly tortured and thrown from a military helicopter.

October 6: A Balıkesir court ruled to block access to the Rûdaw news website, a pro-Kurdish outlet based in the Iraqi Kurdistan.

October 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to the Germany-based Nupel.net news website.

October 7: Journalist Fatih Pınar was acquitted of terrorism-related charges. Pınar faced trial for sharing a photo with the hashtag #NewrozPirozBe, which means "Happy Newroz" in Kurdish.

October 8: Zeynep Durgut, a reporter for the Mezopotamya news agency was briefly detained by gendarmerie forces while covering news.

October 8: A Diyarbakır prosecutor demanded a prison sentence of up to 15 years for journalist Ayşegül Doğan, who faces terrorism-related charges over her interviews and her participation in meetings.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

October 6: The police detained Atilla Özbey and Emin Yıldız, executives of the Human Rights Association (İHD) in Ağrı, over press statements and assemblies that they attended. The two were released on probation on October 8.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 5: Three Swedish politicians were reportedly prevented by Turkish authorities from paying a visit to jailed Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtaş.

October 6: Journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi and Nazan Sala were detained after they reported on two Kurdish villagers who were allegedly tortured and thrown from a military helicopter.

October 6: The police detained a number of HDP politicians in house raids carried out in Van, Diyarbakır, Urfa, Şırnak and Siirt.

October 6: A Balıkesir court ruled to block access to the Rûdaw news website, a pro-Kurdish outlet based in the Iraqi Kurdistan.

October 8: Şevin Alaca, the former co-mayor of the Kars province who was detained on October 1 as part of a large-scale crackdown on pro-Kurdish politicians, was arrested by a court.

October 8: Hayri Bökü, a district co-chair of the pro Kurdish HDP in Manisa, was detained over a speech he made at a protest rally.

October 9: Media reports said that the Turkish authorities have been restricting Internet access of the Kurdish-majority town of Nusaybin for a year, citing security reasons.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 6: Journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi and Nazan Sala were detained after they reported on two Kurdish villagers who were allegedly tortured and thrown from a military helicopter.

Issue 17[25]

13-19 October 2020

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 12: Two of the four journalists who were arrested on last week after reporting on two Kurdish villagers allegedly tortured and thrown from a military helicopter were subjected to ill-treatment in prison, according to their lawyer.

October 13: A district governor in İstanbul banned the performance of a Kurdish-language rendition of an Italian play at the state-owned Istanbul City Theatre, citing alleged terrorism propaganda.

October 13: A quarterly media monitoring report released by Bianet said that at least four journalists were detained and 89 journalists stood trial between July and September 2020.

October 18 Some 2,500 academics worldwide signed a petition calling on Turkey to release Cihan Erdal, a researcher at Carleton University in Canada and an LGBT activist who was detained in İstanbul in September as part of a prosecution against widespread Kurdish protests in 2014.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

October 13: The lawyers of Abdullah Öcalan, the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) were prevented from seeing their client, on account of a 6-month lawyer ban imposed against Öcalan.

KURDISH MINORITY

[25] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/17-EN.pdf*

October 12: Two of the four journalists who were arrested on last week after reporting on two Kurdish villagers allegedly tortured and thrown from a military helicopter were subjected to ill-treatment in prison, according to their lawyer.

October 12: Kurdish political activists Hazal Taş and Ferit Yıldız were detained by the police in Antalya.

October 13: A district governor in İstanbul banned the performance of a Kurdish-language rendition of an Italian play at the state-owned Istanbul City Theatre, citing alleged terrorism propaganda.

October 13: Mithat Tanrıtanır, a HDP executive in İstanbul, alleged that he was briefly abducted on Oct. 7 by people who introduced themselves as police officers, and taken to a remote location where he was coerced into becoming an informant for the authorities.

October 13: Provincial HDP executives Değer Yorgun and Osman Metindir were detained as part of a terrorism-related investigation in Antalya. The two were released on probation on Oct. 16.

October 14: A Şanlıurfa court ruled to arrest local HDP politician İsmail Kaplan for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda. Kaplan was initially detained on Oct 6.

October 14: A criminal investigation report submitted to the parliament demanded the lifting of the parliamentary immunities of five HDP MPs.

October 14: A court ruled to arrest six people, including a HDP provincial executive in Malatya, on terrorism-related charges, as part of an investigation into the Democratic Society Congress (DTK).

October 16: An Ankara court remanded in custody Kurdish politicians Gültan Kışanak and Gülser Yıldırım as part of a prosecution over the widespread protests in Kurdish-majority cities back in 2014.

October 18: Some 2,500 academics worldwide signed a petition calling on Turkey to release Cihan Erdal, a researcher at Carleton University in Canada and an LGBT activist who was detained in İstanbul in September as part of a prosecution against widespread Kurdish protests in 2014.

Issue 18[26]

20-26 October 2020

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

[26] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/18-EN.pdf*

October 20: The family members of a man named Bahtiyar Fırat alleged that he was abducted by the National Intelligence Organization (MİT).

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

October 20: The Governor's Office in Van issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days, citing public health and public order reasons.

October 23: The Governor's Office in Siirt issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 19: An Ankara prosecutor demanded up to 4 years in prison for Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ, for allegedly insulting the president.

October 19: A Şanlıurfa court ruled to block access to news articles about a local ruling party member who reportedly continued to take part in party meetings after resigning due to a scandal.

October 21: Authorities excluded journalists from the first hearing of the trial regarding the 2015 murder of prominent Kurdish human rights lawyer Tahir Elçi. The court overseeing the trial rejected to hear a petition by Tahir Elçi's wife.

October 23: A freedom of expression report released by Opposition MP and human rights defender Sezgin Tanrıkulu said that 29 journalists, publishers and writers were convicted while a total of 57 journalists faced investigations in the first nine months of 2020.

October 23: A Van court ruled to block access to the pro-Kurdish Jinnews, Etkin Haber and Politez Haber websites as well as the online edition of the Yeni Demokrasi newspaper.

October 23: A Van court ruled to block access to news reports about prosecutors in charge of the investigation into the torture of two Kurdish villagers who were repeatedly thrown from a military helicopter.

October 24: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted Hülya Oruç, the wife of imprisoned journalist Aziz Oruç, over her social media posts raising allegations about negligence in prisons amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Oruç now faces charges of "provoking hatred and enmity among public."

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

October 21: Authorities excluded journalists from the first hearing of the trial regarding the 2015 murder of prominent Kurdish human rights lawyer Tahir Elçi. The court overseeing the trial rejected to hear a petition by Tahir Elçi's wife.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 19: Former Mardin co-mayor Ahmet Türk was released on probation. The Kurdish politician was among dozens who were arrested in early October as part of an investigation into a 2014 wave of protests in the Kurdish-majority cities.

October 21: The police in Maraş detained local HDP executives Bahir Horoz, Hacı Uzun and Dursun Bahça, along with three other party members.

October 22: Two provincial and two district co-chairs of the HDP were detained in Diyarbakır by the counterterrorism police.

October 23: Erdal Çakar, a local HDP politician in Muş, was briefly detained.

October 23: An Antalya court sentenced former HDP executive Nihat Akkaya to 10 months in prison for alleged terrorist propaganda.

October 23: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Zuhal Tekiner, a former deputy district co-mayor, to over 9 years in prison for terrorism-related charges.

October 23: A Van court ruled to block access to the pro-Kurdish Jinnews website. The judgment marked the 11th access block imposed on the website since its foundation in September 2017.

October 24: Abdullah Ekelik and Gönül Öztürk, HDP district co-chairs in Ağrı, were detained on terrorism related charges.

Issue 19[27]

27 October – 2 November 2020

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 26: The Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) released a report which said that over the first eight months of 2020, 38 journalists were detained, 17 journalists were arrested, 24 people were detained for "insulting the president," and the courts ruled to block access to 53 news reports, 75 websites and five social media accounts.

October 26: The police in Van briefly detained Özgür Değer Deniz, the head of a local chamber of medical doctors, over his social media posts.

October 27: Prison authorities in Kocaeli partially censored an article penned by imprisoned Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ.

[27] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/19-EN.pdf*

October 29: İstanbul prosecutors indicted Germany based journalist Burhan Ekinci for alleged terrorist propaganda over his reporting of the Kobani clashes in northern Syria in 2014.

October 29: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted journalist Nurcan Yalçın, seeking up to 15 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

October 30: A Van court ruled to block access to the websites of JinNews, Etkin News Agency (ETHA) and the Yeni Demokrasi newspaper.

October 31: The police in Diyarbakır detained Kurdish author and translator Fahriye Adsay.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 26: The Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) released a report which said that over the first eight months of 2020, the Turkish government ousted 14 elected Kurdish mayors from office, replacing them with pro-government trustees.

October 26: A woman in Diyarbakır alleged that the police tortured her and her two children (aged 7 and 16) with a dog for two hours during a raid into their house.

October 27: Kurdish politician and former MP İbrahim Binici and HDP member Mesut Bağcık were detained as part of an investigation into a series of protests in Kurdish-majority cities in 2014.

October 27: Prison authorities in Kocaeli partially censored an article penned by imprisoned Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ.

October 28: The police in Mardin detained HDP district councilwoman Samiya Demir, upon orders from Mardin prosecutors.

October 28: The police in İstanbul detained three HDP members in house raids.

October 29: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted journalist Nurcan Yalçın, seeking up to 15 years in prison on terrorism-related charges. The indictment mentioned as evidence, among others, Yalçın's membership in Rosa Women's Association, a Kurdish women's rights group.

October 30: A Van court ruled to block access to the websites of JinNews, Etkin News Agency (ETHA) and the Yeni Demokrasi newspaper. The outlets are known for their pro-Kurdish stance and their advocacy for human rights issues in the Kurdish-majority regions.

PRISON CONDITIONS

October 27: Prison authorities in Kocaeli partially censored an article penned by imprisoned Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ.

October 28: The Diyarbakır branch of the Human Rights Association (İHD) released a statement about their visit to a prison facility in Elazığ, reporting widespread lack of respect for Covid-19 social distancing requirements.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 26: A woman in Diyarbakır alleged that the police tortured her and her two children (aged 7 and 16) with a dog for two hours during a raid into their house.

Issue 20[28]

3-9 November 2020

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 3: An İstanbul appeals court overturned the acquittal of Reporters Without Borders (RSF) Turkey representative Erol Önderoğlu, writer Ahmet Nesin and prominent human rights defender Şebnem Korur Fincancı, who stood trial for spreading terrorist propaganda over their solidarity with the Özgür Gündem newspaper, which was shut down by authorities in 2016. Önderoğlu, Nesin and Financı are now to be retried. Fincancı was recently targeted by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan who accused her of being a "terrorist."

November 3: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted journalist Hakkı Boltan, who was detained on Sept. 30., for alleged membership in a terrorist organization, seeking up to 15 years in prison.

November 4: A Balıkesir court sentenced documentary film-maker Kutbettin Cebe to 2 years, 4 months in prison over a documentary he made on the Kurdish militant groups' fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in northern Syria. Cebe stood trial for allegedly "disseminating terrorist propaganda."

November 4: Edirne prosecutors launched a probe into Çetin Doğan, a military conscript who was previously assaulted by two other soldiers for advocating for Kurdish-language education, for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

November 2: Rojda Barış, a women's rights activist who was detained and arrested in June 2020 as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political movement, was sentenced to 6 years, 3 months in prison for alleged membership in a terrorist organization.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

November 5: A Gaziantep appeals court ruled in favor of a lower court decision to hand down a lenient sentence to a police officer who caused the death of two siblings aged six and seven after hitting their house with an armored vehicle in Şırnak. The officer involved was sentenced to 2

[28] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/20-EN.pdf*

years, 1 month in prison for recklessly causing the death of one or more people, which was commuted to a monetary fine, while his chief was acquitted.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 2: A Mardin court handed down prison sentences of more than six years to local HDP politicians Ali Sincar, Leyla Bozkurt, Şehmuz Sun, Alaatin Semir Zuğurli and Sedat Ay for alleged membership in a terrorist organization.

November 2: Rojda Barış, a women's rights activist who was detained and arrested in June 2020 as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political movement, was sentenced to 6 years, 3 months in prison for alleged membership in a terrorist organization.

November 2: A new report by journalist and MP Ahmet Şık revealed that Kurdish villagers Osman Şiban and Servet Turgut were tortured by a mob of soldiers and not, as initially reported, thrown from a military helicopter. Turgut had died on Sept. 30 as a result of his injuries.

November 3: Şerali Dereli, a farmer in Hakkari, was reportedly shot dead on Oct. 29 by soldiers. Family members claimed that Dereli was unarmed and taking his horses to a barn located at some 50 meters from their house. Local prosecutors subsequently summoned five soldiers for questioning, imposing travel bans to three.

November 3: A Kurdish MP was among the 65 people who on a boat arrived in the Greek town of Katakolo to flee government persecution, although the reports did not reveal whether it was a former or a current MP.

November 3: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted journalist Hakkı Boltan, who was detained on Sept. 30. as part of an investigation into a Kurdish political group, for alleged membership in a terrorist organization, seeking up to 15 years in prison.

November 3: İbrahim Binici, Mesut Bağcık and Ayşe Yağcı, HDP politicians in Urfa who were detained on Oct. 27 as part of an investigation into the 2014 protests in predominantly Kurdish cities, were arrested after appearing before a court.

November 3: Academic Adem Yıldırım was fired from the Adıyaman Üniversity over a translation he made for the Kampfplatz magazine for an interview with a Kurdish politician from northeastern Syria. The university administration cited Yıldırım's alleged ties to "terrorism" as grounds for his removal.

November 4: The police in Osmaniye detained six local members of the HDP, including provincial co-chairs Kadriye Töre and Ali Coşkun.

November 4: Edirne prosecutors launched a probe into Çetin Doğan, a military conscript who was previously assaulted by two other soldiers for advocating for Kurdish-language education, for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda.

November 5: A Gaziantep appeals court ruled in favor of a lower court decision to hand down a lenient sentence to a police officer who caused the death of two siblings aged six and seven after

hitting their house with an armored vehicle in Şırnak. The officer involved was sentenced to 2 years, 1 month in prison for recklessly causing the death of one or more people, which was commuted to a monetary fine, while his chief was acquitted.

November 6: The police detained 26 teachers in Diyarbakır over their alleged links to the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), an umbrella group of the Kurdish political movement.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

November 3: A Greek news website reported the arrival of 65 asylum seekers fleeing Turkey, including former police officers, militants of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), academics, a member of the Turkish parliament and a journalist.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 2: A new report by journalist and MP Ahmet Şık revealed that Kurdish villagers Osman Şiban and Servet Turgut were tortured by a mob of soldiers and not, as initially reported, thrown from a military helicopter. Turgut had died on Sept. 30 as a result of his injuries.

November 5: A special report released by the Human Rights Association (İHD) said that during the first 10 months of 2020 government agents used abduction and torture against a total of 160 people to coerce them into becoming informants for the authorities.

November 6: A report by opposition MP and human rights defender Sezgin Tanrıkulu said that 339 incidents of torture took place in October, 200 of which in prisons.

Issue 21[29]

10-16 November 2020

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

November 12: A Diyarbakır court sentenced activist Narin Gezgör to 7 years, 6 months in prison on terrorism charges, and prosecutors demanded up to 15 years for Sevim Coşkun, as part of an investigation into the Rosa Women's Association.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 9: An Ağrı court ruled to release on probation journalist Aziz Oruç, who was arrested in December on terrorism charges.

[29] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/21-EN.pdf*

November 10: The police in Ankara briefly detained Hamdullah Bayram, an employee of the Yeni Yaşam newspaper.

November 10: The police in Şırnak detained journalist Cihan Ölmez as part of an investigation by Diyarbakır prosecutors into the Kurdish political movements.

November 13: Bitlis prosecutors cited a storybook by imprisoned Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş as a terrorism evidence. The book was found in the house of Necmettin İşlek, who is standing trial for alleged membership in a terrorist organization.

November 13: The Governor's Offie in Şanlıurfa banned a Kurdish-language theater play.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 9: The police in Şırnak detained five people including Berivan Kutlu, former co-mayor of the Cizre district, and Güler Tunç, HDP district co-chair.

November 9: A Mardin court ruled to arrest Hasip Aktaş and Ahmet İnci, two former mayors who were detained on Oct. 30 as part of an investigation into the Democratic Society Congress (DTK).

November 9: A court ruled to arrest Ali Coşkun and Kadriye Töre, local HDP executives in Osmaniye who were detained on Nov. 4 on terrorism charges.

November 10: The police in Şırnak detained journalist Cihan Ölmez as part of an investigation by Diyarbakır prosecutors into the Kurdish political movements.

November 10: The police in Erzurum detained local HDP executives Necmettin Aydın and Adem Gözüngü. The politicians were arrested by a court on Nov. 12.

November 10: The police in Bingöl detained local HDP member Murat Aydın. The detainee was released on Nov. 11.

November 12: A Diyarbakır court sentenced activist Narin Gezgör to 7 years, 6 months in prison on terrorism charges, and prosecutors demanded up to 15 years for Sevim Coşkun, as part of an investigation into the Rosa Women's Association.

November 13: Bitlis prosecutors cited a storybook by imprisoned Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş as a terrorism evidence. The book was found in the house of Necmettin İşlek, who is standing trial for alleged membership in a terrorist organization.

November 13: The Governor's Offie in Şanlıurfa banned a Kurdish-language theater play.

Issue 22[30]

[30] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/22-En.pdf*

17-23 November 2020

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

November 16: The Governor's Office in Hakkari issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 18: Tunceli prosecutors launched an investigation into 15 women who held a protest against sexual harassment. The women are investigated for resisting the police who intervened against the protest as well as violating the local governor's office's ban on outdoor gatherings.

November 20: The Governor's Office in Van issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban has been uninterruptedly in effect since November 2016.

November 21: The police in İstanbul attacked a press briefing held by the HDP, briefly detaining 22 people including HDP İstanbul executives.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 19: An Ankara court ruled to arrest author Nezir Çakan who was detained on Nov. 12 as part of an investigation into a wave of protests in 2014 in predominantly Kurdish cities.

November 19: Mardin prosecutors indicted journalists Ahmet Kanbal, Mehmet Şah Oruç, Rojda Aydın, Halime Parlak and Nurcan Yalçın over their coverage of protests at the Mardin Municipality after the Interior Ministry ousted the city's elected mayor.

November 20: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to Jinnews website, citing national security reasons.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

November 17: Human Rights Defender and physician Serdar Küni was sentenced to 4 years, 2 months in prison for allegedly treating members of a terrorist organization during a curfew in southeastern Turkey.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

November 18: A Bursa court ruled to acquit Levent Pişkin, the lawyer of imprisoned Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş. Pişkin stood trial and was briefly detained on terrorism charges for his professional activities as Demirtaş's lawyer.

November 19: Human Rights Watch and Article 19 released a joint statement, slamming the politicially motivation prosecution of Kurdish opposition politicians.

November 20: The police in southeastern Turkey briefly detained 19 lawyers in early morning raids, as part of an investigation into the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), an umbrella group of the Kurdish political movement.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 16: A Diyarbakır court ruled to arrest Cemal Özdemir, the former mayor of the Sur district who was removed from office by the Interior Ministry and detained on Nov. 13, on terrorism-related charges.

November 16: Münevver Ceylan, a HDP member in a district city council in Muş, was removed from her position by the Interior Ministry.

November 17: Human Rights Defender and physician Serdar Küni was sentenced to 4 years, 2 months in prison for allegedly treating members of a terrorist organization during a curfew in southeastern Turkey.

November 17: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit a police officer who shot dead a young man named Kemal Kurkut during Newroz celebrations in 2017.

November 18: The police in İstanbul detained six members of the HDP.

November 18: Diyarbakır prosecutors demanded between nine to 41 years in prison for Kurdish politicians Sebahat Tuncel, Gültan Kışanak and Leyla Güven on terrorism charges.

November 18: A Bursa court ruled to acquit Levent Pişkin, the lawyer of imprisoned Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş. Pişkin stood trial and was briefly detained on terrorism charges for his professional activities as Demirtaş's lawyer.

November 19: Romanian authorities tried to deport three Kurdish asylum seekers from Turkey, including journalist Nuri Akman prosecuted in Turkey on terrorism charges. Their deportation was reportedly postponed at the last minute for unknown reasons.

November 19: An Ankara court ruled to arrest author Nezir Çakan who was detained on Nov. 12 as part of an investigation into a wave of protests in 2014 in predominantly Kurdish cities.

November 19: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local HDP politician Eşref Mamedoğlu to a total of 9 years, 7 months, 15 days in prison on terrorism-related charges.

November 19: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local HDP executive Edip Binbir to 7 years, 6 months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

November 19: Mardin prosecutors indicted journalists Ahmet Kanbal, Mehmet Şah Oruç, Rojda Aydın, Halime Parlak and Nurcan Yalçın over their coverage of protests at the Mardin Municipality after the Interior Ministry ousted the city's elected mayor.

November 19: Human Rights Watch and Article 19 released a joint statement, slamming the politicially motivation prosecution of Kurdish opposition politicians.

November 20: The police in southeastern Turkey briefly detained 19 lawyers in early morning raids, as part of an investigation into the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), an umbrella group of the Kurdish political movement.

November 20: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to Jinnews website, citing national security reasons.

November 20: Reports said that a prison administration in Diyarbakır charged inmates translation fees for letters in Kurdish, which is not required for letters in other languages.

November 21: The police in İstanbul attacked a press briefing held by the HDP, briefly detaining 22 people including HDP İstanbul executives.

November 22: The police in Diyarbakır detained local Kurdish politician İhsan Çapan.

MILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD

November 17: Turkey's military reportedly fired mortar shells at predominantly Kurdish settlements around Tel Abyad and Shahba in northern Syria.

MISTREATMENT OF CITIZENS ABROAD

November 18: Belgian prosecutors launched an investigation into an alleged email threat made against Flemish-Kurdish politician Zuhal Demir. The threat came after Demir's recent criticism of Turkey's Diyanet which runs a vast network of mosques in Europe.

November 19: Romanian authorities tried to deport three Kurdish asylum seekers from Turkey, including journalist Nuri Akman prosecuted in Turkey on terrorism charges. Their deportation was reportedly postponed at the last minute for unknown reasons.

PRISON CONDITIONS

November 19: The Human Rights Association (İHD) announced that 49 prisoners died in 2020 thus far.

November 20: Reports said that a prison administration in Diyarbakır charged inmates translation fees for letters in Kurdish, which is not required for letters in other languages.

Issue 23[31]

24-30 November 2020

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

[31] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/23-EN.pdf*

November 23: İstanbul prosecutors indicted 46 people who were detained during the police attack against the 700th sit-in of "Saturday Mothers" in August 2018. The Saturday Mothers is Turkey's longest-running peaceful protest movement that comprises family members of those who disappeared in police custody in the 1980s and 90s.

November 23: The police in İstanbul blocked a demonstration held by the HDP, detaining 22 people.

November 24: The Governor's Office in Mardin issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days. The office also imposed brief curfews in two districts.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 23: An İstanbul court sentenced former labor union executive Rahmetullah Öral to 3 years, 4 months in prison for "spreading terrorist propaganda," over his social media commentary.

November 23: Former MP Galip Ensarioğlu testified as a suspect to Diyarbakır prosecutors for offering his condolences to the family of a YPG militant killed by ISIS in Iraq.

November 24: The police in Van detained journalist Dindar Karataş on terrorism-related charges. Karataş was arrested on Nov. 26.

November 24: The police in Van raided the bureau of Mesopotamia news agency. The pro-Kurdish agency, which is known for hard-hitting reporting of human rights abuses in the predominantly Kurdish southeast, suffered its second police raid in the last two months.

November 26: The police in İstanbul detained 19 people in an operation, including an İstanbul district mayor as well as journalists Davut Uçar and Kesire Önel, over alleged ties to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

November 27: The police in Ankara detained journalist Hakan Yalçın, a reporter for the pro-Kurdish Mezopotamya Agency, over alleged ties to terrorism.

November 27: An Adıyaman court ruled to acquit journalist Hacı Boğatekin of terrorism-related charges.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

November 23: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that Turkey's judiciary violated the rights of pro-Kurdish politician Hasan Bakır by convicting him of terrorism based on anonymous witness testimonies as evidence. The recourse to anonymous testimonies is widespread in Turkish courts, particularly in terrorism related trials.

November 26: The police in Bursa detained lawyers Cahit Kırkazak, İbrahim Korhan and Mehmet Deniz over their meetings with their imprisoned clients. The lawyers also represent jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 23: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that Turkey's judiciary violated the rights of pro-Kurdish politician Hasan Bakır by convicting him of terrorism based on anonymous witness testimonies as evidence. The recourse to anonymous testimonies is widespread in Turkish courts, particularly in terrorism related trials.

November 23: Former MP Galip Ensarioğlu testified as a suspect to Diyarbakır prosecutors for offering his condolences to the family of a YPG militant killed by ISIS in Iraq.

November 24: The police detained Dr. Şeyhmus Gökalp, a member of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB), as part of an investigation into the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), a pro-Kurdish political network.

November 24: The police in Van detained journalist Dindar Karataş on terrorism-related charges. Karataş was arrested on Nov. 26.

November 25: President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in a speech referred to jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş as a terrorist.

November 26: The police in İstanbul detained 19 people in an operation, including an İstanbul district mayor as well as journalists Davut Uçar and Kesire Önel, over alleged ties to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

November 23: The police in İstanbul blocked a demonstration held by the HDP, detaining 22 people.

November 26: A Diyarbakır court sentenced HDP MP Kemal Bülbül to 6 years, 3 months on terrorism charges.

November 26: The police in Bursa detained lawyers Cahit Kırkazak, İbrahim Korhan and Mehmet Deniz over their meetings with their imprisoned clients. The lawyers also represent jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş.

November 26: Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu announced that the Turkish government has ousted 151 mayors from office since 2014, mostly on accusations of having ties to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

November 27: The police in Ankara detained journalist Hakan Yalçın over alleged ties to terrorism.

November 27: The police in Van detained four people in raids, including HDP provincial co-chair Ökkeş Kava.

November 27: Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu during a parliamentary committee meeting said Kurdish villagers Servet Turgut and Osman Şiban, who were allegedly tortured by Turkish security forces in September, had been aiding members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The villagers were found by their families in a hospital with serious injuries two days after they

were detained as part of an operation conducted by Turkish security forces in Van. Turgut succumbed to his injuries on Sept. 30. Authorities denied the torture allegation while four journalists who reported the incidents were arrested and an access block was imposed on the news reports about the allegation.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 27: Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu during a parliamentary committee meeting said Kurdish villagers Servet Turgut and Osman Şiban, who were allegedly tortured by Turkish security forces in September, had been aiding members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The villagers were found by their families in a hospital with serious injuries two days after they were detained as part of an operation conducted by Turkish security forces in Van. Turgut succumbed to his injuries on Sept. 30. Authorities denied the torture allegation while four journalists who reported the incidents were arrested and an access block was imposed on the news reports about the allegation.

Issue 24[32]

1-7 December 2020

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

November 30: Bahtiyar Fırat, a Kurdish man who went missing upon arrival in İstanbul in October turned up in custody in an İstanbul police station after 45 days of disappearance. Family members reported seeing marks of torture on Fırat during their meeting.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

December 4: A Bitlis court sentenced Kurdish writer Gulgeş Deryaspi to 6 years, 3 months in prison for alleged membership in a terrorist organization, over her participation in protest marches and demonstrations.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 1: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Velat Öztekin to 1 year, 6 months, 22 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda. Öztekin is a former employee of the now-closed Kurdish-language Azadiya Welat newspaper.

December 2: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Dicle Müftüoğlu to 1 year, 3 months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda, over a report featuring the picture of a Kurdish militant in Syria.

[32] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/24-EN.pdf*

December 2: An İstanbul court ruled to sentence university students Roza Kahya and Pelin Şahin to 1 year in prison and 10 months in prison respectively on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, for hanging a banner in the university campus protesting Turkey's military incursion into northwestern Syria.

December 4: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to the new URL of the Jinnews website.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 30: Guards in a Kocaeli prison raided the wards of Kurdish politicians after they launched a hunger strike to protest prison conditions, confiscating their books, notes and pens.

December 1: The police in Şırnak detained 20 local Kurdish politician, including Berivan Kutlu, the former district co-mayor of Cizre who was ousted by the Interior Ministry and local HDP executive Sekvan Kılınç.

December 1: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Velat Öztekin to 1 year, 6 months, 22 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda. Öztekin is a former employee of the now-closed Kurdish language Azadiya Welat newspaper.

December 1: The police in Diyarbakır detained local HDP officials Emine Kaya, Resul Sadak and Suna Güneş.

December 1: The police in Denizli briefly detained five local HDP politicians and activists.

December 2: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Dicle Müftüoğlu to 1 year, 3 months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda, over a report featuring the picture of a Kurdish militant in Syria.

December 2: An İstanbul court ruled to arrest Şişli deputy mayor Cihan Yavuz who was detained on Oct. 26 as part of an investigation into Kurdish political groups.

December 2: The Interior Ministry removed from office three members of the Şırnak city council who were detained on Dec. 1.

December 3: A fine amounting to TL 140.000 (€ 15.000) was imposed on 45 HDP politicians and supporters for violating social distancing rules during a demonstration held to protest the arrest of local HDP politicians in Osmaniye.

December 4: A Bitlis court sentenced Kurdish writer Gulgeş Deryaspi to 6 years, 3 months in prison for alleged membership in a terrorist organization, over her participation in protest marches and demonstrations.

December 4: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to the new URL of the Jinnews website.

PRISON CONDITIONS

November 30: Guards in a Kocaeli prison raided the wards of Kurdish politicians after they launched a hunger strike to protest prison conditions, confiscating their books, notes and pens.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

December 4: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison tortured prisoner Mehmet Sıdık Meşe and threatened him with death not to reveal the torture.

Issue 25[33]

8-14 December 2020

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

December 7: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Ayşegül Doğan to six years, three months on terrorism charges for attending meetings of the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Congress (DTK) and conducting interviews with DTK members.

December 7: The police in Van violently blocked a protest held by HDP about the sexual harassment allegations in Batman, using excessive force against local journalists covering the event.

December 8: The police in İstanbul blocked a protest held by the HDP, detaining one party member.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 7: The police detained 27 people over social media posts about the alleged sexual abuse of a 15-year old girl in a southeastern province by 27 men, including public officials.

December 7: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Ayşegül Doğan to six years, three months on terrorism charges for attending meetings of the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Congress (DTK) and conducting interviews with DTK members.

December 7: A Batman court ruled to block access to several news stories about allegations of sexual harassment of a 15-year-old girl in the city, including by public officials.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 7: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Ayşegül Doğan to six years, three months on terrorism charges for attending meetings of the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Congress (DTK) and conducting interviews with DTK members.

[33] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/25-EN.pdf*

December 7: The police in Mersin detained local HDP executive Ali Bilen.

December 7: The police in Van violently blocked a protest held by HDP about the sexual harassment allegations in Batman, using excessive force against local journalists covering the event.

December 8: Meryem Adıbelli, a HDP politician in Gaziantep, was detained and arrested as part of an investigation into the Kobani protests of 2014.

December 8: A court sentenced HDP Erzurum provincial executive Ömer Cemal Yazıcıoğlu to 11 months, 20 days in prison on terrorism-related charges.

December 8: The police in İstanbul blocked a protest held by the HDP, detaining one party member.

December 9: The police in Şırnak detained HDP youth council member Ercan Oğuz on terrorism charges. Oğuz was arrested by a court on Dec. 10.

December 10: The Constitutional Court rejected a request for the release of Abdullah Turan, who is paralyzed from the neck down, despite a medical report deeming him physically unfit to remain in prison. Turan was arrested for alleged membership in the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

December 10: The Interior Ministry removed from office Hamide Turan, a HDP city council member in Ağrı.

December 12: Devlet Bahçeli, the leader of the nationalist MHP and a governing partner of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, called on the judiciary to shut down the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP).

December 12: The Interior Ministry removed from offive Cemile Altan, a HDP city council member in Siirt, citing her terrorism-related investigation by a court.

Issue 26[34]

15-21 December 2020

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

December 15: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

[34] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/26-EN.pdf*

December 16: The police in Şanlıurfa detained Emine Şenyaşar and Ferit Şenyaşar while staging a sit-in protest. The two were released on Dec. 18.

December 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 17: The police in İstanbul blocked a panel discussion organized by the HDP, detaining four people.

December 17: The police in Şanlıurfa detained four members of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TİP) while distributing government-critical flyers.

December 18: The police in İstanbul violently blocked a press briefing by the HDP, battering politicians Sezai Temelli and Ferhat Encü and detaining a number of people.

December 20: The police in Batman detained four people for participating in protests in Kurdish-majority cities in 2014.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 14: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former local district co-mayor Rojda Nazlıer to nine years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

December 15: The police in Şanlıurfa detained local HDP executive Ömer Karadağ on terrorism-related charges. On Dec. 18, Karadağ was arrested after appearing before a court.

December 15: Two people were physically assaulted in Manisa for speaking in Kurdish on the phone. December 15: The police in Şanlıurfa briefly detained local HDP politician Hülya Biçen.

December 16: A group of HDP members and journalists were physically attacked by a mob near the HDP provincial headquarters in Diyarbakır.

December 16: Devlet Bahçeli, the leader of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) once again called for the closure of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), using genocidal language.

December 17: The police in İstanbul blocked a panel discussion organized by the HDP, detaining four people. December 18: The police in İstanbul violently blocked a press briefing by the HDP, battering politicians Sezai Temelli and Ferhat Encü and detaining a number of people.

December 20: The police in Batman detained four people for participating in protests in Kurdish-majority cities in 2014. MILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD

December 20: The Syrian government claimed that Turkey and Turkey-backed militant factions were cutting water supply to Kurdish-held areas in northeast Syria. Turkey denied the allegation.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

December 16: Prison guards in Diyarbakır allegedly battered inmate Tarık Kar for refusing a strip-search. Kar went on a hunger strike to protest physical violence by guards and denial of medication that he needs to take regularly.

Issue 27[35]

22-28 December 2020

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 21: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to the pro-Kurdish JinNews website. The decision constituted the 27th such ban on the website.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

December 24: Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu verbally targeted opposition MP and prominent human rights defender Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu for raising the allegations of undue strip-searches in prisons. Soylu accused Gergerlioğlu of being a "terrorist." Gergerlioğlu also filed criminal complaints against a local police chief for failure to take action on the allegations.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

December 22: The Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş's detention since 2016 was politically motivated, ordering his release. President Erdoğan accused the court of trying to replace the country's judiciary and Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu called the judgment "meaningless." On Dec. 26, an Ankara court refused an application for the implementation of the ECtHR judgment.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 21: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former HDP MP Leyla Güven to 22 years, three months on terrorism charges. Güven was ousted from the parliament in June. She was sent to prison on Dec. 22.

December 21: The police in İstanbul detained ESP politician Uğur Ok on terrorism charges. Ok was arrested on Dec. 25 after appearing before a court.

December 22: The Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş's detention since 2016 was politically motivated, ordering his release. President Erdoğan accused the court of trying to replace the country's judiciary and Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu called the judgment "meaningless." On Dec. 26, an Ankara court refused an application for the implementation of the ECtHR judgment. December 22: The police

[35] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/27-EN.pdf*

in İstanbul attacked a demonstration organized to protest the arrest of HDP politician Leyla Güven, using excessive violence against wheelchair-bound HDP MP Musa Piroğlu, and detaining 14 people.

December 22: The police in Balıkesir carried out house raids to detain four local HDP members.

December 23: A Diyarbakır court handed down prison sentences of six and eight years to Rosa Women's Association members Gülistan Nazlıer and Sevim Coşkun on terrorism charges.

December 23: The police in Diyarbakır carried out a violent house raid to detain four local HDP politicians.

December 23: A study showed that 70 percent of Kurdish youths in Turkey encounter discrimination in their daily lives.

December 23: Authorities launched an investigation into a military conscript who in a video circulating on social media was seen singing in Kurdish.

December 24: The police in Ağrı detained local HDP executive Cemal Akar and HDP member Ceren Barış.

December 25: The police in Tunceli detained journalist Gülistan Azak for an investigation launched in 2018. Azak works for the pro-Kurdish JinNews website.

December 25: Sakarya prosecutors decided for a non-prosecution about the apparently racist attack on a group of Kurdish seasonal workers in the city.

ANNEX 2 TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR (Period between 29 December 2020 and 26 December 2021)

(*Weekly Bulletins by Solidarity with Others, a Brussels-based human rights NGO)*

Below is all the reported human rights issues related to Kurdish population (including journalists, politicians or regular citizens) from December 2020 until December 2021.

Issue 28[36]

29 December 2020 – 4 January 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

December 31: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 1: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 29: Darmstadt prosecutors in Germany rejected Turkey's request to take exiled musician Ferhat Tunç's statement for an ongoing trial in an İstanbul court where Tunç is charged with spreading terrorist propaganda over his social media commentary.

December 29: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Mazlum Dolan to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 31: Ankara prosecutors drafted a new indictment about street protests in the predominantly Kurdish Southeast in 2014 that claimed the lives of 37 people. The indictment seeks punishment for 108 suspects, including politician Selahattin Demirtaş who is already imprisoned on terrorism-related charges.

January 1: Renowned Kurdish poet, writer and journalist Yılmaz Odabaşı was briefly detained on charges related to a dispute he had with a government supporter who harassed him in front of his house. Odabaşı was released on Jan. 2. The detention came immediately after he criticized the ongoing government crackdown on the faith-based Gülen movement.

[36] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/28-EN.pdf*

Issue 29[37]

4-10 January 2021

KURDISH MINORITY

January 5: The police in İstanbul detained journalist Mehmet Aslan in a house raid. Aslan, a reporter for the pro-Kurdish Mezopotamya Agency, was arrested on terrorism-related charges on Jan. 8.

January 5: Kars prosecutors issued an indictment against Şevin Alaca, former co-mayor of Kars who was previously removed from office by the Interior Ministry, seeking up to 15 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

January 7: An Ankara court accepted an indictment naming 108 people including jailed Kurdish politicians Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ in connection to street protests in the country's Southeast in 2014.

January 7: The Interior Ministry removed from office two district council members in Gaziantep, Hurşit Besle and Adnan Erol, citing ongoing terrorism-related investigations into them.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 9: Security forces in Hakkari reportedly raided a house to detain Ekber Hudai and İbrahim Fırat for alleged cross-border cigarette smuggling, physically abusing the two in order to coerce them to admit to the accusations.

January 9: Opposition MP Sezgin Tanrıkulu published a monthly report which found that 240 incidents of torture and ill-treatment occurred in December, 143 of them in prisons.

Issue 30[38]

11-17 January 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

[37] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/29-EN.pdf*

[38] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/30-EN.pdf*

January 12: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 14: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Mehmet Emin Aktar, former head of the Diyarbakır Bar Association, to six years, three months on terrorism-related charges, over his attendance in demonstrations organized by the Democratic Society Congress (DTK).

January 14: The Batman Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 15: A Bitlis court sentenced 24 people, including local politicians, to one year, three months in prison each for attending an unauthorized demonstration in January 2016.

January 15: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 16: An annual human rights report published by opposition MP Sezgin Tanrıkulu found that the police intervened in 753 demonstrations, public press statements and assemblies in 2020, detaining at least 2,123 people, including two children, and arresting 44 among those who attended the events. A total of 294 people were convicted in cases related to those activities.

January 13: An İstanbul court filed a lawsuit against journalist Melis Alphan for posting a photo from Newroz celebrations in Turkey's Kurdish-majority Southeast in 2015. Alphan now faces up to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

January 13: The police in Urfa detained nine people in house raids, on the charge of "spreading terrorist propaganda on social media."

KURDISH MINORITY

January 13: A court in Şırnak ruled to arrest local HDP politician Resul Sadak on terrorism-related charges.

January 13: Ankara prosecutors started drafting summaries of proceedings for nine HDP lawmakers, including HDP Co-chair Pervin Buldan, accusing them of "instigating" street protests in Turkey's Southeast in 2014 that claimed the lives of 37 people.

January 13: An İstanbul court filed a lawsuit against journalist Melis Alphan for posting a photo from Newroz celebrations in Turkey's Kurdish-majority Southeast in 2015. Alphan now faces up to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

January 14: The police in 12 provinces detained 48 people, including HDP politician Sıtkı Güngör and journalist Pınar Gayıp, upon detention warrants issued by İzmir prosecutors.

January 14: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Mehmet Emin Aktar, former head of the Diyarbakır Bar Association, to six years, three months on terrorism-related charges, over his attendance in demonstrations organized by the Democratic Society Congress (DTK).

January 14: The police in Şırnak reportedly forced an underage in custody to read out the Turkish national anthem for a day.

January 15: A Bitlis court sentenced 24 people, including local politicians, to one year, three months in prison each for attending an unauthorized demonstration in January 2016.

January 16: An annual human rights report published by opposition MP Sezgin Tanrıkulu found that 226 political party and municipality chairs and members, the majority of them from the pro-Kurdish HDP, were arrested, while 52 elected officials were removed from their posts and replaced with government-appointed trustees in 2020. The report also underlined that an Ankara court on Dec. 26 rejected a call by the European Court of Human Rights for the immediate release of Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş, who has been behind bars on politically motivated charges since November 2016.

PRISON CONDITIONS

January 13: A law firm announced that Abdullah Öcalan, the jailed leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), and other prisoners held at the İmralı High-Security Type-F Prison have not been able to communicate with the outside world since April 2020.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 12: The guards in a Gümüşhane prison physically assaulted three prisoners.

January 12: The gendarmerie forces in Diyarbakır physically assaulted two people while detaining them during a house raid.

January 14: The police in Şırnak reportedly forced an underage in custody to read out the Turkish national anthem for a day.

Issue 31[39]

18-24 January 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

January 18: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban has been uninterruptedly sustained since November 2016 in the province, through consecutive extensions introduced by the Governor's Office.

[39] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/31-EN.pdf*

January 21: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Zeynel Abidin Bulut to 10 months in prison on the charge of spreading terrorist propaganda, over his attendance in a commemoration of a deceased journalist.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 19: İstanbul prosecutors issued a detention warrant for journalist Cengiz Çandar on the charge of praising crime and criminals over a 2017 tweet decrying the death of a woman killed while fighting ISIS among Kurdish militants in northern Syria.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

January 21: The European Parliament adopted a resolution calling on Turkey to implement a European Court of Human Rights decision ordering the immediate release of jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 18: Ankara prosecutors are reportedly drafting summaries of proceedings against nine HDP deputies to lift their parliamentary immunity over the protests in Kurdish-majority cities in 2014.

January 20: A Diyarbakır court issued an arrest warrant for HDP deputy Hatice Kocaman who stands trial on terrorism charges, facing up to 15 years in prison.

January 21: The police in İstanbul blocked a public press statement held by the HDP about hunger strikes in Turkey's prisons, briefly detaining eight people.

January 21: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Zeynel Abidin Bulut to 10 months in prison on the charge of spreading terrorist propaganda, over his attendance in a commemoration of a deceased journalist.

January 21: The European Parliament adopted a resolution calling on Turkey to implement a European Court of Human Rights decision ordering the immediate release of jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş.

January 24: The police in İstanbul raided HDP district headquarters, briefly detaining two HDP district executives.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 19: Prison guards in Gaziantep physically assaulted inmate Ömer Levent after he refused to go through a strip-search.

Issue 32[40]

25-31 January 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

January 25: The police in Şanlıurfa briefly detained three people for hanging a banner on a building about the hunger strikes in prisons.

January 26: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

January 27: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

January 29: The police in Batman blocked a march organized by pro-Kurdish political groups, detaining 26 people.

January 29: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 25: The police in Diyarbakır summoned for a questioning 59-year-old illiterate woman Şükran Akboğa due to a social media message she allegedly posted.

January 28: The police in Batman detained seven local HDP politicians in house raids over their social media messages.

January 29: A Van court sentenced local journalist Nahide Aslan to one year, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

January 25: Murat Uçum, a senior legal adviser to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, said in an interview that the judgments delivered by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) are not "binding on the merits." Turkey has famously defied ECtHR orders for the release of Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş and civil society leader Osman Kavala.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 25: The police in İstanbul detained local HDP executives Ercan Sağlam and Dilan Kılıç. Sağlam was arrested by a court later while Kılıç was released later in the day.

[40] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/32-EN.pdf*

January 28: The police in Batman detained seven local HDP politicians in house raids over their social media messages.

January 29: The police in Batman blocked a march organized by pro-Kurdish political groups, detaining 26 people.

PRISON CONDITIONS

January 28: Miktad Doğan, a 30-year-old inmate in pretrial detention suffering from a serious liver disease, said he was belatedly taken to the hospital and made to stay in a filthy quarantine cell upon return to prison, in a letter to the Turkish Parliament's Human Rights Committee.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

January 27: A Diyarbakır court ruled to arrest Ayşe Gökkan, a spokesperson for a women's rights group.

Issue 33[41]

1-7 February 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

February 4: The police in İstanbul blocked a pro-Kurdish demonstration, detaining 68 people, four of whom minors, including journalist Rojin Altay. The minors as well as Altay were released the next day.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 1: A Muş court sentenced journalist İdris Sayılğan to four years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

February 3: An İstanbul court began the retrial of Erol Önderoğlu, the Turkey representative of Reporters Without Borders (RSF). Önderoğlu is facing up to almost 15 years in prison for joining a campaign to support a newspaper that was shut down in 2016 for allegedly having links to outlawed Kurdish militants. Forensic scientist and prominent human rights defender Şebnem Korur-Fincancı and exiled journalist Ahmet Nesin are also standing trial in the case.

February 3: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to the website of Gazete Alınteri.

[41] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/33-EN.pdf*

February 3: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit Hülya Oruç, the wife of imprisoned journalist Aziz Oruç, of charges of "provoking hatred and enmity among public." Oruç faced the charges over her social media commentary.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 1: A Muş court sentenced journalist İdris Sayılğan to four years in prison on terrorism-related charges. Sayılğan stood trial over his work for the pro Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency.

February 1: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) asked Turkey to provide its defense for the pre trial detention of Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş in connection to street protests in the country's Southeast in 2014.

February 2: The police in İstanbul reportedly coerced local HDP members Sinan Alabakır and Gülay Alabukan to become an informant for the state during their questioning. The two were detained a week before.

February 3: The police in six provinces detained nine members and executives of the HDP as part of an operation ordered by Ankara prosecutors. Two of the detainees were arrested after appearing before a court while seven were released to house arrest.

February 3: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local politician Garip Kandemir to six months, three years in prison on terrorism-related charges. February 4: The police in Ankara unlawfully detained in car and threatened Ronda Bat and Sultan Taş, two women who are members of the HDP youth council.

February 4: The police in İstanbul blocked a pro-Kurdish demonstration, detaining 68 people, four of whom minors, including journalist Rojin Altay. The minors as well as Altay were released the next day.

February 7: The police in İstanbul detained local HDP youth member Muhammed Ünal over his social media messages. Ünal was arrested after appearing before a court.

MILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD

February 3: Human Rights Watch condemned the illegal transfer to Turkey of more than 60 Syrians arrested by Turkey and its local proxies in Syria's northeast in 2019, on account of their alleged links to Kurdish militia in the region that Turkey views as "terrorists."

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 2: The guards at a Malatya prison assaulted prisoners who refused to undergo strip-searches.

February 5: The guards at a Kahramanmaraş prison reportedly assaulted inmates Sedat Karak, Veysi Altan, Servan Sertkaya, Orhan Doru and İhsan Oran.

Issue 34[42]

8-14 February 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

February 9: An İstanbul court ruled to release on parole 61 people, including local pro-Kurdish politicians, who were detained last week for holding a demonstration in the Kadıköy district.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

[42] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/34-EN.pdf*

February 11: An Ankara court ruled to acquit jailed Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ of the charge of insulting the president over a written statement that she released when she was the co-chair of the HDP. Yüksekdağ continues to stand trial on terrorism-related charges, along with former co-chair Selahattin Demirtaş.

February 11: The police in Konya detained seven people including local HDP politician Süleyman İnan over their social media posts. The detainees were released the next day.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

February 10: A Diyarbakır court ruled to release Şeyhmus Gökalp, physician and member of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) who was arrested in late November 2020. Gökalp was released upon the first hearing of his trial where he is facing up to 15 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 9: The police in Bitlis detained local HDP city council member Ekrem Yalçın. Yalçın was released on probation on Feb. 12.

February 9: An İstanbul court ruled to release on parole 61 people, including local pro-Kurdish politicians, who were detained last week for holding a demonstration in the Kadıköy district.

February 10: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former HDP district executive Arzu Karaman to nine years in prison on terrorism charges.

February 11: The European Court of Human Rights delivered its verdict in the case of 10 politicians from the now-closed pro-Kurdish People's Democracy Party (HADEP), 14 years after the case was brought before it, ruling that Turkey had violated the plaintiffs' right to freedom of assembly and association.

February 11: The police in Konya detained seven people including local HDP politician Süleyman İnan over their social media posts. The detainees were released the next day.

February 12: The police in Kocaeli detained 13 people including local HDP members in house raids.

February 13: The police in Şırnak detained local HDP member Mustafa Dal. February 14: The police in Adın detained nine people including local HDP members and executives.

February 14: The police in Yalova detained eight local HDP executives.

February 14: The police in Mersin detained local HDP executive Songül Eriş.

February 14: The police in Batman detained eight people including local HDP executives. Three of the detainees were released the same day.

February 14: HDP released a statement announcing that between Feb. 12 and Feb. 14 authorities detained at least 143 party members and executives across the country.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 12: Speaker of the Turkish Parliament Mustafa Şentop returned a letter of a torture victim that was submitted to the parliament by pro-Kurdish HDP MP lawmaker Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu, claiming that it contained "vulgar and hurtful words." The letter contained the details of the victim's brutal treatment during his detention in 1990.

Issue 35[43]

15-21 February 2021

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

February 15: The police detained 718 people including HDP politicians on terrorism charges. The wave of detentions came a day after the government announced the killing of 13 Turkish nationals held hostage in northern Iraq by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

February 20: Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 15: An İstanbul court handed down suspended prison sentences to four journalists and human rights activists who stood trial on charges of terrorism for guest-editing the now-defunct Özgür Gündem newspaper and campaigning against efforts to censor it in 2016.

February 15: Ankara prosecutors launched investigations into HDP lawmakers Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu and Hüda Kaya over their remarks criticizing a botched military operation in northern Iraq.

February 16: A prosecutor indicted journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi, Nazan Sala and Zeynep Durgut, seeking imprisonment on terrorism related charges, over their coverage on the alleged torture of two Kurdish villagers at the hands of the soldiers in the eastern province of Van.

[43] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/35-EN.pdf*

February 18: A Şanlıurfa court ruled to arrest a man named Müslüm Abbas on the charge of spreading terrorist propaganda.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

February 15: An İstanbul court handed down a suspended prison sentence of six years, three months to human rights activist Eren Keskin who stood trial on charges of terrorism for guest-editing the now-defunct Özgür Gündem newspaper and campaigning against efforts to censor it in 2016.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 15: The police detained 718 people including HDP politicians on terrorism charges. The wave of detentions came a day after the government announced the killing of 13 Turkish nationals held hostage in northern Iraq by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Most of the detainees were released on probation during the week.

February 15: An İstanbul court handed down suspended prison sentences to four journalists and human rights activists who stood trial on charges of terrorism for guest-editing Özgür Gündem, a now defunct newspaper that had focused on Kurdish issues.

February 15: A Kars court ruled to arrest three people out of the six local HDP executives and associates who were detained on Feb. 12. The remaining three were released on probation.

February 15: Ankara prosecutors launched investigations into HDP lawmakers Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu and Hüda Kaya over their remarks criticizing a botched military operation in northern Iraq.

February 16: A Kars court ruled to arrest three people, including local HDP executive Sevda Subaşı who were detained on Feb. 12.

February 16: A prosecutor indicted journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi, Nazan Sala and Zeynep Durgut, seeking imprisonment on terrorism related charges, over their coverage on the alleged torture of two Kurdish villagers at the hands of the soldiers in the eastern province of Van.

February 16: Several courts blocked access to 10 news websites between February 2 and 16, including pro Kurdish websites, citing national security and public order reasons.

February 16: A Kocaeli court ruled to release on probation 13 local HDP members who were detained on Feb. 12.

February 17: A Yalova court ruled to arrest five of the eight local HDP officials who were detained on Feb. 14 on terrorism-related charges, while releasing the remaining three on probation.

February 18: The authorities in Aydın released on probation 13 people, including local HDP executives, who were detained on Feb .14. The police reportedly conducted a strip-search on the detainees.

February 18: A Mardin court ruled to arrest former HDP district co-chair Mehmet Selim Kılıç on terrorism-related charges.

February 19: The Supreme Court of Appeals upheld a prison sentence of two years, six months handed down to HDP MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda, over a social media message in August 2016.

February 19: Ankara prosecutors prepared summaries of proceedings for nine HDP lawmakers, seeking to lift their parliamentary immunities, for allegedly organizing a wave of protests in predominantly Kurdish cities in October 2014.

February 19: Dilek Hatipoğlu, the former mayor of Hakkari who was removed from office by the Interior Ministry in 2015, attended the latest hearing of her trial with a black eye. She said she had been beaten by prison guards and subjected to strip-searches.

February 20: A Bitlis court ruled to arrest HDP city council member Ekrem Yalçın on terrorism-related charges. Previously, Yalçın was detained on Feb. 9 and released on probation three days later.

MISTREATMENT OF CITIZENS ABROAD

February 19: İsmail Hakkı Pekin, a former intelligence official at the Turkish General Staff, inadvertently revealed while speaking on a TV program the possible role of the National Intelligence Organization (MİT) in the killing of three Kurdish women in Paris in 2013.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 16: A prosecutor indicted journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi, Nazan Sala and Zeynep Durgut, seeking imprisonment on terrorism related charges, over their coverage on the alleged torture of two Kurdish villagers at the hands of the soldiers in the eastern province of Van.

February 18: The police in Aydın conducted a strip search on four local HDP executives in custody.

February 19: Dilek Hatipoğlu, the former mayor of Hakkari who was removed from office by the Interior Ministry in 2015, attended the latest hearing of her trial with a black eye. She said she had been beaten by prison guards and subjected to strip-searches.

Issue 36[44]

22-28 February 2021

[44] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 36 | February 22-28, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/36-EN.pdf*

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 22: A Kayseri court ruled to block access to the website of the Mezopotamya news agency.

February 22: An Ardahan court ruled to block access to the website of the pro-Kurdish Nerina Azad news website.

February 24: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit journalist Hakkı Boltan who was facing terrorism-related charges as part of a trial against the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Congress (DTK).

February 24: Van prosecutors launched an investigation into HDP MPs Berdan Öz, Sezai Temelli, Muazzez Orhan Işık, Tayip Temel and Murat Sarısaç over their speeches and social media commentary.

February 28: A Diyarbakır court charged a local man with terrorist propaganda over a social media post about former US president's 2019 letter to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 22: Prosecutors launched an investigation into pro-Kurdish lawmaker Dirayet Dilan Taşdemir for allegedly travelling to a Kurdish-controlled region of Iraq where 13 hostages were killed in a failed rescue operation.

February 22: A Manisa court ruled to arrest three out of seven local HDP youth detained on Feb. 15 while releasing on probation the remaining four.

February 22: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Democratic Society Congress (DTK) member Jiyan Taş to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

February 22: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former district co-mayor Filiz Buluttekin to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

February 22: A Kayseri court ruled to block access to the website of the Mezopotamya news agency, which is known for its reporting on rights violations in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish southeast.

February 22: An Ardahan court ruled to block access to the website of the pro-Kurdish Nerina Azad news website.

February 22: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former district co-mayor Filiz Buluttekin to seven years, six months on terrorism-related charges.

February 24: Van prosecutors launched an investigation into HDP MPs Berdan Öz, Sezai Temelli, Muazzez Orhan Işık, Tayip Temel and Murat Sarısaç over their speeches and social media commentary.

February 24: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit journalist Hakkı Boltan who was facing terrorism-related charges as part of a trial against the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Congress (DTK).

February 26: A Diyarbakır court sentenced provincial HDP executive Mehmet Sayit Demir to six years, eight months on charges of terrorism and violation of the law on demonstrations and marches.

February 27: The police in Diyarbakır detained 14 people, including HDP members. The reason for the detentions was not disclosed on account of confidentiality orders.

February 28: The police in Mardin detained five local HDP members. Four of the detainees were released after appearing before a court the same day.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 23: The Constitutional Court ruled in favor of Kurdish politician İbrahim Halil Baran who submitted an individual application to the court in 2017 that he was tortured by police in detention in Şanlıurfa.

February 27: Gendarmerie in Şanlıurfa physically assaulted a woman during a detention operation.

Issue 37[45]

1-7 March 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

March 1: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 1: The Şırnak Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 3: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. Through consecutive extensions the ban has been kept uninterruptedly in effect since 2016.

March 5: The Batman Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

[45] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 37 | March 1-7, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/37-EN.pdf*

March 7: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 3: An Osmaniye court ruled to block access to the Mezopotamya news agency. The decision constituted the second access block imposed on the news agency, known for its focus on human rights violations in the Kurdish-majority regions.

March 4: Batman prosecutors launched an investigation into the provincial HDP administration over its social media commentary for allegedly provoking hatred and enmity among public.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

March 2: Forensic Architecture, a London-based multidisciplinary research group, said that their findings contradicted with Turkish prosecutors' indictment concerning the killing of prominent human rights lawyer Tahir Elçi. The researchers said Elçi was killed not by the militants of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) as alleged by the indictment but rather by the police officers present at the scene.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 2: The Supreme Court of Appeals launched an investigation into the HDP, asking for documents from Ankara prosecutors related to ongoing investigations into HDP lawmakers and officials. The development came after calls by government official Cahit Özkan and nationalist government ally Devlet Bahçeli for the pro Kurdish party's closure.

March 2: The police in Erzurum detained Halit Uğun, a local HDP district co-chair. Uğun was released on probation March 3, after appearing before a court.

March 2: The police in Ağrı detained local HDP executives Gönül Öztürk and Hamide Turan over a Women's Day demonstration held in the city. The two were released the same day after a questioning.

March 2: The police in Mersin and Diyarbakır detained eight people, including members of the HDP, as part of a Mersin-based investigation.

March 2: An Antalya court sentenced former Diyarbakır district co-mayor Fatma Arşimet to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

March 2: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local HDP executive Hatun Yıldız to six years, three months on terrorism-related charges.

March 2: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency.

March 3: A regional appeals court in Van overturned an acquittal decision for former Yüksekova district co-mayor İrfan Sarı and sentenced Sarı to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

March 3: The Turkish Medical Association (TBB) warned against inequality between regions in Covid-19 vaccination, citing the lower rates in the predominantly eastern and southeastern provinces.

March 3: An Osmaniye court ruled to block access to the Mezopotamya news agency. The decision constituted the second access block imposed on the news agency, known for its focus on human rights violations in the Kurdish-majority regions.

March 4: Batman prosecutors launched an investigation into the provincial HDP administration over its social media commentary for allegedly provoking hatred and enmity among public.

March 5: The police in Mardin briefly detained local HDP youth member Berfin Can.

MISTREATMENT OF CITIZENS ABROAD

March 4: A German prosecutor denied a Turkish court's request for judicial assistance in the case of exiled singer Ferhat Tunç, who is facing terrorism-related charges in over his social media messages criticizing Turkey's military invasion of Syria's Afrin province.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 1: Caize Yarıcı, a HDP executive in Aydın, filed a complaint against local police for an unlawful strip search conducted at a police station after she and other HDP members were detained in mid-February.

March 3: Prison guards in Batman reportedly assaulted inmates.

March 4: Prison guards at a Kahramanmaraş prison physically assaulted inmates.

March 6: Kurbani Özcan, a prisoner who was subjected to strip-searches during a prison transfer as well as physical and psychological violence, reportedly attempted to commit suicide.

Issue 38[46]

8-14 March 2021

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

March 8: A Diyarbakır court found the Interior Ministry culpable in the killing of a 12-year-old girl by unexploded military ammunition in 2009 and ordered that a fine of $37,000 be paid to the family by the ministry.

[46] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 38 | March 8-14, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/38-EN.pdf*

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 9: An İstanbul court sentenced six journalists and civil society activists each to one year, six months, 22 days in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, over their social media commentary about Turkey's military invasion of the Syrian province of Afrin.

March 10: The police in İstanbul detained local HDP member Mehmet Masyan over his social media messages.

March 11: The police in Siirt briefly detained journalist Zekeriya Güzipek. The journalist was released the same day after his questioning.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 10: A Muş court sentenced local HDP politician Ülkü Karaaslan to two years, three months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda.

March 10: An Erzurum court sentenced local HDP politician Dinçer Polat to three years, 45 days in prison on terrorism-related charges.

March 10: The police in İstanbul detained local HDP member Mehmet Masyan over his social media messages.

March 11: The police in Şanlıurfa detained four people, including HDP district executive Hatice Göktepe, on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda. The detainees were released the next day after appearing before a court.

March 11: The police in Malatya detained local left-wing Kurdish politician Halil Göktaş.

March 11: A mobile app developed by the national police to help women against domestic violence drew criticism from rights groups and the Kurdish politicians for failing to include Kurdish among its six supported languages.

March 11: Sevim Dağdelen, a Kurdish-German politician from the German Left Party, said she has been receiving death threats from Turkish ultranationalist groups.

MISTREATMENT OF CITIZENS ABROAD

March 11: Sevim Dağdelen, a Kurdish-German politician from the German Left Party, said she has been receiving death threats from Turkish ultranationalist groups.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 8: Police officers at a traffic checkpoint in Adıyaman reportedly assaulted Mehmet Mithat Arıkçı and Mehpare Sahan.

Issue 39[47]

15-21 March 2021

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

March 16: Sezer Tatar, a HDP member in Van, was reportedly forced into a vehicle by individuals who introduced themselves as police officers. He was coerced into becoming an informant for authorities and physically assaulted before he was released the same day.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

March 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 18: The police in Ankara detained nine activists who were protesting the expulsion of HDP MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu from the parliament. The detainees were released later in the same day.

March 20: The police in İstanbul detained 14 people while celebrating the Kurdish festival of Newroz.

March 20: The police in Malatya briefly detained a man and his two children during the Newroz celebrations. The detainees were released the same day.

March 21: The police in Diyarbakır detained 63 people, including six minors, for wearing yellow-red-green scarves while on their way to the Newroz celebrations. Of the detainees, 39 were released within the day.

March 21: The police in Adana detained eight people, including three minors, during the Newroz celebrations.

March 21: The police in İstanbul detained 11 people during the Newroz celebrations.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 15: The police in Şanlıurfa briefly detained Emine Şenyaşar, who had been staging a sit-in protest in front of the provincial courthouse after losing his spouse and two children due to a brawl between her family members and a local ruling party deputy. Şenyaşar was released a few hours later.

March 16: The parliament expelled HDP MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu due to a prison sentence he was handed down for a tweet in which he shared a news report by the T24 news website.

[47] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 39 | March 15-21, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/39-EN.pdf*

Gergerlioğlu refused the leave the parliament building in protest until he was forcibly removed by the police and briefly detained on March 21.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 15: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local HDP executive Murat Öndeş to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

March 17: A prosecutor for the Supreme Court of Appeals asked the Constitutional Court to shut down the pro-Kurdish HDP, parliament's third-largest group. The prosecutor's indictment equated the party with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which is listed as a terror group in Turkey and internationally, and demanded a political ban for more than 600 party officials, including its current co-chairs and jailed former leaders Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ.

March 17: A Muş court sentenced former HDP mayor Adnan Topçu to eight years, one month, 15 days in prison on various terrorism-related charges.

March 19: The police in several provinces detained at least 36 members of the HDP over alleged terrorism links.

March 19: The ministry of education prepared an introductory schoolbook on the Kurdish-majority province of Diyarbakır, which made no reference to the local Kurdish identity and claimed that the language spoken in the province was Azeri Turkish.

March 20: The police in İstanbul detained 14 people while celebrating the Kurdish festival of Newroz. March 20: The police in Malatya briefly detained a man and his two children during the Newroz celebrations. The detainees were released the same day.

March 21: The police in Diyarbakır detained 63 people, including six minors, for wearing yellow-red-green scarves while on their way to the Newroz celebrations. Of the detainees, 39 were released within the day.

March 21: The police in Adana detained eight people, including three minors, during the Newroz celebrations.

March 21: The police in İstanbul detained 11 people during the Newroz celebrations.

MISTREATMENT OF CITIZENS ABROAD

March 15: Belgian authorities suspected that Turkey's former ambassador to Paris, İsmail Hakkı Musa, was implicated in the assassination of three alleged members of the PKK in Paris in 2013.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 21: The police in Diyarbakır physically and verbally abused in custody the people who were detained while on their way to the Newroz celebration.

Issue 40[48]

22-28 March 2021

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

March 25: An İstanbul court held the first trial of the 46 members of the Saturday Mothers, a group comprising families of victims of state-enforced disappearances who have been gathering every Saturday in İstanbul for a silent protest since 1995. The indictment by İstanbul prosecutors said that the protest had been banned because it posed a threat to national security, public order and public norms.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

March 22: The police in Konya detained 11

March 23: The police in Diyarbakır detained 21 people for attending Newroz celebrations in the city. The authorities also issued detention warrants for 15 others.

March 26: A Şanlıurfa court sentenced 19 people to five months in prison each over their attendance in a commemoration event for the victims of a bomb attack in 2015.

March 26: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

March 26: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 22: A court sentenced jailed Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtaş to three-and-a-half years in prison on the charge of insulting the president.

March 23: Diyarbakır prosecutors launched an investigation into HDP co-chair Mithat Sancar on the charge of spreading terrorist propaganda over his speech during the Newroz celebrations.

March 24: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Perihan Kaya to 15 months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda.

March 25: The police in İstanbul detained journalist, writer and documentarian Ruhi Karadağ for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda in one of his books. Karadağ was released the next day, with an international travel ban.

[48] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/40-EN.pdf*

March 25: The police in Şanlıurfa detained Emine Şenyaşar and Ferit Şenyaşar while staging a sit-in protest in front of the city's courthouse over their loss of a family member in an armed conflict implicating ruling party politicians.

March 25: The police in Malatya briefly detained local socialist politician Hasan Bali over his social media messages. Bali was released on probation later in the same day.

March 26: The police in Gaziantep detained leftist activist Nail Ulutaş over his social media posts. Ulutaş was released the next day, with an international travel ban.

March 26: The police in Nevşehir detained local HDP member Nilgün Salmaner on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda on social media. Salmaner was released to house arrest later in the same day.

March 26: A Mardin court ruled to arrest writer Adil Başaran who was detained as part of an investigation into the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Congress (DTK) last week.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 22: The police in Konya detained 11 people for attending Newroz celebrations in the city.

March 22: An İstanbul court ruled to arrest one of the 11 pro-Kurdish politicians detained on March 19 while releasing the rest.

March 22: A court sentenced jailed Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtaş to three-and-a-half years in prison on the charge of insulting the president. Demirtaş has been held behind bars since November 2016 on various terrorism-related charges.

March 22: The Interior Ministry removed from office Mehmet Kaysı, a HDP city council member in Siirt, on the grounds that he was being investigated for suspected ties to terrorism.

March 23: The police in Diyarbakır detained 21 people for attending Newroz celebrations in the city. The authorities also issued detention warrants for 15 others.

March 23: Diyarbakır prosecutors launched an investigation into HDP co-chair Mithat Sancar on the charge of spreading terrorist propaganda over his speech during the Newroz celebrations.

March 24: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Perihan Kaya to 15 months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda. Kaya was formerly a reporter for the pro-Kurdish Jin News agency.

March 25: The Constitutional Court ruled in favor of eight out of 11 former HDP politicians who submitted individual applications to the court in 2017 claiming that their detention and arrest in late 2016 and early 2017 were unlawful.

March 25: The guards at a Bayburt prison reportedly mistreated inmates for holding Newroz celebrations. The prisoners are also facing an investigation for shouting slogans during the celebrations.

March 25: The soldiers raided a village in Bingöl during Newroz celebrations, physically and verbally assaulting a group of villagers, including a 11-year-old. Three people who filmed the raid were later detained and released after deletion of video footage from their phones.

March 26: Reports revealed that the police in Şırnak mistreated for four days local Kurdish politician Azad Polat who was detained on March 18.

March 26: The police in Nevşehir detained local HDP member Nilgün Salmaner on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda on social media. Salmaner was released to house arrest later in the same day.

March 26: A Mardin court ruled to arrest writer Adil Başaran who was detained as part of an investigation into the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Congress (DTK) last week.

MILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD

March 23: A Şanlıurfa court sentenced Dozgin Temo, a member of the Syrian-Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), to life in prison, two years after she was captured by the Turkish military in northern Syria.

MISTREATMENT OF CITIZENS ABROAD

March 25: Photos have emerged showing a member of an alleged Turkish hit team posing for a photo with the Turkish ambassador to France at the embassy building in Paris. The members of the hit team were exposed as they were allegedly preparing for attacks on two Kurdish politicians based in Belgium.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 25: The guards at a Diyarbakır prison physically assaulted inmates and placed in one-person cells those who reacted.

March 25: The guards at a Bayburt prison reportedly mistreated inmates for holding Newroz celebrations. The prisoners are also facing an investigation for shouting slogans during the celebrations.

March 25: The soldiers raided a village in Bingöl during Newroz celebrations, physically and verbally assaulting a group of villagers, including a 11-year-old. Three people who filmed the raid were later detained and released after deletion of video footage from their phones.

March 26: Reports revealed that the police in Şırnak mistreated for four days local Kurdish politician Azad Polat who was detained on March 18.

Issue 41[49]

29 March – 4 April 2021

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

March 29: The Human Rights Association (İHD) called for the release from prison of Fatma Güler, a 75-year-old Kurdish woman suffering from stomach cancer, asthma, high blood pressure and liver problems.

March 30: A Kurdish man, Serdal Yıldırım, a paralyzed inmate, was placed in solitary confinement in an İstanbul prison, despite medical reports finding him unfit to care for himself.

March 31: A Kurdish man, Eyvaz Akıncı, a 76-year-old man suffering from stage three lung cancer, was arrested and sent to prison after his terrorism-related sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court of Appeals.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

March 30: The police in Şanlıurfa briefly detained Emine Şenyaşar and her son Ferit Şenyaşar while staging a sit in protest in front of a courthouse.

April 1: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

April 2: The Muş governor's office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 2: The police in Ankara detained HDP MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu, a leading rights advocate who was expelled from the parliament in March, over a prison sentence handed down on terrorism-related charges due to a social media post. Before being taken to prison, Gergerlioğlu was briefly hospitalized as a result of the violent police raid into his home.

April 2: A Van court ruled to release from pre-trial detention journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi and Nazan Sala after the first hearing of the case in which they stand trial on terrorism charges for reporting on an incident of torture implicating soldiers. The journalists were arrested in October 2020.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

[49] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 41 | March 29-April 4, 2021* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/41-EN.pdf*

March 31: The Constitutional Court rejected rights defender Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu's expulsion from the parliament. Gergerlioğlu announced that he will take the case to the European Court of Human Rights.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 29: Reports revealed that İbrahim Ergün, a 24 year-old Kurd who had fled Turkey, was found hanging from the ceiling at the Corinth migrant camp in Greece. Ergül was reportedly driven to suicide by the camp's poor conditions as well as a recent deportation decision delivered by the Greek authorities.

March 30: The police in Antalya detained two local HDP members.

March 30: A Diyarbakır court acquitted former district co mayor Ahmet Kaya of terrorism charges.

March 31: The Constitutional Court returned an indictment seeking closure of the HDP to the chief public prosecutor's office at the top appeals court for review on the grounds that there were deficiencies in the indictment. April 1: Reports on the media said that the guards at a Diyarbakır prison battered inmates for speaking in Kurdish among themselves.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

March 29: Reports revealed that İbrahim Ergün, a 24 year-old Kurd who had fled Turkey, was found hanging from the ceiling at the Corinth migrant camp in Greece. Ergül was reportedly driven to suicide by the camp's poor conditions as well as a recent deportation decision delivered by the Greek authorities.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 1: Reports on the media said that the guards at a Diyarbakır prison battered inmates for speaking in Kurdish among themselves.

Issue 42[50]

5-11 April 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

April 6: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

[50] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 42 | April 5-11, 2021* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/42-EN.pdf*

April 10: A monthly report by opposition MP Sezgin Tanrıkulu said that the police intervened in at least 25 demonstrations in March, detaining at least 324 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 5: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a news report involving video footage of an alleged act of bribery during an expropriation.

April 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to three websites used by the Jin news agency to publish news. The news agency was previously banned on terrorism charges.

April 8: Van prosecutors drafted a new indictment against journalist Oktay Candemir, charging him with spreading terrorist propaganda.

April 8: A Kars court acquitted journalist Selda Manduz of terrorism charges.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

April 6: A report by the Diyarbakır Bar Association said that at least 69 lawyers faced investigations and prosecutions over their professional activities in 2020.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 5: The police in Diyarbakır detained 26 members of the Rosa Women's Association on terrorism-related charges. Six of the detainees were arrested by a court on April 9 and one was placed under house arrest.

April 5: The police in Diyarbakır detained journalist Beritan Canözer from the Jinnews agency.

April 5: The police in Tunceli detained three local HDP members.

April 6: A Kars court sentenced former co-mayor Şevin Alaca to six years, 10 months, 15 days in prison on terrorism-related charges. Alaca was released pending appeal.

April 6: The police in Adıyaman raided the provincial HDP office, briefly detaining executives Bekir Gündüz and Hasari Oğuz.

April 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to three websites used by the Jin news agency to publish news. The news agency was previously banned on terrorism charges.

April 7: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local HDP member Halide Türkoğlu to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

April 7: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local DBP member İsmail Bardakçı to six years, three months in prison on terrorism related charges.

April 8: The police in Tunceli detained local HDP executive Aydın Köse.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 6: The police in Diyarbakır inflicted violence on İbrahim Halil Ercan during a house raid to detain him.

April 9: The police in Şanlıurfa physically assaulted two people due to an argument in traffic.

April 10: The guards at a Diyarbakır prison battered an inmate.

April 10: A monthly report by opposition MP Sezgin Tanrıkulu said that 371 incidents of torture took place in March.

Issue 43[51]

12-18 April 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

April 15: The authorities in Mardin briefly detained a person for attending a protest against an urban renewal project.

April 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

April 17: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 13: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted journalist Cihan Ölmez for alleged terrorism propaganda, over social media commentary about the curfews imposed in the predominantly Kurdish province of Şırnak in 2015 and 2016.

April 14: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the Mezopotamya news agency.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 14: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local HDP executive Hülya Alökmen to 10 years, six months in prison on terrorism charges.

April 14: The police in Kocaeli detained former HDP provincial executive Kamuran Onay. The detainee was released to house arrest the next day.

[51] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 43 | April 12-18, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/43-EN.pdf*

April 14: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the Mezopotamya news agency.

April 15: A Van court sentenced former HDP district co mayor Yıldız Çetin to seven years, six months on terrorism charges.

April 16: Rahim Gören, a city council member in Ağrı, was removed from office by the Ministry of Interior. April 16: MP Hüda Kaya said that the remains of 261 alleged PKK members were buried in a mass grave next to a sewage line in an İstanbul cemetery and not returned to their families.

PRISON CONDITIONS

April 14: A prison administration in Van withheld a letter and an article sent to jailed journalist Nedim Türfent.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 15: The gendarmes in Diyarbakır physically assaulted a person over a slogan written on a wall.

Issue 44[52]

19-25 April 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

April 19: The police in Batman detained 13 people for attending Newroz celebrations. The detainees were released on probation on April 23.

April 20: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 20: Van prosecutors indicted freelance journalist Ruşen Takva, seeking a prison sentence of up to 18 years for attending the release of a press statement by the pro-Kurdish Democratic Regions Party (DBP)

April 20: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the Mezopotamya news agency, the 31th such ban on the pro-Kurdish outlet.

[52] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 44 | April 19-25, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/44-EN.pdf*

April 21: The Information Technologies and Communication Authority (BTK) banned access to JinNews, the 24th such ban imposed on the pro-Kurdish agency since its establishment in 2017.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 20: Van prosecutors indicted freelance journalist Ruşen Takva, seeking a prison sentence of up to 18 years for attending the release of a press statement by the pro-Kurdish Democratic Regions Party (DBP).

April 20: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the Mezopotamya news agency, the 31th such ban on the pro-Kurdish outlet.

April 21: The Information Technologies and Communication Authority (BTK) banned access to JinNews, the 24th such ban imposed on the pro-Kurdish agency since its establishment in 2017.

April 21: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to web pages used by Umut Gazetesi and Yeni Demokrasi news websites.

April 22: Statistics released by the Ministry of Health demonstrated that predominantly Kurdish provinces have the lowest Covid-19 vaccination rates in the country.

PRISON CONDITIONS

April 22: Opposition (HDP) MP Züleyha Gülüm claimed in a written parliamentary question to Justice Minister Abdülhamit Gül that prison parole boards discriminate against political prisoners who are eligible for parole.

Issue 45[53]

26 April – 2 May 2021

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 26: The police in Ankara briefly detained two reporters for the Mezopotamya news agency who were following up on a HDP press briefing.

April 28: Diyarbakır prosecutors launched an investigation into the Diyarbakır bar association over a statement it released to commemorate the Armenian genocide.

April 30: The police in Hakkari detained a 14-year-old boy on charges of insulting the president on social media.

[53] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 45 | April 26-May 2, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/45-EN.pdf*

April 30: A Diyarbakır court blocked access to a web address used by the Jin news to publish news.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 26: The police in Diyarbakır detained 11 people, including politicians from HDP and DBP, on terrorism related charges.

April 26: An Ankara court began the trial of 108 Kurdish politicians for their alleged roles in deadly 2014 protests. The police blocked a press briefing held in front of the provincial HDP headquarters and briefly detained two reporters for the Mezopotamya news agency who were following it.

April 29: The Supreme Court of Appeals upheld a prison sentence of four years, eight months given to Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş and three years, six months handed down to Sırrı Süreyya Önder for disseminating terrorist propaganda, over a speeches they delivered during a Newroz celebration in İstanbul in March 2017.

April 29: The Supreme Court of Appeals upheld a prison sentence of seven years, six months handed down to former HDP MP İdris Baluken on terrorism-related charges.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 29: Security forces in Van shot and injured a local inhabitant who was looking for his lost sheep. The victim was also subjected to ill-treatment after being shot.

Issue 46[54]

3-9 May 2021

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to web addresses used by the JinNews and Mezopotamya news agencies.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 4: The European Court of Human Rights fined Turkey for violating the freedom of expression of HDP MP Filiz Kerestecioğlu by lifting her parliamentary immunity over her speech at a party meeting.

[54] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/46-EN.pdf*

Issue 47[55]

10-16 May 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

May 11: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

May 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 14: An İstanbul prosecutor indicted Turkish-German journalist Deniz Yücel, seeking up to two years in prison on insult charges over his articles about the Armenian genocide and the repression of Kurds in Turkey.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 13: Three attackers threw rocks at the HDP headquarters in Ankara.

May 14: A far-right mob in Mersin assaulted a Kurdish tourist family visiting from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, severely injuring the father of the family.

May 15: The police in İstanbul forcibly removed a banner put up at a HDP district office about ongoing hunger strikes in prison, briefly detaining four people including HDP district manager Fatih Ergün.

Issue 48[56]

17-23 May 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

May 18: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. Through consecutive extensions the ban has been held in effect since November 2016.

[55] TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 47 | May 10-16, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/47-EN.pdf*

[56] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 48 | May 17-23, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/48-EN.pdf*

May 19: The police in Batman briefly detained musician Ethem Tüzer while staging a one-person demonstration to commemorate the musicians who committed suicide due to financial problems during the Covid-19 pandemic.

May 20: The police in Şanlıurfa detained Emine Şenyaşar and Ferit Şenyaşar while staging a sit-in protest to seek justice in the case of the killing of a family member by people close to the ruling party.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 18: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to the Kızıl Bayrak news website.

May 19: An İstanbul court ruled to release journalist Pınar Gayıp from house arrest. Gayıp had been held under house arrest for more than five months on charges related to a left-wing political party.

May 21: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Jinnews website which is under a previously imposed ban from access.

May 22: The police in Diyarbakır detained a person over social media messages about an attack on the Diyarbakır military airbase.

May 23: Van prosecutors indicted singers Fuat Ege and Rohat Aram, charging them with spreading terrorist propaganda, for singing a Kurdish song during Newroz celebrations in the city.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 18: The police in Mardin conducted house raids in three district, detaining 14 people including former and current HDP executives.

May 18: The European Court of Human Rights ordered Turkey to pay damages to the Diyarbakır-based Amedspor football club and its former player Deniz Naki. The court said that Naki's right to freedom of thought and expression and right to a fair trial were violated.

May 19: The Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD) reported that a prison in Van was arbitrarily denying parole to political prisoners who are eligible. In the interviews conducted by the prison administration to decide whether parole would be granted, inmates were asked personal questions about their political ideologies, including whether they would continue working for the HDP after their release.

May 21: Two Kurdish men were shot and seriously injured by Turkish security forces while trying to cross the border into Turkey from Iraq.

May 21: A court acquitted journalist Melis Alphan of terrorism charges. Alphan stood trial due to a photo she posted on social media during Newroz celebrations in Diyarbakır in 2015.

May 22: The police in Şırnak briefly detained lformer HDP district executive Bengin Karaviş.

May 23: The police in İstanbul detained six people, including a former HDP district executive.

May 23: The police in three provinces detained 20 people, including HDP members and executives, as part of an Adana-based investigation.

May 23: Van prosecutors indicted singers Fuat Ege and Rohat Aram, charging them with spreading terrorist propaganda, for singing a Kurdish song during Newroz celebrations in the city.

PRISON CONDITIONS

May 22: A prison administration in Diyarbakır denied treatment to inmate Emine Erol, despite her severe illness due to Covid-19 which she contracted behind bars.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

May 19: Kurbani Özcan, a Kurdish prisoner who requested his transfer out of prisons in Trabzon and Giresun due to torture, was transferred to a Diyarbakır prison where his ill-treatment continued and officers broke his fingers, according to the statements of his mother.

Issue 49[57]

24-30 May 2021

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

May 27: Images on social media of Mehmet Emin Özkan, an ailing 83-year-old man incarcerated in a Diyarbakır prison being taken to a hospital in handcuffs caused outrage among human rights groups who demanded his release.

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

May 25: Lezgin Tekay, a reporter for the pro-Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency, was forced into a vehicle without a license plate by a group of people who introduced themselves as intelligence operatives and coerced into becoming an informant for the state.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

May 27: Gendarmes and village guards in Van fired shots as villagers protested the opening of a marble quarry. Four people were briefly detained after the intervention.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

[57] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 49 | May 24-30, 2021* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/49-EN.pdf*

May 25: Notorious mobster Sedat Peker in a YouTube video admitted that his public death threats to a group of academics who called for a peaceful settlement of the Kurdish problem was aimed at helping the government create a climate of fear.

May 26: A Hakkari court sentenced peace activist Fatma Turan to 10 months, 25 days in prison on charges of provoking hatred and enmity among public and praising crime and criminals, over a speech she made during a demonstration.

May 26: A Van court ruled to block access to news reports about allegations that a local social worker was beaten up by security guards after he refused to stand up in front of a district governor.

May 28: An Ankara court sentenced jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş to two-and-a-half years in prison over his remarks at an earlier court hearing that targeted a public prosecutor who indicted him.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 25: Lezgin Tekay, a reporter for the pro-Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency, was forced into a vehicle without a license plate by a group of people who introduced themselves as intelligence operatives and coerced into becoming an informant for the state.

May 25: The police in Antalya detained former Batman mayor Sabri Özdemir as part of a Diyarbakır-based investigation.

May 26: An Iğdır court sentenced former mayor Yaşar Akkuş to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism related charges. Akkuş was one of the dozens of HDP mayors who were removed from office by the Interior Ministry and replaced by pro-government trustees before standing trial for alleged links to terrorism.

May 26: An İstanbul court ruled to release journalist Mehmet Aslan who was arrested in January 2021 on terrorism-related charges. Aslan was imprisoned over his work for the pro-Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency.

May 28: An Ankara court sentenced jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş to two-and-a-half years in prison over his remarks at an earlier court hearing that targeted a public prosecutor who indicted him.

May 28: A Van court ruled to arrest HDP executive Fırat Keser on terrorism-related charges.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

May 26: A police officer in Diyarbakır reportedly broke a 55-year-old woman’s teeth and arm while she protested the detention of her son on May 18.

Issue 50[58]

31 May – 6 June 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

May 31: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

May 31: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 4: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 6: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 1: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a news report by the Mezopotamya news agency about a botched food distribution organized by the local governor's office.

June 3: The police in Batman detained three people for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda on social media. The detainees were released pending trial the next day.

KURDISH MINORITY

June 3: The police in İstanbul detained local HDP district executive Cahit Alkan.

June 4: The authorities detained and arrested HDP youth executive Esengül Kılıç.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 4: The police in Batman physically assaulted and injured a person while detaining him.

June 4: The guards at a Diyarbakır prison physically and verbally assaulted inmate Kurbani Özcan who was previously the victim of an incident of torture that resulted in the breaking of his fingers.

June 5: The guards at a Diyarbakır prison assaulted inmate Şükriye Gezgin. Various rights groups reported that Gezgin had visible marks of torture on her body.

[58] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 50 | May 31-June 6, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/50-EN.pdf*

Issue 51[59]

7-13 June 2021

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 9: A Diyarbakır prosecutor demanded a prison sentence of up to five years in prison for writer Nurcan Kaya, who is standing trial on terrorism-related charges due to her tweets in support of Kurdish militants in northern Syria.

KURDISH MINORITY

June 7: A prosecutor refiled an indictment that seeks to close down HDP, accusing the pro-Kurdish party of having links to terrorism and posing a threat to the "indivisible integrity of the state."

June 8: The police in Van detained local politicians Mustafa Avcı, Zehra Güçen, Dilşa Kocakaya, Gazal Dilek and Tülay Demir. The detainees were released on probation on June 11.

June 9: The police in İstanbul detained 12 local HDP executives and members.

June 11: A Diyarbakır appeals court upheld a prison sentence of 22 years, three months handed down to former Kurdish lawmaker Leyla Güven on terrorism related charges.

June 11: The police in Hakkari detained local HDP politicians Sipan Turan, Sinem Seven, Zeynep Kaya and Sozdar Atilla on terrorism-related charges.

June 11: The police in Şırnak detained a local HDP member.

Issue 52[60]

14-20 June 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

June 15: The Bitlis Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

[59] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 51 | June 7-13, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/51-EN.pdf*

[60] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 52 | June 14-20, 2021* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/52-EN.pdf*

June 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 17: The police in İstanbul detained two leftist activists for hanging a banner on a building about the attack on the HDP İzmir office.

June 17: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 19: The police in Batman blocked a demonstration about the attack on the HDP İzmir office, briefly detaining 16 people.

June 19: The Muş Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 20: The police in İstanbul briefly detained two activists for graffiti painting walls about the attack on the HDP İzmir office.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 16: The police in Van detained journalist Lokman Gezgin on account of a previous prison sentence that he had received. Later in the same day Gezgin was sent to prison to serve his sentence.

June 17: An İstanbul administrative court rejected appeal against a district government decision to ban a Kurdish-language theater play on the grounds that the theater hall had links to terrorism.

KURDISH MINORITY

June 15: The Interior Ministry removed from office Necla Tamriş, a district co-mayor in Diyarbakır as well as district council members Bahar Karakaş Uluğ, Nursel Akbal, Ruken Bekalp, Emine Kaya and Sevican Yaşar.

June 15: An Ankara court ruled to release under judicial control former Kars mayor Ayhan Bilgen, along with three other defendants in a trial over a series of protests in predominantly Kurdish cities in 2014.

June 16: The police in İstanbul detained nine HDP youth members. Eight of the detainees were released on June 20 while one was arrested by a court.

June 16: The police in İstanbul detained local HDP executive Serhat Aktumar. June 16: The police in Adana detained local HDP member Muhammet Erkis.

June 17: An gunman in İzmir attacked the HDP provincial office in what appears to be a racially motivated act of terrorism, killing party employee Deniz Poyraz. The HDP accused the police of failing to intervene swiftly.

June 17: An İstanbul administrative court rejected appeal against a district government decision to ban a Kurdish-language theater play on the grounds that the theater hall had links to terrorism.

June 18: A rapporteur at the Constitutional Court completed their examination of an indictment seeking the closure of the pro-Kurdish HDP and asked for its acceptance by the court.

June 20: The police in Ağrı detained local HDP member Coşkun Çetres.

PRISON CONDITIONS

June 18: Pro-Kurdish opposition party HDP asked the parliament to debate the situation of sick inmates in prisons, citing Justice Ministry data that 2,300 have died behind bars since 2009. According to statistics published by the Human Rights Association (İHD), there are currently 1,605 sick prisoners in Turkish prisons.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 16: The guards at a Batman prison physically assaulted inmates for not standing up during a regular head count.

June 18: Plainclothes police officers in İstanbul detained two men name Erdoğan Turgut and Baran Kırgın while talking about the attack on the HDP İzmir office, and took them to a police station where they were battered.

June 18: The police in Şanlıurfa inflicted violence on Abdullah Basiyan during a house raid.

Issue 53[61]

21-27 June 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

June 21: The police in Ağrı briefly detained local HDP executive Cemal Akar for making a speech at a demonstration to protest last week's attack on the party's İzmir office.

June 21: The Ağrı Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 24: The police in İstanbul detained 10 people, including members of the HDP, for having participated in demonstrations to protest last week's attack on the party's İzmir office.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 22: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to two web addresses used by the JinNews website.

[61] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/53-EN.pdf*

June 27: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the Etkin news agency.

KURDISH MINORITY

June 21: The police in Ağrı briefly detained local HDP executive Cemal Akar for making a speech at a demonstration to protest last week's attack on the party's İzmir office.

June 21: The Constitutional Court accepted the indictment seeking the closure of the HDP.

June 24: The police in İstanbul detained 10 people, including members of the HDP, for having participated in demonstrations to protest last week's attack on the party's İzmir office.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 24: The guards at a Şırnak prison physically assaulted an inmate during a body search.

Issue 54[62]

28 June – 4 July 2021

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

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 29: The police in Van detained 10 people who participated in protests about the deadly attack on the HDP İzmir office.

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

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.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 29: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist İsmail Çoban to four years, six months in prison on terrorism related charges.

[62] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 54 | June 28-July 4, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/54-EN.pdf*

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: 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.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

July 1: The Constitutional Court ruled that Turkey violated the rights of HDP MP 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.

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.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

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

Issue 55[63]

5-11 July 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

[63] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 55 | July 5-11, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/55-EN.pdf*

July 5: The police in Ankara violently intervened in a demonstration held to demand the release of prominent rights defender Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu, briefly detaining five people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 6: The Constitutional Court ruled that the interim closure of Özgür Gündem, a now-defunct newspaper that had focused on Kurdish issues, violated the constitutional rights of freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

July 8: The police in İstanbul blocked an open air Kurdish-language music event and confiscated the musicians' instruments.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

July 6: Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu, a leading rights advocate and former lawmaker who has been held behind bars since April 2, was released from prison following a decision by the Constitutional Court.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 5: The police in Bursa detained local HDP executive Köksal Söylemez.

July 6: The Constitutional Court ruled that the interim closure of Özgür Gündem, a now-defunct newspaper that had focused on Kurdish issues, violated the constitutional rights of freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

July 7: The European Parliament in a resolution condemned the Turkish government for its repressive policies targeting opposition parties, particularly the pro Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP).

July 8: The police in İstanbul blocked an open air Kurdish-language music event and confiscated the musicians' instruments.

July 10: Reports revealed that a Kurdish family living in Konya was assaulted by a far-right mob in what appears to be a racist hate crime. The incident left six members of the family seriously injured.

July 10: The police detained nine imams for preaching sermons in Kurdish.

July 10: The police in Batman briefly detained local HDP member Gülistan Yılmaz Diyar.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

July 8: Kurdish writer Meral Şimşek, who is facing terrorism-related charges in Turkey, was detained, tortured and pushed back by the Greek police after crossing the border on June 29.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 6: The guards in an Ağrı prison physically assaulted inmate Mizgin Kayıtbey. The victim was injured and taken to a hospital.

Issue 56[64]

12-18 July 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

July 12: The Muş Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 14: The police in Şanlıurfa briefly detained Emine Şenyaşar and Ferit Şenyaşar who were staging a sit-in in front of a local courthouse to protest the alleged lack of effective prosecution in the case of a family member who was killed by a local ruling party official.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

July 16: Prominent rights advocate Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu returned to his parliamentary seat four months after he was stripped of his parliamentary status based on a conviction over a social media post in 2016.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 13: Gendarmes in Şanlıurfa briefly detained local HDP executive Müslüm Arslan.

July 14: The house of Sezer Öztürk, a HDP district employee in İstanbul, was vandalized with racist slurs spray painted on the walls.

Issue 57[65]

19-25 July 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

July 19: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

[64] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/56-EN.pdf*

[65] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/57-EN.pdf*

July 19: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 19: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 19: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 18: The police in İstanbul briefly detained musician Hozan Arhat for singing in Kurdish during a wedding ceremony.

July 19: A mob in Afyon attacked a group of workers for speaking in Kurdish, wounding seven people.

July 21: A Kurdish man was killed and two others were wounded in an allegedly racist attack in Konya.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 19: The police in Şırnak battered eight months pregnant woman Hatice Baykara during a house raid.

July 19: The guards in an Erzurum prison physically assaulted inmate Yaşar Gümüşlü.

July 22: The police in Van physically assaulted two people who were detained while protesting at a local courthouse.

Issue 58[66]

26 July – 1 August 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

July 30: The police in Van, Mardin, İstanbul and Ankara intervened in several demonstrations organized to protest the racist attack against a Kurdish family in Konya, detaining a total of 23 people.

July 30: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban has been held in effect since June 2020.

[66] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/58-EN.pdf*

August 1: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest organized by the HDP, detaining 15 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 27: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to web addresses used by the pro-Kurdish Kızıl Bayrak and Umut newspapers.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 26: Gökhan Yavuzel, a Kurdish writer in Wales whose name is on a hit list targeting critics of the Turkish government living abroad, was attacked in a park near his house in Cardiff.

July 26: The German Federal Police warned Hasip Kaplan, a former HDP lawmaker, of a planned assassination targeting him based on a hit list that includes the names of 55 critics of the Turkish government living in exile.

July 27: An İstanbul court put on trial 17 HDP members for attending a demonstration against the construction of a nuclear power plant in southern Turkey.

July 27: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to web addresses used by the pro-Kurdish Kızıl Bayrak and Umut newspapers.

July 28: A Kurdish person and his/her five children suffered a racist attack by their neighbors in Ankara.

July 30: Armed assailants in Konya killed seven members of a Kurdish family in a racist attack.

August 1: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest organized by the HDP, detaining 15 people.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 28: The guards in a Şanlıurfa prison physically assaulted inmates Mürşit Aslan, Mahsum Temel, Mehmet Salih Eliş, Mahmut Parsak and Hamdullah Hozan. The authorities reportedly refused to hospitalize the victims.

Issue 59[67]

2-8 August 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

[67] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/59-EN.pdf*

August 2: The police in Diyarbakır detained four people who were protesting the racist attack on a Kurdish family in Konya that claimed the lives of seven people.

August 2: The police in Gaziantep detained seven people who were protesting the racist attack on a Kurdish family in Konya that claimed the lives of seven people.

August 2: The police in İstanbul detained activist Nursel Tanrıverdi who was staging a sit-in to protest her summary removal from her public sector job after a coup in 2016.

August 3: The police in Ankara intervened in a women's rights protest, briefly detaining 15 people.

August 3: The police in İstanbul blocked a workers' protest, briefly detaining five people.

August 4: A fact sheet released by the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey said that between the years 2015 and 2019 the authorities violated the freedom of association 5,498 times.

August 4: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

August 6: A Van court ruled to arrest three people who were detained for attending a protest on July 30, while releasing under judicial control seven others who were detained for the same reason.

August 6: The police in İstanbul attacked a group protesting femicides, detaining one person over the slogans that were shouted.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

August 2: Adıyaman prosecutors launched an investigation into journalist Özgür Boğatekin for allegedly provoking public hatred and enmity due to a social media post in which he criticized the authorities for failing to protect members of a Kurdish family that was killed on July 30 in a racist attack.

August 4: The authorities blocked access to several news articles and gender-based violence reports published by the Bianet news website.

August 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the Kızıl Bayrak news website, which is known for its reporting on Kurdish issues.

August 6: A regional appeals court in Diyarbakır overturned a prison sentence of one year, six months that was handed down to former HDP co-chair Figen Yüksekdağ on charges of insulting the president. The court ruled to acquit Yüksekdağ.

August 8: An Eskişehir court ruled to block access to the Nupel news website.

KURDISH MINORITY

August 2: A group of Kurdish seasonal workers in Antalya were subjected to a racist attack.

August 2: The police in İzmir detained two HDP youth members in house raids.

August 3: Abdurrahman Karabulut, the lawyer for a Kurdish family, seven of whose members were murdered on July 30 in a racist attack in Konya, said he has been receiving death threats for representing the family.

August 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the Kızıl Bayrak news website, which is known for its reporting on Kurdish issues.

August 6: İstanbul prosecutors indicted seven lawyers who represented jailed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) leader Abdullah Öcalan.

August 6: A regional appeals court in Diyarbakır overturned a prison sentence of one year, six months that was handed down to former HDP co-chair Figen Yüksekdağ on charges of insulting the president. The court ruled to acquit Yüksekdağ.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

August 2: Several relatives of a Kurdish family whose seven members were killed in a racist attack on July 30, said that they were physically assaulted by the police in Konya for wanting to see the house where the massacre took place.

August 5: Soldiers in Hakkari physically assaulted the members of a family during a house raid to detain them

Issue 60[68]

9-15 August 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

August 11: The police in Şanlıurfa detained 18 farmers who were protesting a local energy distributor over power cuts.

August 12: The Şırnak Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

August 14: The police in Bitlis intervened in a protest, detaining 70 people.

August 15: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. A

[68] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/60-EN.pdf*

ugust 15: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban has been in effect uninterruptedly since November 2016.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

August 9: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish JinNews website.

August 11: An Adana court sentenced journalist İbrahim Karakaş to nine years, nine months in prison on charges of membership in a terrorist organization. Karakaş denied the charges and said he was being prosecuted for his journalistic work at the pro-Kurdish newspaper Yeni Yaşam.

August 12: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency.

August 13: The police in Diyarbakır detained journalist Beritan Canözer who works for the pro-Kurdish JinNews.

August 15: An Ardahan court ruled to block access to the Twitter account of a popular user.

KURDISH MINORITY

August 9: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish JinNews website.

August 10: The police in Kars detained five members and executives of the HDP on terrorism-related charges.

August 11: An Adana court sentenced journalist İbrahim Karakaş to nine years, nine months in prison on charges of membership in a terrorist organization. Karakaş denied the charges and said he was being prosecuted for his journalistic work at the pro-Kurdish newspaper Yeni Yaşam.

August 12: The police in several southern, southeastern and eastern provinces detained 59 people in connection with their social media posts allegedly containing terrorist propaganda.

August 12: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency.

August 13: A Van court sentenced journalist Hikmet Tunç to eight months, 22 days in prison for insulting the trustee appointed by the government to replace the elected mayor of a local district.

August 13: The police in Diyarbakır detained journalist Beritan Canözer who works for the pro-Kurdish JinNews.

August 13: The police in Mardin briefly detained local HDP youth member Çektar Ermiş.

August 15: The police in Batman detained three local HDP executives.

August 15: The police in Mardin detained seven people including local HDP executives.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

August 9: The police in Ağrı physically assaulted two people during a house raid.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

August 12: Turkish army fire killed an Iraqi Kurdish farmer in northern Iraq.

Issue 61[69]

16-22 August 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

August 17: The police in İstanbul detained 11 people including four minors for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda during their attendance at a festival organized by the HDP.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

August 16: JinNews reporter Beritan Canözer who was detained on Aug. 13 as part of a terrorism-related investigation, was released after three days in police custody.

August 18: The police in Ankara detained six people including HDP employees over their social media posts.

KURDISH MINORITY

August 16: JinNews reporter Beritan Canözer who was detained on Aug. 13 as part of a terrorism-related investigation, was released after three days in police custody.

August 17: A group of people in Antalya stopped a car and beat a man named Erhan Sevim because he was of Kurdish origin. The incident took place following pro government claims that the wildfires that hit the region were started by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

August 22: An Elazığ prison launched an investigation into inmate and former HDP lawmaker Leyla Güven for singing Kurdish music behind bars.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

August 18: A police officer in Şanlıurfa physically assaulted a man named Mustafa Bektaş who accidentally rang his doorbell and broke his leg.

[69] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 61 | August 16-22, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/61-EN.pdf*

August 19: Media reports revealed that eight inmates who were involuntarily transferred from a Şanlıurfa prison to other prisons on August 11 were subjected to torture and ill-treatment during the transfer.

August 20: The gendarmerie in Hakkari physically assaulted lawyer Harika Günay Karataş who was visiting a center to visit clients that were held in custody.

August 20: A group of police officers in Hakkari physically assaulted a delivery company employee over the complaint of a police officer's spouse.

Issue 62[70]

23-29 August 2021

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

August 25: Celalettin Yalçın, a member of the HDP, was abducted and subjected to torture by individuals who introduced themselves as "the police" in İstanbul. He was left on a roadside in İstanbul the next day.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

August 23: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

August 23: A district governor in Mardin banned a campaign organized by a local medical chamber to promote vaccination against Covid-19, citing a 15-day ban on outdoor gatherings issued by the provincial governor's office.

August 29: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

August 24: İstanbul prosecutors indicted writer Yavuz Ekinci due to his social media messages in 2013 and 2014 about the Newroz celebrations in Diyarbakır and the ongoing clashes around the predominantly Kurdish Syrian town of Kobane.

August 25: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to web addresses used by pro-Kurdish JinNews and Etkin news agency.

[70] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 62 | August 23-29, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/62-EN.pdf*

KURDISH MINORITY

August 23: An İstanbul court ruled to arrest seven people out of the 25 who were detained on August 20 for allegedly sending money to imprisoned relatives, while releasing 18 others. The detainees had included members and executives of the HDP.

August 23: A court ruled to arrest Serhat Kadırhan, the former co-mayor of Şırnak who was detained on August 20.

August 25: Celalettin Yalçın, a member of the HDP, was abducted and subjected to torture by individuals who introduced themselves as "the police" in İstanbul. He was left on a roadside in İstanbul the next day.

August 27: An Elazığ prison decided to deprive nine inmates, including former pro-Kurdish lawmaker Leyla Güven, of visitation rights for a month for singing in Kurdish.

August 27: A Şırnak court accepted an indictment prepared against local HDP executive Sabuha Akdağ on the charge of provoking hatred and enmity among public, due to a press statement she released on violence against women.

PRISON CONDITIONS

August 27: An Elazığ prison decided to deprive nine inmates, including former pro-Kurdish lawmaker Leyla Güven, of visitation rights for a month for singing in Kurdish.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

August 25: Celalettin Yalçın, a member of the HDP, was abducted and subjected to torture by individuals who introduced themselves as "the police" in İstanbul. He was left on a roadside in İstanbul the next day.

August 26: A report jointly prepared by two Turkish human rights organizations revealed that inmates were subjected to strip-searches, insults and battery in Diyarbakır prisons.

August 27: The gendarmes in Diyarbakır tortured eight people during house raids to detain them.

Issue 63[71]

30 August – 5 September 2021

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

[71] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 63 | August 30-September 5, 2021* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/63-EN.pdf*

September 3: An armored police vehicle ran over and killed a 7-year-old boy in Şırnak named Mihraç Miroğlu. The officer driving the vehicle was only summoned for a testimony three days later and was released immediately afterwards.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

August 31: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 3: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 1: Mardin prosecutors launched an investigation into JinNews reporter Öznur Değer over her coverage of a racist attack against a Kurdish family in Konya that claimed the lives of seven people.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 1: Mardin prosecutors launched an investigation into JinNews reporter Öznur Değer over her coverage of a racist attack against a Kurdish family in Konya that claimed the lives of seven people.

Issue 64[72]

6-12 September 2021

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to two websites used by the pro-Kurdish JinNews, citing national security reasons.

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

September 10: A police accident report concerning a 7 year-old boy who was crushed to death by an armored police vehicle in Şırnak last week found the child to be the primarily negligent party.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION September 6: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

[72] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 64 | September 6-12, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/64-EN.pdf*

September 6: The Bitlis Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to two websites used by the pro-Kurdish JinNews, citing national security reasons.

September 9: Şanlıurfa prosecutors indicted Emine Şenyaşar, a woman who has been staging sit-in protests to demand justice for three members of her family who were murdered by people connected to the ruling party, seeking up to four years in prison on charges of "insulting a public officer."

KURDISH MINORITY

September 6: Former HDP MP Aysel Tuğluk was denied access to proper healthcare in prison, according to a written statement released by her lawyers.

September 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to two websites used by the pro-Kurdish JinNews, citing national security reasons.

September 6: İsmail Beşikçi Foundation released a report on the rights violations against musicians and stage actors performing in Kurdish, noting widespread criminalization of the Kurdish language and increasing restrictions on artistic activities in the last few years.

September 9: Osmaniye prosecutors indicted local HDP politician Müslüm Çağan and presenter Erdal Tecik, seeking punishment on terrorism-related charges over their participation in Newroz celebrations in 2018.

September 10: A school in Adana reportedly wrote nationalist slogans on its staircase, including one that said "Either speak Turkish or be silent."

September 11: Racist slurs were written on the door of a house belonging to a Kurdish family in Mersin.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 6: Former HDP MP Aysel Tuğluk was denied access to proper healthcare in prison, according to a written statement released by her lawyers.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 10: The Diyarbakır Bar Association filed criminal complaints about the physical and psychological abuse of underage inmates by guards at a Diyarbakır prison, based on interviews with minors held in juvenile detention centers.

Issue 65[73]

13-19 September 2021

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

September 14: The European Court of Human Rights condemned Turkey for detaining Kurdish politician Tuncer Bakırhan, who was removed from his position as mayor of Siirt in November 2016 over alleged links to terrorism.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

September 13: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 15: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 16: The police in Diyarbakır detained at least seven people for attending protests against a local energy distributor.

September 19: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 13: The police in İstanbul detained Etkin news agency reporter Tunahan Turhan.

September 15: Batman prosecutors launched an investigation into 13 people, including provincial HDP co chairs Fatma Ablay and Ömer Kulpu, who danced to a Kurdish song during a rally in southeastern Turkey, on allegations of disseminating terrorist propaganda.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

September 17: The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe failed to start infringement proceedings against Turkey due to the country's non compliance with European Court of Human Rights orders for the release of Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş and businessman Osman Kavala.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 13: The police in İstanbul detained Etkin news agency reporter Tunahan Turhan.

[73] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 65 | September 13-19, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/65-EN.pdf*

September 13: A report released by the İstanbul Council of Forensic Medicine found that former HDP deputy Aysel Tuğluk, who has been behind bars since late 2016 on terrorism-related charges, is fit to remain in prison although her lawyers claim the politician is in poor health.

September 14: The European Court of Human Rights condemned Turkey for detaining Kurdish politician Tuncer Bakırhan, who was removed from his position as mayor of Siirt in November 2016 over alleged links to terrorism.

September 14: A Van court arrested local HDP executive Herdem Acar on terrorism-related charges.

September 15: Batman prosecutors launched an investigation into 13 people, including provincial HDP co chairs Fatma Ablay and Ömer Kulpu, who danced to a Kurdish song during a rally in southeastern Turkey, on allegations of disseminating terrorist propaganda.

September 16: An Elazığ judge rejected a request by imprisoned HDP politicians Leyla Güven and Hülya Alökmen to make their defense in Kurdish in their objection against a prison administration decision to restrict their external communications for singing in Kurdish behind bars.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 10. September 14: The police in Bingöl reportedly tortured two people during a house raid.

Issue 66[74]

20-26 September 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

September 22: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Yelda Çiçek to one year, eight months in prison for following the protests held in the province against the government-appointed trustee who replaced the elected mayor.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 22: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Yelda Çiçek to one year, eight months in prison for following the protests held in the province against the government-appointed trustee who replaced the elected mayor.

[74] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 66 | September 20-26, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/66-EN.pdf*

September 23: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to three web addresses used by the pro-Kurdish Jinnews website.

September 24: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency.

September 24: A Batman court ruled to block access to news reports about allegations that the province's mayor awarded a public tender to the son of one of his close friends.

September 25: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Özgür Gelecek news website.

September 26: İdris Yayla, a Batman-based journalist, was threatened on the phone by unidentified individuals. The same day, two people fired shots in the air in front of the journalist's house.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 20: A group of local inhabitants in Düzce attacked Kurdish seasonal workers, injuring several people.

September 20: A prison administration in Elazığ refused to accept a dress sent for former opposition deputy Leyla Güven because it featured "the colors traditionally associated with the Kurdish people."

September 20: A group of assailants in Antalya attacked an intercity bus bound for the predominantly Kurdish province of Diyarbakır, leaving two people injured.

September 21: A Van court sentenced HDP official Fırat Keser to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism related charges.

September 21: The police in Adana detained nine people, including a local HDP executive and two executives of an NGO established for solidarity with the relatives of prisoners.

September 22: A Diyarbakır court ruled to release former HDP MP Çağlar Demirel who was imprisoned in December 2016 on terrorism-related charges.

September 23: The police in Ankara detained HDP official Betül Ünsal on terrorism-related charges. Ünsal was arrested by a court the same day.

September 23: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to three web addresses used by the pro-Kurdish Jinnews website.

September 24: The parents of Deniz Poyraz, a 38-year old HDP employee who was killed in an armed attack on the HDP office in İzmir on June 17, filed a criminal complaint against the local police, whom they accuse of negligence.

September 24: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency. September 25: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Özgür Gelecek news website.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 20: A prison administration in Elazığ refused to accept a dress sent for former opposition deputy Leyla Güven because it featured "the colors traditionally associated with the Kurdish people."

September 22: A Diyarbakır prison launched a disciplinary investigation into inmate Ayşe Gökkan over her remarks in a petition she wrote to prosecutors about the rights violations she faced behind bars.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 23: The Constitutional Court ordered the state to pay compensation to the family of a person who in 1992 was tortured to death by soldiers in the predominantly Kurdish province of Diyarbakır.

Issue 67[75]

27 September – 3 October 2021

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

September 29: The police in Batman shot Suat Şahin, a 21-year-old man, for allegedly resisting an ID check, leaving him in a critical condition.

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

September 29: Ezgi Orak, a member of the HDP, was forced into a civilian vehicle in Ankara by people who introduced themselves as police officers. A complaint filed with the police revealed that the license plate of the vehicle was not in the official inventory. Orak turned up in official police custody several hours later. She was released on October 3.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

September 29: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

[75] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 67 | September 27-October 3, 2021* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/67-EN.pdf*

September 29: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

October 2: The Muş Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 27: A Diyarbakır court sentenced writer Nurcan Kaya to one year, three months in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, over a tweet she posted in 2014 about resistance in the Syrian town of Kobani against the occupation of the Islamic State.

September 30: İstanbul prosecutors indicted Gülsüm and Sami Elvan, the parents of Berkin Elvan, a teen who was struck in the head with a tear gas canister fired by a police officer during the anti-government Gezi Park protests in İstanbul in 2013. The parents are charged with insulting the president.

September 30: Diyarbakır prosecutors demanded a prison sentence of up to 22.5 years for Kurdish journalist Nurcan Yalçın, who is standing trial on terrorism-related charges.

September 30: The Constitutional Court ruled that a two-year prison sentence handed down to a bus driver in Diyarbakır for playing Kurdish-language music did not violate his freedom of expression.

September 30: Diyarbakır courts ruled to block access to nine web addresses used by the pro-Kurdish Jinnews, Kızıl Bayrak, Umut Gazetesi, Etkin and Mezopotamya news websites, citing national security reasons.

October 1: An Ankara court convicted actress Ezgi Mola on insult charges after she protested in a tweet in August 2020 the release of a former soldier accused of raping an 18-year-old Kurdish woman. The court ordered Mola to pay a fine of TL 5,200 (€500).

KURDISH MINORITY

September 28: HDP MP Gülistan Kılıç-Koçyiğit reported that a prison administration in Kırıkkale launched a disciplinary investigation into an inmate for using the Kurdish word for "comrades" in a phone call.

September 30: An Ankara court acquitted Adnan Selçuk Mızraklı, the former mayor of Diyarbakır, of charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda. Mızraklı was removed from office by the Interior Ministry in August 2019.

September 30: Diyarbakır prosecutors demanded a prison sentence of up to 22.5 years for Kurdish journalist Nurcan Yalçın, who is standing trial on terrorism-related charges.

September 30: The Constitutional Court ruled that a two-year prison sentence handed down to a bus driver in Diyarbakır for playing Kurdish-language music did not violate his freedom of expression.

September 30: Diyarbakır courts ruled to block access to nine web addresses used by the pro-Kurdish Jinnews, Kızıl Bayrak, Umut Gazetesi, Etkin and Mezopotamya news websites, citing national security reasons.

October 1: A Hakkari court sentenced former district mayor Remziye Yaşar to 17 years in prison on terrorism related charges. The court also sentenced 27 others, including pro-Kurdish party executives, to eight years, nine months in prison.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 28: HDP MP Gülistan Kılıç-Koçyiğit reported that a prison administration in Kırıkkale launched a disciplinary investigation into an inmate for using the Kurdish word for "comrades" in a phone call.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION AND VIOLATIONS

October 1: A Belgian court started the trial of the members of an alleged Turkish hit team who were claimed to be preparing for attacks on Kurdish leaders Remzi Kartal and Zübeyir Aydar.

Issue 68[76]

4-10 October 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

October 4: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

October 6: The police in Diyarbakır detained 13 people for allegedly preparing to organize a demonstration.

October 7: The police in İzmir and Manisa detained 12 people, including a local HDP executive and an executive of an NGO established for solidarity with relatives of prisoners.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 7: The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) launched an investigation into Fox TV over the remarks of Başak Demirtaş, the wife of jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş, who criticized the arbitrary Covid-19 restrictions in prisons which left her daughters unable to visit their father for 19 months.

[76] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 68 | October 4-10, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/68-EN.pdf*

KURDISH MINORITY

October 4: A Hakkari court sentenced Ahmet Öner, a local HDP member who had died four years ago, to eight years, nine months in prison on terrorism charges.

October 5: The security forces in Bitlis detained eight people, including local HDP executives Aziz Başboğa and İhsan Deniz.

October 5: A simultaneous translation service introduced by the parliament excluded the Kurdish language, the second most spoken language in the country.

October 7: The police in İzmir and Manisa detained 12 people, including a local HDP executive and an executive of an NGO established for solidarity with relatives of prisoners.

October 7: The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) launched an investigation into Fox TV over the remarks of Başak Demirtaş, the wife of jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş, who criticized the arbitrary Covid-19 restrictions in prisons which left her daughters unable to visit their father for 19 months.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 9: Reports said that the guards in a Şanlıurfa prison assaulted 80 inmates and that the prison administration did not offer treatment to those who were injured as a result.

Issue 69[77]

11-17 October 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

October 12: Şırnak prosecutors launched an investigation into an event held to commemorate a 7 year-old child who was killed by an armored police vehicle. A local politician and a musician were summoned by the police for questioning.

October 13: A publishing house was forced to discontinue its Kurdish-language literary events in Mardin following police obstruction under the pretext of Covid-19.

October 13: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

[77] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 69 | October 11-17, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/69-EN.pdf*

October 14: A district governor's office in Şırnak banned an event planned by the HDP to commemorate the party's foundation anniversary, citing the Covid-19 pandemic. Reports revealed that the same office had granted permission to a two-day-long event organized by the ruling party in October.

October 15: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

October 16: The police in İstanbul blocked a protest march organized by HDP members. Ten people were briefly detained.

October 16: A district governor's office in İstanbul banned a concert organized by a pro-Kurdish cultural organization, citing national security reasons.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 12: A Van court ruled to acquit journalist Ruşen Takva of terrorism charges. Takva faced up to 19 years in prison for covering an event held by pro-Kurdish political parties.

October 12: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit Kurdish journalist Roza Metina of terrorism charges.

October 14: A Malatya court sentenced Kurdish writer and poet Meral Şimşek to one year, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

October 14: A Mersin court sentenced Kurdish musician Dilan Demir to nine years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

October 14: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a URL used by the pro-Kurdish Özgür Gelecek news website.

October 15: A Bitlis court ordered journalist Sinan Aygül to pay a monetary fine for disseminating terrorist propaganda, over an interview he published on a news website.

October 15: Voice of America News reported that in a single week, 18 journalists, most of whom work for pro Kurdish media outlets, stood trial at hearings across the country.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 12: A Van court ruled to acquit journalist Ruşen Takva of terrorism charges. Takva faced up to 19 years in prison for covering an event held by pro-Kurdish political parties.

October 14: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a URL used by the pro-Kurdish Özgür Gelecek news website.

October 15: A Van court sentenced HDP politician Aysel Tuğluk to one year, eight months in prison on terrorism charges.

October 15: A Bitlis court ordered journalist Sinan Aygül to pay a monetary fine for disseminating terrorist propaganda, over an interview he published on a news website.

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October 16: The police in İstanbul blocked a protest march organized by HDP members. Ten people were briefly detained.

October 16: A district governor's office in İstanbul banned a concert organized by a pro-Kurdish cultural organization, citing national security reasons.

October 16: The police in Diyarbakır detained a woman for carrying flag featuring the colors yellow, red and green while on her way to a demonstration.

October 12: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit Kurdish journalist Roza Metina of terrorism charges.

October 13: A publishing house was forced to discontinue its Kurdish-language literary events in Mardin following police obstruction under the pretext of Covid-19.

October 14: A Malatya court sentenced Kurdish writer and poet Meral Şimşek to one year, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

October 14: A Mersin court sentenced Kurdish musician Dilan Demir to nine years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

October 14: A district governor's office in Şırnak banned an event planned by the HDP to commemorate the party's foundation anniversary, citing the Covid-19 pandemic. Reports revealed that the same office had granted permission to a two-day-long event organized by the ruling party in October.

PRISON CONDITIONS

October 12: A Van prison blocked the delivery of a book sent to jailed journalist Nedim Türfent. The prison administration also censored parts of a letter that Türfent sent to his colleagues outside prison.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

October 14: Kurdish writer and poet Meral Şimşek, who in June 2021 was violently pushed back by the Greek border forces when she attempted to flee Turkey, was sentenced to imprisonment on terrorism-related charges.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 13: The guards in a Bayburt prison mistreated inmate Barış Tüter.

October 16: The police in Diyarbakır physically assaulted lawyer Elif İpek Tirenç Ulaş during an ID check.

Issue 70[78]

18-24 October 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

October 20: A Mardin court acquitted five journalists and three others who stood trial over their participation in demonstrations.

October 21: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

October 25: The police in Van intervened in a press briefing organized by local medical chambers, briefly detaining two people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 19: Van prosecutors launched an investigation into journalist Oktay Candemir due to a social media message. Candemir was summoned by the police for a questioning.

October 21: The police in İzmir detained 17 HDP members due to their social media messages.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 18: A Diyarbakır court sentenced HDP member Mehmet Eşref Mamedoğlu to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism charges.

October 19: An Edirne court sentenced German-Kurdish singer Saide İnaç to three years, one month and 15 days in prison on terrorism charges.

October 19: A Yozgat prison forbade inmates to speak in Kurdish on the phone and interrupted the calls of the inmates who spoke in Kurdish.

October 20: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former district mayor Ayşe Gökkan to 30 years in prison on terrorism charges.

October 21: The police in İzmir detained 17 HDP members due to their social media messages.

PRISON CONDITIONS

[78] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/70-EN.pdf*

October 19: A Yozgat prison forbade inmates to speak in Kurdish on the phone and interrupted the calls of the inmates who spoke in Kurdish.

October 20: A prison administration in Şırnak hindered the treatment and hospitalization of inmates.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 19: Reports revealed that Adem Özbey, an inmate held in a prison in Van, was taken out of his ward for a questioning during which he was tortured. Another inmate from the same facility reported that Özbey was not taken to a hospital afterwards.

October 20: Seven inmates who were involuntarily transferred from a Diyarbakır prison to other provinces were subjected to strip-searches. Those who resisted were physically assaulted.

October 23: The police in Diyarbakır tortured two people during a house raid to detain them.

Issue 71[79]

25-31 October 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

October 26: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

October 28: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 26: Courts in Diyarbakır and Erzurum ruled to block access to four websites used by the pro-Kurdish Jinnews, Umut Gazetesi and Etkin news agency.

October 28: A Gaziantep appeals court overturned the 3-year prison sentence of Azadiya Welat reporter Çetin Kurşun, demanding a higher sentence on terrorism charges.

October 29: The police in Siirt detained Cemil Taşkesen for using the word "Kurdistan" in a video. Taşkesen is accused of spreading terrorist propaganda.

[79] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 71 | October 25-31, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/71-EN.pdf*

October 29: An appeals commission refused to reinstate four academics who were fired from their universities for signing a declaration that called for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Kurdish provinces.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

October 29: An appeals commission refused to reinstate four academics who were fired from their universities for signing a declaration that called for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Kurdish provinces.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 25: The guards in a Şırnak prison tried to force inmates to chant the national anthem and physically assaulted those who refused. Some inmates were injured as a result of the aggression.

October 26: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local politician Emine Ruken Akça to seven years, six months on terrorism charges.

October 28: A Batman court sentenced local HDP politicians Fatma Ablay and Ömer Kulpu to one year, eight months in prison on terrorism charges.

October 29: The police in Siirt detained Cemil Taşkesen for using the word "Kurdistan" in a video. Taşkesen is accused of spreading terrorist propaganda.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 25: The police in Mardin physically assaulted İbrahim Dinler (73) and Faize Dinler (72) during a house raid to detain them.

October 25: The guards in a Şırnak prison tried to force inmates to chant the national anthem and physically assaulted those who refused. Some inmates were injured as a result of the aggression.

October 26: The guards in a Şırnak prison physically assaulted 16 inmates.

October 27: The guards in a Van prison physically assaulted inmate Veysi Bayat.

Issue 72[80]

1-7 November 2021

[80] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/72-EN.pdf*

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

November 2: İstanbul prosecutors indicted nine lawyers who made a public statement to protest an Interior Ministry decision to remove three Kurdish mayors from office in August 2019.

November 2: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 4: The police across several provinces blocked demonstrations organized by the HDP to mark the fifth anniversary of the imprisonment of former party co-chairs Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ. The intervention resulted in the brief detention of four people in Ağrı and two people in Van.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 2: Diyarbakır prosecutors demanded up to 15 years in prison for Kurdish author Azad Zal who is standing trial on terrorism charges.

November 3: A Yalova court sentenced Kurdish poet Yılmaz Odabaşı to 11 months, 20 days in prison on charges of insulting the president.

November 3: An appeals commission refused to reinstate two academics who were fired from their universities for signing a declaration that called for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Kurdish provinces.

November 4: An İstanbul court sentenced author Erdal Yıldırım to one year, six months, 22 days in prison on terrorism-related charges, over his social media posts about clashes in Syria between ISIS and Kurdish militants.

November 5: The police in Elazığ detained academic Hifzullah Kutum on terrorism charges, for writing "Long live Kurdistan" in a social media post. Kutum was also suspended from the university where he worked.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

November 3: The Inquiry Commission on State of Emergency Measures, an appeals commission set up to review individual complaints related to 2016-2018 post coup state of emergency measures, refused to reinstate two academics who were fired from their universities for signing a declaration that called for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Kurdish provinces.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 1: A court ruled to arrest HDP executive Sevim Akdağ who was detained on October 29.

November 2: Diyarbakır prosecutors demanded up to 15 years in prison for Kurdish author Azad Zal who is standing trial on terrorism charges.

November 2: The police in Adıyaman detained Mustafa Yüksel, an advisor to HDP deputy Kemal Bülbül.

November 3: Security forces in Adıyaman detained former HDP lawmaker Behçet Yıldırım on terrorism charges.

November 4: The police across several provinces blocked demonstrations organized by the HDP to mark the fifth anniversary of the imprisonment of former party co-chairs Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ. The intervention resulted in the brief detention of four people in Ağrı and two people in Van.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION AND VIOLATIONS

November 3: A new research highlighted that Turkey backed armed groups in northern Syria have been weaponizing water by building dams on a river that serves as a lifeline for communities living downstream in Kurdish-majority areas.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 6: The police in Diyarbakır mistreated a man named Behçet Bayhan during a house raid to detain him. The officers also verbally assaulted the other people who were in the house.

November 7: Soldiers in Mardin mistreated 73-year-old Abdurrahman Dinler during a house raid.

Issue 73[81]

8-14 November 2021

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

November 11: The lawyers of jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk reiterated their call for her release, citing her deteriorating health condition. The lawyers also disclosed that she is suffering from early-onset dementia.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

November 8: The police detained seven executives from pro-Kurdish labor unions, chambers of commerce and associations for solidarity with relatives of prisoners as part of a Diyarbakır-based investigation.

[81] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 73 | November 8-14, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/73-EN.pdf*

November 9: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 14: The police in Van briefly detained a vendor protesting high prices.

November 14: The Tunceli Governor's Office banned a commemoration event, citing the Covid-19 pandemic.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 10: Hifzullah Kutum, an academic who was detained and arrested on November 6 over a "Kurdistan" post on social media, was released from pre-trial detention.

November 11: An İstanbul court sentenced Kurdish singer Veysi Ermiş to one year, six months in prison on terrorism charges, over a song that contains the word "Kurdistan." The court deferred Ermiş's sentence.

November 11: The police in İstanbul detained Kurdish musician Mehmet Ali Basut (a.k.a. Brindar Ali) on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda and insulting the president. Basut was arrested and sent to prison after appearing before a court.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

November 12: The Inquiry Commission on the State of Emergency Measures rejected the appeals of 37 more academics who were fired from their universities for signing a peace declaration about the conflict in the predominantly Kurdish southeast.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 8: The police in four provinces detained 12 pro-Kurdish political party executives as well as seven executives from pro-Kurdish labor unions, chambers of commerce and associations for solidarity with relatives of prisoners as part of a Diyarbakır-based investigation.

November 10: Hifzullah Kutum, an academic who was detained and arrested on November 6 over a "Kurdistan" post on social media, was released from pre-trial detention.

November 11: The police in İstanbul detained Kurdish musician Mehmet Ali Basut (a.k.a. Brindar Ali) on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda and insulting the president. Basut was arrested and sent to prison after appearing before a court.

November 11: An İstanbul court sentenced Kurdish singer Veysi Ermiş to one year, six months in prison on terrorism charges, over a song that contains the word "Kurdistan." The court deferred Ermiş's sentence.

November 11: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Başak Demirtaş, the wife of jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş, to two and a half years in prison for "obtaining a counterfactual health report."

November 12: An Adıyaman court ruled to arrest Behçet Yıldırım, a former HDP lawmaker who was detained on terrorism charges last week.

November 12: A Malatya court sentenced three members of the Democratic Society Congress (DTK) to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges.

November 13: The police in Antalya briefly detained local HDP executive İsmail İşli for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda on social media.

November 14: A district governor's office in İstanbul banned a Kurdish-language stand-up show without a reason.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 14: A university student in Van announced that he was unofficially interrogated by people who introduced themselves as police officers and that he was coerced into becoming an informant for the authorities.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION AND VIOLATIONS

November 10: The Kurdish administration in northeastern Syria said that a Turkish drone strike in Qamishli killed three civilians.

Issue 74[82]

15-21 November 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

November 15: A Diyarbakır court ruled to arrest four out of seven pro-Kurdish NGO and labor union executives who were detained on November 8 while releasing three others.

November 16: An İzmir court handed down prison sentences to three people over their participation in 2014 protests against an ISIS assault on the Syrian Kurdish town of Kobane.

November 18: The Tunceli Governor's Office banned a planned awareness event about violence against women.

November 19: Tunceli prosecutors launched an investigation into individuals who distributed leaflets inviting people to a commemoration event.

[82] Vande Lanotte, J. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 74 | November 15-21, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/74-EN.pdf*

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 16: A district municipality in Ankara canceled singer Mem Ararat's concert after finding out that he was singing in Kurdish.

November 17: An Erzurum court ruled to acquit Kurdish journalist Dindar Karataş of terrorism charges.

November 18: A Van court acquitted journalist Oktay Candemir of terrorism charges. Candemir stood trial over his social media messages.

November 19: The police in Şanlıurfa detained journalist Emrullah Acar on terrorism charges.

November 19: A Mardin court sentenced local politician Nazım Kök to 11 months, 20 days in prison on charges of insulting the president on social media.

November 19: Plainclothes police officers in Van raided the house of Jinnews reporter Hikmet Tunç on the grounds that there was a bomb call.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

November 19: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit physician and Turkish Medical Association (TTB) honorary board member Şeyhmus Gökalp of terrorism charges. Gökalp spent 80 days in pre-trial detention.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 15: A Diyarbakır court ruled to arrest four out of seven pro-Kurdish NGO and labor union executives who were detained on November 8 while releasing three others. The court also ordered the arrest of 10 pro Kurdish politicians who were detained last week.

November 16: A district municipality in Ankara canceled singer Mem Ararat's concert after finding out that he was singing in Kurdish.

November 17: The police in Tekirdağ detained six members and executives of the HDP as part of an investigation into a rally held in the province on November 7. The detainees were released the next day.

November 17: HDP MPs Serpil Kemalbay Pekgözegü and Murat Çepni claimed in a press conference that there is organized spoliation of evidence in the investigation into the deadly armed terror attack that claimed the life of HDP employee Deniz Poyraz in the party's İzmir office.

November 17: An Erzurum court ruled to acquit Kurdish journalist Dindar Karataş of terrorism charges.

November 18: The police in Edirne detained HDP politician Hüseyin Yuka who was pushed back by Greek border forces after attempting to cross the border to seek asylum.

November 18: An Osmaniye court acquitted local HDP politicians Kadriye Tören and Ali Coşkun who stood trial on terrorism charges.

November 18: An Ankara court sentenced inmate Necla Yıldız to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism charges for participating in a prison hunger strike to protest the isolation of jailed PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan.

November 19: The police in Şanlıurfa detained journalist Emrullah Acar, a reporter for the pro-Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency, on terrorism charges.

November 19: Plainclothes police officers in Van raided the house of Jinnews reporter Hikmet Tunç on the grounds that there was a bomb call.

OTHER MINORITIES

November 15: Hüseyin Besli, a former MP from the ruling party, targeted main opposition leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu's Alevi heritage in a newspaper column, saying Kurds and Alevis were "compulsive liars."

PRISON CONDITIONS

November 16: An Ağrı prison denied regular medication to sick inmate Rıdvan Yusufoğlu.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

November 17: The police in Şanlıurfa detained Syrian singer Omar Souleyman on terrorism charges. Souleyman was questioned about his alleged ties to Kurdish militants. He was released on November 19.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 15: The police in Mardin physically assaulted three people who were in custody.

November 20: The police in Diyarbakır heavily mistreated a person while detaining him on the street. Video footage of the incident showed the person being kicked while lying rear handcuffed on the ground by someone who is allegedly a plainclothes police officer.

Issue 75[83]

22-28 November 2021

[83] TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 75 | November 22-28, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/75-EN.pdf*

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

November 22: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Nurcan Yalçın to three years, seven months and 22 days in prison on terrorism charges due to her membership in a women's association.

November 24: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 27: Gendarmerie forces in Şırnak attacked a protest against a local energy distributing company, detaining one person.

November 28: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 22: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Nurcan Yalçın to three years, seven months and 22 days in prison on terrorism charges due to her membership in a women's association.

November 24: The police in Van detained Hacı Tunç, a shop owner who was seen referring to Turkey's southeast as "Kurdistan" in a video with an opposition politician.

November 24: The authorities released Mezopotamya news agency reporter Emrullah Acar after six days in detention over his phone conversation with a news source.

November 25: An Ankara court ruled to acquit journalist Fatih Gönül, who stood trial on terrorism charges over his work for a pro-Kurdish news agency that was shut down by a decree-law.

November 26: A Hakkari court sentenced former HDP deputy Leyla Güven to five years in prison for disseminating terrorist propaganda due to her statements critical of a Turkish military operation in Syria's Afrin province.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 22: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Nurcan Yalçın to three years, seven months and 22 days in prison on terrorism charges due to her membership in a women's association.

November 24: The police in Van detained Hacı Tunç, a shop owner who was seen referring to Turkey's southeast as "Kurdistan" in a video with an opposition politician.

November 24: The authorities released Mezopotamya news agency reporter Emrullah Acar after six days in detention over his phone conversation with a news source.

November 25: The police in Van tortured HDP youth member Çetin Temel who was visiting a police station to give his regular signature as part of a judicial control measure.

November 25: An Ankara court ruled to acquit journalist Fatih Gönül, who stood trial on terrorism charges over his work for a pro-Kurdish news agency that was shut down by a decree-law.

November 26: A Hakkari court sentenced former HDP deputy Leyla Güven to five years in prison for disseminating terrorist propaganda due to her statements critical of a Turkish military operation in Syria's Afrin province.

November 26: The police in Batman, Kars, Kocaeli and Manisa detained 25 members and executives of the HDP on terrorism charges.

November 26: The police in Batman detained four members and executives of the HDP.

November 26: The police in Kars detained former HDP executive Ayhan Gezici.

PRISON CONDITIONS

November 25: A Batman prison subjected inmate Gülgeş Tatlı to strip-searches. She was also deprived of necessary medical treatment.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 24: Reports revealed that three people who were detained in Şırnak on November 17 on terrorism charges were subjected to torture and ill-treatment in custody.

November 25: The police in Van tortured HDP youth member Çetin Temel who was visiting a police station to give his regular signature as part of a judicial control measure.

November 27: Ağrı mayor Savcı Sayan and his security detail physically attacked workers at a construction site.

November 28: Police officers in Batman physically assaulted children and called them "traitors" during a raid into the house of journalist Dilbirin Turgut.

November 28: The guards in a Kahramanmaraş prison physically assaulted inmates.

Issue 76[84]

29 November – 5 December 2021

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

[84] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 77 | December 6-12, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/76-EN.pdf*

December 11: The police in Şırnak detained Serhat Küçük, an executive for an association established for solidarity with people who have lost family members in the armed conflict in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish southeast.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 8: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Gülşen Koçuk to one year, 10 months, 15 days in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda on social media.

December 9: Reports revealed that Hüseyin Gökoğlu, a Kurdish politician whose house was violently raided by the police without a warrant last week, was detained for a questioning on accusations of insulting the president.

December 9: The police in Malatya detained two people on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda on social media.

December 11: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted former Kars mayor Ayhan Bilgen on charges of insulting the president.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 7: Prosecutors indicted Osman Şiban on terrorism-related charges. Last year, Şiban was allegedly thrown from a military helicopter after being detained by gendarmes and was severely injured.

December 7: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit former HDP deputy Levent Tüzel who has stood trial as part of an investigation into the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), the umbrella organization of the Kurdish political movement.

December 8: The police in Adana briefly detained former HDP deputy Mehmet Ali Aslan.

December 8: The police in Şırnak detained local HDP members and executives Abdullah Kaçmaz, Mehmet Miraç Dinç and Sümeyye Gök.

December 8: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Gülşen Koçuk to one year, 10 months, 15 days in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda on social media. Koçuk is a reporter for the pro-Kurdish Jinnews website.

December 9: Reports revealed that Hüseyin Gökoğlu, a Kurdish politician whose house was violently raided by the police without a warrant last week, was detained for a questioning on accusations of insulting the president.

December 10: The police in Van briefly detained newspaper distributor Özgür Ali Ağaoğlu without a detention warrant, confiscating some 200 copies of Yeni Yaşam and Xwebûn newspapers.

December 10: The police in Mersin detained 11 people for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda during Newroz celebrations.

December 11: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted former Kars mayor Ayhan Bilgen on charges of insulting the president.

December 11: The police in Şırnak raided a district headquarters of the HDP, detaining 26 people including the party's district executive Naim İned.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

December 6: Media reports revealed that a Diyarbakır prison has been keeping an inmate named Aziz Tufan in a one-person cell for more than two months.

December 9: Media reports indicated that a prisoner named Kadri Katar was mistreated during an involuntary prison transfer from Şırnak to Erzurum. The reports also said that the prison authorities launched a disciplinary investigation into Katar and imposed a one-month ban on visitation rights.

December 9: The Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) and the Human Rights Association (İHD) reported that 415 people were tortured in prisons and detention centers in the first 11 months of 2021.

December 10: The police in Şırnak physically assaulted a person who reacted to an armored police vehicle being parked in front of his shop.

Issue 77[85]

6-12 December 2021

Issue 78[86]

13-19 December 2021

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

December 15: Halil Güneş, an inmate suffering from cancer, was found dead in a Diyarbakır prison. The authorities had denied release to Güneş, despite a medical board report.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

[85] This issue was inaccessible due to a technical failure.

[86] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 78 | December 13-19, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/78-EN.pdf*

December 13: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Yüksel Almas, co-chair of an association established for solidarity with relatives of those who lost their lives in the armed conflict in the Kurdish-majority southeast, to 10 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

December 13: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 14: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former NGO executive Yılmaz Kan to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political movement.

December 16: The police in Diyarbakır detained Emine Kaya, the co-chair of a pro-Kurdish association for solidarity with relatives of prisoners.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 13: A Diyarbakır prosecutor requested up to five years in prison for journalist Durken Süren who is standing trial on terrorism-related charges over her social media messages as well as her work for the pro Kurdish Azadiya Welat and Özgür Gündem newspapers.

December 14: A Diyarbakır prosecutor demanded life in prison for journalist Rojhat Doğru, a former reporter for Gale Kurdistan TV who is on trial for allegedly threatening the integrity of the state and having terrorist affiliation.

December 16: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit journalist Mehmet Aslan of terrorism charges. Aslan stood trial over his work for the pro-Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency. December 17: The police detained 12 people, including HDP executives, as part of an investigation into alleged terrorist propaganda at a party meeting in İstanbul on December 12.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 13: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Yüksel Almas, co-chair of an association established for solidarity with relatives of those who lost their lives in the armed conflict in the Kurdish-majority southeast, to 10 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

December 13: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former district municipal council member Panayır Çelik to six years, three months on terrorism-related charges.

December 13: A Diyarbakır prosecutor requested up to five years in prison for journalist Durken Süren who is standing trial on terrorism-related charges over her social media messages as well as her work for the pro Kurdish Azadiya Welat and Özgür Gündem newspapers.

December 13: İstanbul prosecutors launched an investigation into the HDP due to alleged dissemination of terrorist propaganda at a party congress.

December 14: A Diyarbakır prosecutor demanded life in prison for journalist Rojhat Doğru, a former reporter for Gale Kurdistan TV who is on trial for allegedly threatening the integrity of the state and having terrorist affiliation.

December 14: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former NGO executive Yılmaz Kan to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political movement.

December 15: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local Kurdish politician Celal Yoldaş to 10 years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

December 16: The police in Diyarbakır detained Emine Kaya, the co-chair of a pro-Kurdish association for solidarity with relatives of prisoners. Kaya was arrested by a court on December 19.

December 16: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit journalist Mehmet Aslan of terrorism charges. Aslan stood trial over his work for the pro-Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency.

December 17: The police detained 12 people, including HDP executives, as part of an investigation into alleged terrorist propaganda at a party meeting in İstanbul on December 12.

December 17: Reports revealed that the Şırnak police physically and verbally mistreated HDP members Botan Em and Rıdvan Türel who were detained on December 11.

December 17: Sümeyye Gök, a HDP member who was detained on December 8, was reportedly subjected to a strip-search and coerced into becoming an informant for the state while in custody.

December 18: The police in Mardin detained local Kurdish politician Celal Ata.

December 19: A 17-year-old Kurdish minor was physically assaulted by a group in Ankara in what appears to be a racist attack.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

December 17: Reports revealed that the Şırnak police physically and verbally mistreated HDP members Botan Em and Rıdvan Türel who were detained on December 11.

December 17: Sümeyye Gök, a HDP member who was detained on December 8, was reportedly subjected to a strip-search and coerced into becoming an informant for the state while in custody.

Issue 79[87]

20-26 December 2021

[87] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 79 | December 20-26, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/79-EN.pdf*

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

December 21: Aydın Çubukçu, a 62-year-old disabled inmate held in a Van prison, said in a letter that his requests for release were refused despite a hospital report confirming his health problems. Çubukçu also reported that the prison administration was not providing him with his necessary daily medication and his special diet prescribed by doctors.

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

December 24: The Constitutional Court ruled that the police violated the right to life of Aynur Kudin, a Kurdish woman who died from a brain hemorrhage after falling down a staircase while trying to avoid inhaling tear gas during Kobani protests in 2014.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

December 20: A court ruled to arrest Osman Aksoy and Mirza Kurt, two pro-Kurdish NGO members who were detained on December 19.

December 23: A Diyarbakır court sentenced two members of a pro-Kurdish charity association to two years, one month in prison on terrorism-related charges.

December 26: The police in Diyarbakır detained 16 people on terrorism charges during a youth meeting organized by the HDP.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 22: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency.

December 25: Ankara prosecutors launched an investigation into 26 HDP MPs over their remarks urging the Turkish government to recognize the Armenian genocide.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 20: The police in Şırnak detained local HDP executive Zozan Aksu on terrorism charges. Aksu was arrested by a court on December 23.

December 20: A group of ultranationalists attacked stands at a book fair in Karabük where books authored by jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş were being sold.

December 21: A Tunceli court sentenced former co mayor Nurhayat Altun to 10 years in prison on terrorism charges.

December 21: A Kars court sentenced local HDP executive Cengiz Anlı to 12 years, 6 months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

December 22: The police in İzmir briefly detained local HDP executive Emin Orhan.

December 23: A Diyarbakır court sentenced two members of a pro-Kurdish charity association to two years, one month in prison on terrorism-related charges.

December 24: The Constitutional Court ruled that the police violated the right to life of Aynur Kudin, a Kurdish woman who died from a brain hemorrhage after falling down a staircase while trying to avoid inhaling tear gas during Kobani protests in 2014.

December 24: The police in Van detained five local HDP executives and members.

December 25: The police in Mersin briefly detained four HDP members who were handing out flyers about the downturn in the economy.

December 26: The police in Diyarbakır detained 16 people on terrorism charges during a youth meeting organized by the HDP.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

December 26: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison physically and verbally assaulted inmates during a ward search, confiscating personal belongings.

ANNEX 3 TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR (Period between 27 December 2021 and 25 December 2022)

(*Weekly Bulletins by Solidarity with Others, a Brussels-based human rights NGO)*

Below is all the reported human rights issues related to Kurdish population (including journalists, politicians or regular citizens) from December 2021 until December 2022.

Issue 80[88]

27 December 2021 – 2 January 2022

[88] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 80 | December 27, 2021-January 2, 2022* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/80-EN.pdf*

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

December 28: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of one day.

January 2: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, detaining at least 10 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 28: The police in Antalya detained 12 people as part of an investigation into alleged terrorist propaganda at a HDP rally on October 24. The detainees were released the next day.

December 28: Facebook banned the page of the Mezopotamya news agency.

December 30: İzmir prosecutors launched an investigation into HDP co-chair Pervin Buldan. The Kurdish politician is accused of insulting the panel of judges during a hearing in the trial of an alleged murderer who carried out a deadly armed attack at the HDP's İzmir office in June.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 28: An assailant carrying a gun and a knife attacked a HDP building in İstanbul, injuring a party employee.

December 28: The police in Antalya detained 12 people as part of an investigation into alleged terrorist propaganda at a HDP rally on October 24.

December 28: The police in Edirne detained HDP executive Zeynep Karaman as part of an investigation into widespread protests in Kurdish-majority provinces in 2014. Karaman was later arrested by a court.

December 28: Facebook banned the page of the Mezopotamya news agency.

December 30: İzmir prosecutors launched an investigation into HDP co-chair Pervin Buldan. The Kurdish politician is accused of insulting the panel of judges during a hearing in the trial of an alleged murderer who carried out a deadly armed attack at the HDP's İzmir office in June.

December 2: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, detaining at least 10 people.

PRISON CONDITIONS

January 1: A report released by the Diyarbakır Bar Association noted a significant increase in rights violations as well as a worsening of conditions in prisons in 2021.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

December 29: İbrahim Temel, an inmate held in an Elazığ prison told his family that the guards have been torturing him and threatening to kill him.

December 30: The guards in an Iğdır prison physically assaulted inmate Hogir Batu for refusing to undergo a strip-search.

Issue 81[89]

3-9 January 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

January 3: Rights groups announced that the Forensic Medicine Institution issued a report that said sick inmate Civan Boltan can remain in prison, despite physicians that treated him indicating otherwise.

January 6: The Ministry of Justice denied MP and medical doctor Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu authorization to visit jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk, who has been held behind bars despite being diagnosed with dementia and hospital reports indicating that she was unfit to stay in prison.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

January 3: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 4: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 9: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 5: The police in İstanbul detained journalist Ferhat Çelik upon a warrant issued by Gaziantep prosecutors over a news report.

January 6: A Van court ruled to acquit journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi and Zeynep Durgut of terrorism charges while sentencing Journalist Nazan Sala to one year, three months in prison. The journalists stood trial and underwent months-long detention over their coverage of an alleged incident of torture involving soldiers.

[89] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 81 | January 3-9, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/81-EN.pdf*

January 6: Van prosecutors indicted local HDP executive Handan Karakoyun due to a social media message.

January 6: Kocaeli prosecutors launched an investigation into MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu due to comments he made in front of a Kocaeli prison after he was not allowed to visit sick prisoner Aysel Tuğluk.

January 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

January 7: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Rojhat Doğru to life in prison as well as to 12 years, one month in prison on four different charges over his coverage of widespread protests in predominantly Kurdish provinces in 2014.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 5: The police in İstanbul detained journalist Ferhat Çelik upon a warrant issued by Gaziantep prosecutors over a news report published by the pro Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency.

January 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to release former HDP MP Abdullah Zeydan after an appeals court overturned his 8-year prison sentence on terrorism related charges.

January 6: A Van court ruled to acquit journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi and Zeynep Durgut of terrorism charges while sentencing Journalist Nazan Sala to one year, three months in prison. The journalists stood trial and underwent months-long detention over their coverage of an alleged incident of torture involving soldiers.

January 6: The Ministry of Justice denied MP and medical doctor Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu authorization to visit jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk, who has been held behind bars despite being diagnosed with dementia and hospital reports indicating that she was unfit to stay in prison. Prosecutors launched an investigation into Gergerlioğlu over his comments in front of the Kocaeli prison where Tuğluk is incarcerated.

January 6: Van prosecutors indicted local HDP executive Handan Karakoyun due to a social media message.

January 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

January 7: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Rojhat Doğru to life in prison as well as to 12 years, one month in prison on four different charges over his coverage of widespread protests in predominantly Kurdish provinces in 2014.

January 7: A Gaziantep court sentenced 62 people, including members of the HDP and the Democratic Regions Party (DBP), to varying prison sentences on terrorism-related charges.

January 9: A mob in Ankara attacked three Kurdish university students, injuring one of them. Two people were briefly detained in connection with the incident.

PRISON CONDITIONS

January 4: A prison administration in Şırnak did not deliver clothes sent by family members of inmate Kasım Yiğit.

Issue 82[90]

10-16 January 2022

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

January 12: An appeals court in Gaziantep overturned an administrative court decision ordering the Interior Ministry to pay a monetary compensation to the family of Kemal Kurkut, university student who was shot dead by the police in 2017. A criminal court handling the incident had acquitted the police officer who killed Kurkut.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

January 12: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 13: The Elazığ Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 11: The police in Gaziantep briefly detained local labor union executive Mehmet Türkmen over his social media messages.

January 12: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

January 13: The managing editor of a local newspaper in Elazığ was fired from office after the publication of a report about a university student who committed suicide due to pressure he faced at a dorm run by a religious community. The report was later removed from the newspaper's online edition.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

[90] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 82 | January 10-16, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/82-EN.pdf*

January 13: Elazığ prosecutors dismissed a criminal complaint against prison guards in the province who reportedly assaulted inmate İbrahim Temel and threatened him with death.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 10: A prison in Kocaeli imposed disciplinary sanctions on 15 inmates, including former HDP MPs, for chanting to protest the death of a prisoner following reports that she was subjected to torture and sexual abuse by prison guards.

January 11: The police in Van detained local HDP member Cemal Aslan.

January 11: A prison administration in Kayseri refused to deliver some inmates' Kurdish-language letters and books, citing lack of translators.

January 15: The daughter of jailed Kurdish politician Leyla Güven announced on social media that her mother was threatened with physical violence by a prison guard.

PRISON CONDITIONS

January 10: A women's prison in Diyarbakır denied visitation rights to inmates who refused to undergo a detailed body search in front of cameras.

January 11: A prison administration in Bolu refused to deliver to an inmate a novel authored by jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş on the grounds that it included obscenity.

January 11: A prison administration in Kayseri refused to deliver some inmates' Kurdish-language letters and books, citing lack of translators.

January 13: A person identified as Murat E. lost his life in a one-person cell in a Van prison one day after he was arrested. While the prison administration told family members that Murat E. had committed suicide, the authorities imposed a confidentiality order on the investigation into his death and a report issued by the local forensic medicine institution did not indicate the cause of death.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 11: The guards in an Iğdır prison physically and verbally assaulted inmate Hogir Batu.

January 11: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison physically assaulted inmates Velat Aydın and Süleyman Alıkan. One of the prisoners were injured and hospitalized as a result of the incident. Their phone call with their families was interrupted as they were beginning to talk about the violence.

January 13: Elazığ prosecutors dismissed a criminal complaint against prison guards in the province who reportedly assaulted inmate İbrahim Temel and threatened him with death.

January 13: Prison guards in Diyarbakır strip-searched relatives of inmates who were visiting.

January 15: The daughter of jailed Kurdish politician Leyla Güven announced on social media that her mother was threatened with physical violence by a prison guard.

January 15: Police officers in Van physically assaulted a person while detaining him.

Issue 83[91]

17-23 January 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

January 17: A Diyarbakır court sentenced pro-Kurdish NGO activist Yıldız Damla to six years, three months on terrorism charges.

January 17: A district governor's office in Diyarbakır issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 18: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Mehmet Şerif Çamçı, an NGO executive, to six years, three months on terrorism charges, as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political movement.

January 21: A Tunceli court sentenced local civil society activist Özkan Arslan to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, over his participation in environmental protests as well as his social media commentary.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 17: A Şanlıurfa court sentenced a Kurdish minor to eight months in prison for allegedly denigrating the national flag in a social media message.

January 18: Van prosecutors indicted a man who was detained for listening to a Kurdish song on his phone in a park, seeking up to 5 years in prison for alleged terrorist propaganda.

January 20: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted journalist Abdurrahman Gök on terrorism charges. The journalist faces the charges for photographing the moment when a police officer shot a young Kurdish man during Newroz celebrations in 2017.

January 21: A Tunceli court sentenced local civil society activist Özkan Arslan to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, over his participation in environmental protests as well as his social media commentary.

[91] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2021). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 83 | January 17-23, 2021*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/83-EN.pdf*

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

January 22: Prosecutors indicted Öztürk Türkdoğan, the chairman of the Human Rights Association (İHD), on charges of having links to terrorism and insulting the interior minister, due to an article published on the association's website.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 17: A Diyarbakır court sentenced pro-Kurdish NGO activist Yıldız Damla to six years, three months on terrorism charges.

January 17: A Şanlıurfa court sentenced a Kurdish minor to eight months in prison for allegedly denigrating the national flag in a social media message.

January 17: Reports revealed that jailed Kurdish politician Seyit Narin suffered a heart attack in a Rize prison. Narin is the former mayor of a district in Diyarbakır.

January 18: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Mehmet Şerif Çamçı, an NGO executive, to six years, three months on terrorism charges, as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political movement.

January 18: A Van court ruled to restrict jailed Kurdish journalist Nedim Türfent's meetings with his lawyers for three months.

January 18: Van prosecutors indicted a man who was detained for listening to a Kurdish song on his phone in a park, seeking up to 5 years in prison for alleged terrorist propaganda. PRISON CONDITIONS

January 17: Reports revealed that jailed Kurdish politician Seyit Narin suffered a heart attack in a Rize prison. Narin is the former mayor of a district in Diyarbakır.

January 18: A Van court ruled to restrict jailed Kurdish journalist Nedim Türfent's meetings with his lawyers for three months.

January 19: The Human Rights Association (İHD) announced that an inmate suffering from Buerger's disease in Hatay risks losing his foot unless he receives immediate treatment.

January 19: Media reports said that a women's prison in Diyarbakır has been refusing to respond to petitions written in Kurdish and to deliver Kurdish-language publications that were sent to inmates. The prison administration has also been delaying the delivery of Kurdish-language letters sent to prisoners.

January 21: Ramazan Turan, a 70-year-old inmate incarcerated in a Van prison, lost his life in a one-person quarantine cell. While the official announcement said that Turan died of a heart attack, rights groups reported that his autopsy was conducted without the presence of lawyers.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 18: The guards in a Van prison physically assaulted inmate Fikret Diyar Orhan.

January 19: The guards in an Ağrı prison physically assaulted inmates during a ward search and confiscated items that they had purchased from the prison cafeteria.

Issue 84[92]

24-30 January 2022

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

January 28: An armored police vehicle in Şırnak hit and killed Abdulgaffar Dayan, a 23-year-old Kurdish man.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

January 28: The Batman Governor's Office refused to authorize the opening of a stand to call for the official recognition of the Kurdish language.

January 28: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 24: A court sentenced Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş to 11 months, 20 days in prison on charges of insulting a former prime minister.

January 24: Throughout the week, courts and other authorities blocked access to at least eight websites used by pro-Kurdish or leftist news agencies, newspapers or platforms to publish news.

January 25: A Hatay court sentenced local HDP executive Abdurrahim Şahin to two years, one month in prison on terrorism-related charges, over a speech he made in 2014.

January 29: A HDP official announced that plainclothes police officers detained four people who were singing Kurdish-language music on a historic street in İstanbul.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 24: A court sentenced Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş to 11 months, 20 days in prison on charges of insulting a former prime minister.

[92] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 84 | January 24-30, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/84-EN.pdf*

January 25: A Hatay court sentenced local HDP executive Abdurrahim Şahin to two years, one month in prison on terrorism-related charges, over a speech he made in 2014.

January 26: The police in Diyarbakır detained Seval Gülmez, an executive of the Democratic Regions' Party (DBP), on terrorism-related charges.

January 28: An armored police vehicle in Şırnak hit and killed Abdulgaffar Dayan, a 23-year-old Kurdish man.

January 28: The police in four provinces detained 15 people including HDP members.

January 28: The Constitutional Court rejected journalist Mehmet Güleş's individual application, saying that his prison sentence of nine years, four months over his social media posts did not violate his freedom of expression. Güleş was a reporter for the pro-Kurdish Dicle news agency (DİHA).

January 28: The Batman Governor's Office refused to authorize the opening of a stand to call for the official recognition of the Kurdish language.

January 29: A HDP official announced that plainclothes police officers detained four people who were singing Kurdish-language music on a historic street in İstanbul.

PRISON CONDITIONS

January 28: Opposition MP Sezgin Tanrıkulu announced that a total of 3,145 people were subjected to torture and ill-treatment in 2021.

Issue 85[93]

31 January – 6 February 2022

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

February 1: The ruling party and its nationalist ally blocked a parliamentary motion to investigate civilian deaths caused by armored vehicles in the predominantly Kurdish southeastern provinces. The motion was proposed by an opposition party after an armored vehicle in Şırnak hit and killed a 23-year-old student. According to a report by the Human Rights Association (İHD), armored vehicles have killed 36 people, including six women and 16 children, over the past 10 years.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

[93] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 85 | January 31-February 6, 2022* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/85-EN.pdf*

February 3: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 4: The police in Diyarbakır detained Kurdish journalist and writer Nurcan Yalçın.

February 4: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA) for news publication.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

February 3: The police in Diyarbakır raided the provincial bureau of the Human Rights Association (İHD), detaining board member Ferhat Berkpınar.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

February 1: The Constitutional Court found no rights violation in the five-year pretrial detention of Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ, describing the measure as "proportionate."

KURDISH MINORITY

February 1: The Constitutional Court found no rights violation in the five-year pretrial detention of Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ, describing the measure as "proportionate."

February 1: The European Court of Human Rights ruled that Turkey violated the freedom of expression of 40 former HDP MPs by lifting their parliamentary immunity through a constitutional amendment in 2016 and by their subsequent trial. The court ordered Ankara to pay €5,500 to each applicant.

February 1: The ruling party and its nationalist ally blocked a parliamentary motion to investigate civilian deaths caused by armored vehicles in the predominantly Kurdish southeastern provinces. The motion was proposed by an opposition party after an armored vehicle in Şırnak hit and killed a 23-year-old student. According to a report by the Human Rights Association (İHD), armored vehicles have killed 36 people, including six women and 16 children, over the past 10 years.

February 3: The police in Van prevented a demonstration to protest the pressures on the Kurdish language.

February 4: The police in Diyarbakır detained Kurdish journalist and writer Nurcan Yalçın.

February 4: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA) for news publication.

PRISON CONDITIONS

February 5: A Malatya prison deprived sick inmate Mehmet Yamaç of a respirator that he needs.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 3: Some inmates held in a Diyarbakır prison were reportedly taken to rooms without surveillance cameras and were subjected to torture and ill-treatment.

Issue 86[94]

7-13 February 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

February 7: The police in Mardin detained 41 people a day after they attended protests against the increases in electricity prices. The detainees were released the next day.

February 8: The police in Van intervened in a demonstration staged by health workers, briefly detaining eight people.

February 9: Mardin prosecutors indicted civil society activists Abdullah Ayav, Vesile Yüksel and Ruken Aslan on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, over an event that featured Kurdish-language theater and music.

February 11: An İzmir court ruled to acquit 25 lawyers and a journalist who stood trial over their participation in a protest against the appointment of government trustees to replace the elected mayors of three predominantly Kurdish provinces in August 2019.

February 12: The police in Muş detained lawyers Tarık Güneş and Rumet Agir Özer, former executives of the Human Rights Association (İHD) on terrorism-related charges. Güneş was arrested by a court on February 13 while Özer was released on probation.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 8: A Kars court sentenced journalist Selda Manduz to one year, six months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda on social media.

February 8: The Constitutional Court ruled that the pretrial detention of journalist Cemil Uğur violated his rights. Uğur was arrested after reporting on allegations that soldiers in Van had tortured two Kurdish villagers. He stood trial on terrorism charges along with four other journalists but was ultimately acquitted by a Van court.

February 8: An appeals court overturned the prison sentences of documentary filmmakers Çayan Demirel and Ertuğrul Mavioğlu, the directors of a documentary about the outlawed Kurdistan

[94] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 86 | February 7-13, 2022* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/86-EN.pdf*

Workers' Party (PKK) who were convicted on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda. The retrial of the filmmakers will be held at a Batman court.

February 9: Kurdish filmmaker Abdülselam Kılgı was detained at İzmir Airport upon arrival from Germany. Kılgı is reportedly facing terrorism-related charges.

February 10: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Mehmet Şahin to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges.

February 10: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit writer Aslı Erdoğan of terrorism charges. Erdoğan stood trial over her support to a now-shuttered pro-Kurdish newspaper. She was held in pretrial detention for more than four months.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

February 12: The police in Muş detained lawyers Tarık Güneş and Rumet Agir Özer, former executives of the Human Rights Association (İHD) on terrorism-related charges. Güneş was arrested by a court on February 13 while Özer was released on probation.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 7: The police in Mardin detained former HDP executive Kadir Işık and two others in house raids. During the operation, the officers physically mistreated Işık and broke his nose.

February 8: An Elazığ prison imposed a disciplinary sanction of 10 days in solitary confinement on jailed Kurdish politician Leyla Güven.

February 8: The Constitutional Court ruled that the pretrial detention of journalist Cemil Uğur violated his rights. Uğur was arrested after reporting on allegations that soldiers in Van had tortured two Kurdish villagers. He stood trial on terrorism charges along with four other journalists but was ultimately acquitted by a Van court.

February 9: Kurdish filmmaker Abdülselam Kılgı was detained at İzmir Airport upon arrival from Germany. Kılgı is reportedly facing terrorism-related charges.

February 9: Mardin prosecutors indicted civil society activists Abdullah Ayav, Vesile Yüksel and Ruken Aslan on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, over an event that featured Kurdish-language theater and music.

February 10: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Mehmet Şahin to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political movement.

February 13: The police in Van, Diyarbakır and Mardin detained nine people, including HDP youth members, in house raids.

PRISON CONDITIONS

February 8: An Elazığ prison imposed a disciplinary sanction of 10 days in solitary confinement on jailed Kurdish politician Leyla Güven.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 7: The police in Mardin detained former HDP executive Kadir Işık in a house raid. During the operation, the officers physically mistreated Işık and broke his nose.

February 8: The Constitutional Court ruled that the pretrial detention of journalist Cemil Uğur violated his rights. Uğur was arrested after reporting on allegations that soldiers in Van had tortured two Kurdish villagers. He stood trial on terrorism charges along with four other journalists but was ultimately acquitted by a Van court.

February 9: The police in Diyarbakır physically assaulted three people with whom they got involved in a verbal argument in front of their shop.

February 10: A police officer in Şırnak hit a protester with a shield, injuring the protester in the face.

February 10: The guards in an Ağrı prison physically assaulted an inmate named Barış Demir.

February 10: A prison administration in Şanlıurfa denied visitation rights to relatives of inmates who refused to undergo strip-searches.

February 11: Bazo Yılmaz and Bayram Demirhan, two sick inmates held in a Şanlıurfa prison, refused hospitalization due to the mistreatment during the transfer to the hospital.

Issue 87[95]

14-20 February 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

February 17: The Council of Forensic Medicine (ATK) presented to court its report on ailing Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk, stating that she displayed symptoms of mild cognitive impairment and was fit to remain in prison. Tuğluk suffers from dementia and rights groups have been calling for her immediate release.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

February 16: The police in Ağrı detained six people for their participation in events in 2015.

[95] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 87 | February 14-20, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/87-EN.pdf*

February 18: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 14: The police in Mardin detained 22 people over their social media messages and their involvement in the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), the umbrella organization of the Kurdish political movement.

February 14: The police in Şırnak detained journalist Zeynep Durgut. Durgut was released on February 17.

February 17: A Tunceli court ruled to acquit Eren Keskin, an executive of the Human Rights Association (İHD), who stood trial on terrorism related charges due to a speech and her social media posts.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

February 15: The police in Kars detained Ziyadin Can, a provincial executive of the Human Rights Association (İHD).

February 17: A Tunceli court ruled to acquit Eren Keskin, an executive of the Human Rights Association (İHD), who stood trial on terrorism related charges due to a speech and her social media posts.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 14: The police in Mardin detained 22 people over their social media messages and their involvement in the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), the umbrella organization of the Kurdish political movement.

February 14: The police in Batman detained four members of the HDP.

February 14: The police in Şırnak detained journalist Zeynep Durgut, a reporter for the Mezopotamya news agency. Durgut was released on February 17.

February 14: The police in Manisa and Batman detained six people including local HDP executives and members.

February 15: The police in Kars detained five people, including a provincial HDP executive.

February 15: The police in İstanbul detained 10 people, including members of the HDP.

February 15: The police in Kocaeli detained two local HDP executives.

February 17: An appeals court in Diyarbakır upheld the prison sentence of six years, three months handed down to HDP MP Kemal Bülbül on terrorism charges.

February 17: The Council of Forensic Medicine (ATK) presented to court its report on ailing Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk, stating that she displayed symptoms of mild cognitive impairment and was fit to remain in prison. Tuğluk suffers from dementia and rights groups have been calling for her immediate release.

February 17: A parliamentary committee voted to lift the immunity of HDP MP Semra Güzel who risks standing trial on terrorism charges.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 14: The guards in a Şanlıurfa prison physically assaulted inmates and confiscated their personal belongings during a ward search.

February 15: The gendarmerie in Bingöl physically mistreated a man and his family during a house raid to detain him.

February 17: A Van court handed down a lenient prison sentence of five months to a police officer who fatally punched an Afghan migrant in 2014.

Issue 88[96]

21-27 February 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

February 24: The police in Van detained four university students who staged a protest at the university cafeteria.

February 27: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 21: An appeals court upheld the prison sentence of Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş, which was handed down for insulting the president over remarks he made 2015. Demirtaş was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison.

February 21: A Diyarbakır court acquitted nine lawyers who stood trial over a joint statement which contained references to the Armenian genocide and Kurdistan.

[96] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 88 | February 21-27, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/88-EN.pdf*

February 21: A Diyarbakır court acquitted Kurdish journalist Durket Süren who stood trial on terrorism charges.

February 25: A Mersin court sentenced Kurdish journalist Berivan Altan to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges.

February 25: Ankara prosecutors indicted former Kurdish MP Altan Tan on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda in a TV program.

February 25: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency to publish news, citing national security reasons.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 21: An appeals court upheld the prison sentence of Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş, which was handed down for insulting the president over remarks he made 2015. Demirtaş was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison.

February 21: A Diyarbakır court acquitted Kurdish journalist Durket Süren who stood trial on terrorism charges.

February 22: A court ruled to arrest HDP executives Mesut Hayri Bökü and Naile Gümüştaş who were detained on terrorism charges on February 14.

February 23: Three Kurdish university students in Antalya were slightly injured in an allegedly racist attack on a university campus by a group of 30 people.

February 25: A Mersin court sentenced Kurdish journalist Berivan Altan to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges.

February 25: Ankara prosecutors indicted former Kurdish MP Altan Tan on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda in a TV program.

February 25: A parliamentary commission proposed the lifting of the legislative immunity of HDP MP Semra Güzel, who is faced with terrorism-related charges.

PRISON CONDITIONS

February 25: Reports revealed that a Mardin prison has been denying hospitalization to an inmate for five months for refusing to undergo strip-search.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 21: The Turkish Medical Association (TTB) announced that a prosecutor in Şırnak physically assaulted a doctor over a disagreement about a relative’s medical treatment.

February 27: The police in Şanlıurfa mistreated four people over a discussion.

Issue 89[97]

28 February – 6 March 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 3: An İzmir court sentenced six people to five months in prison over a demonstration they staged in 2019 against the ousting of elected mayors in three predominantly Kurdish provinces.

March 3: İstanbul prosecutors drafted an indictment seeking the closure of a pro-Kurdish association.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 2: Hakkari prosecutors launched an investigation into Journalist Rabia Önver on account of her social media posts.

March 2: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

March 4: The authorities prevented opposition (HDP) MP and human rights defender Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu from leaving Turkey due to a travel ban in place despite his parliamentary immunity. He was scheduled to attend a conference in Berlin.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 1: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former district mayor Selim Kurbanoğlu to 10 years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

March 1: A Diyarbakır court sentenced lawyer Ruşen Seydaoğlu to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, as part of an investigation into pro Kurdish political networks.

March 2: The parliament lifted the parliamentary immunity of HDP MP Semra Güzel who is facing terrorism charges.

March 3: An Aydın court sentenced journalist Ahmet Kanbal to one year, three months in prison over a social media post where he shared a news report about alleged war crimes committed by a high-rankin gendarmerie officer in Diyarbakır.

March 3: An İzmir court sentenced six people to five months in prison over a demonstration they staged in 2019 against the ousting of elected mayors in three predominantly Kurdish provinces.

[97] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 89 | February 28-March 6, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/89-EN.pdf*

March 3: The police in Şırnak detained local HDP executives Songül Küçük, Naim İnedi and three others. The detainees were released the next day.

March 3: İstanbul prosecutors drafted an indictment seeking the closure of a pro-Kurdish association.

March 6: A district governor's office in Şırnak banned the staging of a Kurdish-language theater play without citing a reason.

PRISON CONDITIONS

February 28: Reports revealed that a Diyarbakır prison was denying needed medication to a child who was staying behind bars with her mother and that lesions have appeared on the child's body as a result.

March 4: A Mardin prison denied hospitalization to inmates who refused to undergo mouth searches.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 2: The guards in an Ankara prison strip-searched a relative of an inmate who was visiting.

March 4: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison threatened to kill an inmate named Kurbani Özcan.

Issue 90[98]

7-13 March 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 7: A Şırnak court ruled to acquit 16 people who were standing trial over their participation in a commemoration event for the victims of a Turkish airstrike that killed 34 civilians in 2011.

March 8: The police in İstanbul, İzmir, Antalya and Diyarbakır intervened in Women's Day marches, briefly detaining at least 78 people.

March 10: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish author Azad Zal to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, citing as evidence his memberships in pro-Kurdish associations, his involvement in pro-Kurdish media and his affiliation with the Kurdish political movement.

[98] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 90 | March 7-13, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/90-EN.pdf*

March 9: The police in Elazığ briefly detained journalist Sultan Eylem Keleş, who was facing charges of insulting the president. An İzmir court handed down a suspended prison sentence of one year, two months, 17 days on March 10.

March 9: The police in Malatya detained two people for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda on social media.

March 9: The Van Governor's Office ordered the removal of banners that were put up by a local medical chamber to support the İstanbul Convention on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

March 10: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish author Azad Zal to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, citing as evidence his memberships in pro-Kurdish associations, his involvement in pro-Kurdish media and his affiliation with the Kurdish political movement.

March 10: Ankara prosecutors asked the parliament to lift the legislative immunity of HDP MP Feleknas Uca, who is charged with "inciting hatred and enmity among public" over a speech where she mentioned Kurdistan.

March 10: The Bolu municipality fired a janitor for posting a photo on social media of jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş.

March 10: A Hatay court ruled to block access to the websites of pro-Kurdish Pir news agency (PİRHA) and the Yeni Yaşam newspaper.

March 10: A Mardin court acquitted journalist Ahmet Kanbal, who was standing trial on charges of insulting the interior minister on social media. On the other hand, Mardin prosecutors launched another investigation into Kanbal, this time on charges of provoking hatred and enmity among public.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 8: The guards in an Afyon prison physically assaulted inmates for speaking in Kurdish.

March 8: A district governor's office in Şırnak banned the staging of a Kurdish-language theater play without citing a justification.

March 10: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish author Azad Zal to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, citing as evidence his memberships in pro-Kurdish associations, his involvement in pro-Kurdish media and his affiliation with the Kurdish political movement.

March 10: Ankara prosecutors asked the parliament to lift the legislative immunity of HDP MP Feleknas Uca, who is charged with "inciting hatred and enmity among public" over a speech where she mentioned Kurdistan.

March 10: The Bolu municipality fired a janitor for posting a photo on social media of jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş.

March 10: A Hatay court ruled to block access to the websites of pro-Kurdish Pir news agency (PİRHA) and the Yeni Yaşam newspaper.

March 11: A Diyarbakır court sentenced HDP executive Beritan Yaşar to seven years, six months on terrorism related charges.

March 12: The police in Van detained three youth members of the HDP.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 8: The guards in an Afyon prison physically assaulted inmates for speaking in Kurdish.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

March 9: The Van Governor's Office ordered the removal of banners that were put up by a local medical chamber to support the İstanbul Convention on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

Issue 91[99]

14-20 March 2022

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE March 14: A regional appeals court in Diyarbakır ruled that no charges can be leveled against the police officer who shot a 23-year-old Kurdish university student to death during Newroz celebrations in 2017.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 14: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 17: A Diyarbakır court sentenced 79-year-ol peace activist Meryem Soylu to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges, over her membership in an association for people who have lost their relatives in the armed conflict in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish southeast.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 15: Ankara prosecutors launched an investigation into HDP executive Veli Saçılık over his social media messages.

[99] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/91-EN.pdf*

March 15: A Van court ruled to acquit Handan Karakoyun, a local HDP executive who was standing trial over a social media message.

March 17: The police in Gaziantep detained six people on charges of insulting the president on social media and spreading terrorist propaganda.

March 17: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kudish Etkin news agency.

March 18: The police in İstanbul detained Kurdish musician Çiya Şenses for an undisclosed reason. Şenses was released the next day after his questioning.

March 18: An Elazığ court ruled to acquit academic Hifzullah Kutum, who was standing trial on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, over a social media message containing the word "Kurdistan."

March 20: The police in Diyarbakır detained journalists Ertuş Bozkurt and Mikail Barut.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 15: Ankara prosecutors launched an investigation into HDP executive Veli Saçılık over his social media messages.

March 15: A Van court ruled to acquit Handan Karakoyun, a local HDP executive who was standing trial over a social media message.

March 17: A Diyarbakır court sentenced 79-year-ol peace activist Meryem Soylu to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges, over her membership in an association for people who have lost their relatives in the armed conflict in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish southeast.

March 17: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kudish Etkin news agency.

March 18: The police in İstanbul detained Kurdish musician Çiya Şenses for an undisclosed reason. Şenses was released the next day after his questioning.

March 18: An Elazığ court ruled to acquit academic Hifzullah Kutum, who was standing trial on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, over a social media message containing the word "Kurdistan."

March 19: A Kurdish student in Kocaeli was the subject of threats and racist attacks after he said he would not vote for the ruling party in the 2023 elections.

March 20: The police in İstanbul intervened in a Newroz celebration, briefly detaining 86 people.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 18: The guards in an Elazığ prison physically assaulted inmates during a ward search.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

March 17: The police in Diyarbakır detained 24 women's rights activists after their participation in Women's Day demonstrations.

Issue 92[100]

21-27 March 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

March 22: Abdo Baran, a 80-year-old prisoner suffering from end-stage cancer, died in a Mardin prison.

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

March 22: Şervan Can Güder, a 22-year-old inmate, died of heart attack in a Van prison. The opposition announced that Güder had no prior health problems and that his death was suspicious.

March 26: Muharrem Aksem, a 16-year-old minor in Şanlıurfa, was found dead under suspicious circumstances on a target practice training ground for special operations police.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 21: The police in Diyarbakır, Ağrı, Hakkari, Konya and Mardin intervened in Newroz celebrations in the province, detaining at least 353 people.

March 25: The police in İzmir and Tekirdağ detained at least 55 people over their participation in Newroz celebrations.

March 26: The Diyarbakır Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 10 days.

March 26: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 21: Journalist Altan Sancar was intercepted and verbally threatened by three armed individuals while he was covering Newroz celebrations in Diyarbakır.

[100] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 92 | March 21-27, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/92-EN.pdf*

March 21: The European Court of Human Rights ruled that Turkey violated the rights of Zehra Doğan, a journalist and painter who was arrested on terrorism related charges.

March 23: The authorities blocked access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 21: The police in Diyarbakır, Ağrı, Hakkari, Konya and Mardin intervened in Newroz celebrations in the province, detaining at least 353 people.

March 22: The Constitutional Court rejected an application submitted by HDP deputy Semra Güzel for a reversal of a decision to lift her parliamentary immunity on terrorism charges. Later in the week, an Ankara court issued an arrest warrant for Güzel.

March 23: A Diyarbakır court sentenced city council member Şehriban Zuğurli to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

March 24: A Van court handed down a suspended prison sentence of 18 months to HDP deputy Murat Sarısaç on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda.

March 24: The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (CoE) adopted a recommendation and resolution on the situation of mayors in Turkey, calling on the Turkish authorities to modify the definition of terrorism in its legislation and to stop the practice of removing mayors, mostly members of the HDP, without court decisions.

March 25: The police in İzmir and Tekirdağ detained at least 55 people over their participation in Newroz celebrations.

March 27: A HDP district office in Mersin was assaulted by unknown assailants who fired at the office with a shotgun.

PRISON CONDITIONS

March 22: Şervan Can Güder, a 22-year-old inmate, died of heart attack in a Van prison. The opposition announced that Güder had no prior health problems and that his death was suspicious.

March 22: A Van court restricted inmates' access to an award-winning novel by journalist Gökçer Tahincioğlu.

March 26: A Van court placed six inmates in solitary confinement and restricted their rights to spend time together. The prison administration also restricted the visitation rights of another inmate for one month for writing on ventilation walls.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 24: The guards in a Malatya prison physically assaulted inmate Musa Külter during a ward search.

March 25: The police in Van physically assaulted four people during a roadside control.

Issue 93[101]

28 March – 3 April 2022

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

April 1: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit a police officer who caused the death of a 5-year-old boy with an armored vehicle he was driving.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 28: The police detained two people over their participation in last week's Newroz celebrations.

March 29: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 30: A Diyarbakır court sentenced NGO executive Zahit Çiftkuran to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism charges, over his participation in events and funerals.

March 30: The police in Antalya detained 10 people, including two minors, over their participation in Newroz celebrations. The detainees were released the next day.

March 31: The gendarmerie in Mardin detained six people over their participation in Newroz celebrations. The detainees were released the next day.

April 2: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

April 3: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 28: The police in İstanbul physically assaulted journalist Tuba Apaydın who was covering the detention of those celebrating Newroz.

[101] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 93 | March 28-April 3, 2022* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/93-EN.pdf*

April 1: Ankara prosecutors filed a new indictment for jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş, seeking up to 5 years in prison on terrorism charges based on a social media post dating back to 2013.

April 1: Diyarbakır courts ruled to block access to URLs used by pro-Kurdish news platforms Jinnews, Etkin news agency and Özgür Gelecek.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

March 31: The Constitutional Court found no violation of rights in the cases of two former mayors from pro Kurdish parties in Diyarbakır who were removed from office and replaced by government-appointed trustees in 2015 and 2016.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 29: The police in Van detained Sinan Kaya, a local HDP executive. Kaya was released on March 31.

March 30: A group of Kurdish students in Muğla were assaulted by a mob in what appears to be a racist attack.

March 31: The Constitutional Court found no violation of rights in the cases of two former mayors from pro Kurdish parties in Diyarbakır who were removed from office and replaced by government-appointed trustees in 2015 and 2016.

April 1: Ankara prosecutors filed a new indictment for jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş, seeking up to 5 years in prison on terrorism charges based on a social media post dating back to 2013.

April 1: Diyarbakır courts ruled to block access to URLs used by pro-Kurdish news platforms Jinnews, Etkin news agency and Özgür Gelecek.

PRISON CONDITIONS

April 2: A Şanlıurfa prison restricted inmates' rights to video call.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 28: Diyarbakır prosecutors ordered collection of blood samples from 42 minors who were detained by the police during Newroz celebrations.

March 29: Besna Daşçi, a distributor for the Yeni Yaşam newspaper, was verbally threatened by individuals who introduced themselves as police officers.

March 30: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison physically assaulted inmates.

March 30: An inmate named Ramazan Turan was subjected to a strip-search in a Çorum prison during an involuntary transfer from Diyarbakır.

March 31: The gendarmerie in Batman tortured 15 people who were in custody.

April 3: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison physically assaulted inmates.

April 3: Mehmet Emin Çam, a 70-year-old sick inmate in a Batman prison, was held in a one-person cell for 17 days and was forced to stay up during head count.

Issue 94[102]

4-10 April 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

April 4: The Constitutional Court found no rights violation in the pretrial detention of Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ in connection with a trial concerning deadly protest in southeastern Turkey in 2014.

April 9: Reports indicated that a Diyarbakır prison denied parole to two eligible Kurdish inmates, citing "lack of goof behavior."

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 5: Diyarbakır courts ruled to block access to three news websites.

April 8: An Ardahan court ruled to block access to a web page used by the left-wing Umut newspaper.

April 9: The Constitutional Court ruled that Kurdish politician Leyla Güven's pretrial detention in 2018 violated her rights. Güven was arrested for calling Turkey's military operation against Syrian Kurdish militia an "invasion."

KURDISH MINORITY

April 4: The police in Erzurum detained three members and executives of the HDP.

April 4: The Constitutional Court found no rights violation in the pretrial detention of Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ in connection with a trial concerning deadly protest in southeastern Turkey in 2014.

April 5: The guards in a Bayburt prison verbally threatened inmates, confiscated their belongings during ward searches and prohibited them from writing letters in Kurdish.

[102] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 94 | April 4-10, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/94-EN.pdf*

April 5: Diyarbakır courts ruled to block access to three news websites, including one used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency.

April 5: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit HDP executive Berna Çelik of terrorism charges. The prosecutor's office objected to the decision the same day.

April 9: The Constitutional Court ruled that Kurdish politician Leyla Güven's pretrial detention in 2018 violated her rights. Güven was arrested for calling Turkey's military operation against Syrian Kurdish militia an "invasion."

April 9: Reports indicated that a Diyarbakır prison denied parole to two eligible Kurdish inmates, citing "lack of goof behavior."

April 9: A racist mob in Karaman attacked a group of Kurdish university students performing a folkloric dance.

PRISON CONDITIONS

April 5: The guards in a Bayburt prison verbally threatened inmates, confiscated their belongings during ward searches and prohibited them from writing letters in Kurdish.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 4: The gendarmerie in Van physically mistreated a man named Yakup Avan whom they detained for alleged smuggling.

April 7: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison physically and verbally assaulted inmates.

April 9: The guards in an Ağrı prison physically assaulted three inmates.

April 9: Prison officials in Diyarbakır cut off inmate İbrahim Ayaz's phone call with his family while he was talking about an incident of mistreatment he suffered.

Issue 95[103]

11-17 April 2022

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

April 11: A police officer in Şırnak ran over lawyer Serkan Karakaş. The officer was detained after he admitted during his questioning that his action was deliberate.

[103] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 95 | April 11-17, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/95-EN.pdf*

April 16: Soldiers in Hakkari shot dead Tahsin Yalçın, a 21-year-old man.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

April 12: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest staged by the HDP and detained three people, including executives of the party. The detainees were released the next day.

April 13: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

April 14: Gendarmes in Adıyaman briefly detained 20 people protesting the construction of a marble quarry.

April 15: The police detained at least 66 people on terrorism-related charges for their attendance at Newroz celebrations in Diyarbakır in March.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 14: An Ankara court sentenced Kurdish politician Altan Tan to 15 months in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda on social media.

April 14: An appeals court in İstanbul upheld the prison sentences handed down to Kemal Sancılı, İnan Kızılkaya and Eren Keskin on terrorism-related charges as part of an investigation into the now-closed Özgür Gündem newspaper.

April 14: The authorities blocked access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

April 14: Kocaeli prosecutors ordered the removal of a banner placed by the HDP on a party building.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 11: The police in Şırnak detained 10 people, including local HDP executives.

April 11: A school in Mersin expelled a teacher named Hüdai Morsümbül for speaking Kurdish and Arabic with his students and encouraging them to enroll in elective Kurdish courses.

April 12: The police in several provinces detained 46 people, including former mayors from the HDP, as part of an investigation into a series of protests in Kurdish majority southeast in 2014. Arrest warrants were issued for 91 suspects as part of the investigation.

April 12: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest staged by the HDP and detained three people, including executives of the party. The detainees were released the next day.

April 13: A Diyarbakır court sentenced HDP press worker Vedat Dağ to 10 years, three months on several charges.

April 14: An Ankara court sentenced Kurdish politician Altan Tan to 15 months in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda on social media.

April 14: The authorities blocked access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

April 14: Kocaeli prosecutors ordered the removal of a banner placed by the HDP on a party building.

April 15: The police detained at least 66 people on terrorism-related charges for their attendance at Newroz celebrations in Diyarbakır in March.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 11: The police in Tunceli physically mistreated a man named Doğukan Gül who was in custody.

April 13: Reports revealed that the police in Bitlis physically assaulted an 18-year-old man for making the V sign while taking a picture.

April 13: The police in Şırnak physically assaulted a woman during a house raid.

April 14: The guards in an Afyon prison verbally threatened inmate Xemgin Karakaş with death.

April 15: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison physically assaulted inmates during a ward search. The prison administration cut off the phone calls of inmates who attempted to talk about the incident of torture.

Issue 96[104]

18-24 April 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

April 19: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

April 22: Airport police in İstanbul barred HDP MP Kemal Bülbül from traveling abroad to attend an event, citing a travel ban on his passport.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

[104] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 96 | April 18-24, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/96-EN.pdf*

April 19: An Ankara court ruled to acquit Öztürk Türkdoğan, an executive of the Human Rights Association (İHD) who stood trial on terrorism-related charges.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 18: İzmir prosecutors indicted Abdullah Poyraz, the father of HDP employee Deniz Poyraz who was killed in an armed attack at a party office last year, on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda in an interview he gave to the media about the incident.

April 18: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration to commemorate a deadly May Day incident in 1977, detaining more than 20 people, including members of the HDP.

April 20: The police in Diyarbakır detained 10 people, including local politicians and members of the HDP.

April 22: The police in Ağrı detained three pro-Kurdish politicians.

April 22: Airport police in İstanbul barred HDP MP Kemal Bülbül from traveling abroad to attend an event, citing a travel ban on his passport.

April 24: Ankara prosecutors ordered the detention of 18 pro-Kurdish politicians in connection with an investigation into 2014 protests in southeastern provinces.

PRISON CONDITIONS

April 20: A Şanlıurfa prison denied political prisoners their right to video call and refused to deliver items that were sent to them.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 18: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison physically assaulted inmate Hasan Aşa who argued with them after he was denied his medication. Aşa's both arms were broken as a result of the incident.

April 18: Gendarmes in Van physically mistreated two people who were detained while trying to cross into Iran illegally.

April 18: Opposition MP Sezgin Tanrıkulu reported that 281 incidents of torture took place in March, with 51 of them taking place in prisons.

April 19: The guards in a Batman prison physically assaulted inmate Alaattin Demir.

April 20: A prison official in Şanlıurfa verbally threatened an inmate.

Issue 97[105]

25 April – 1 May 2022

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 25: An appeals court in Ankara overturned a prison sentence of two years, six months handed down to Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş over his criticism of a member of high judiciary.

April 25: The Constitutional Court ruled that a 2011 court decision ordering Kurdish politician Hasip Kaplan to pay damages to then-prime minister over his remarks was in violation of his right to freedom of expression.

April 26: The police in Van detained a man for singing in Kurdish. The man was rear-handcuffed and severely beaten.

April 26: The police in Batman detained a local inhabitant on terrorism-related charges, over a conversation with a politician about the Kurdish minority.

April 26: A Sakarya court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Özgür Gelecek newspaper.

April 27: An İstanbul court sentenced former HDP MP Halil Aksoy to one year in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda in a speech.

April 27: The security detail of the mayor of Elazığ allegedly assaulted reporter Ardıl Batmaz who was following up on news.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

April 29: A lawyer announced that no indictment has been drafted in the past 21 months after an investigation was launched into an incident in which two Kurdish villagers were allegedly thrown from a military helicopter and tortured in southeastern Turkey.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 25: An appeals court in Ankara overturned a prison sentence of two years, six months handed down to Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş over his criticism of a member of high judiciary.

[105] *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 97 | April 25-May 1, 2022*. (n.d.). [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/97-EN.pdf*

April 25: A court ruled to arrest four pro-Kurdish politicians who were detained in Ağrı last week on terrorism-related charges. A

pril 26: The police in Van detained a man for singing in Kurdish. The man was rear-handcuffed and severely beaten.

April 26: The police in Batman detained a local inhabitant on terrorism-related charges, over a conversation with a politician about the Kurdish minority.

April 26: The guards in an Ankara prison verbally assaulted two inmates who greeted each other in Kurdish.

April 26: A Sakarya court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Özgür Gelecek newspaper.

April 27: An İstanbul court sentenced former HDP MP Halil Aksoy to one year in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda in a speech.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 26: The police in Van rear-handcuffed and physically mistreated a man who was detained for singing in Kurdish.

April 26: The guards in an Ankara prison verbally assaulted two inmates who greeted each other in Kurdish.

April 27: The security detail of the mayor of Elazığ allegedly assaulted reporter Ardıl Batmaz who was following up on news.

April 29: A lawyer announced that no indictment has been drafted in the past 21 months after an investigation was launched into an incident in which two Kurdish villagers were allegedly thrown from a military helicopter and tortured in southeastern Turkey.

Issue 98[106]

2-8 May 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

May 3: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

[106] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 98 | May 2-8, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/98-EN.pdf*

May 5: The police in Ankara intervened in an event organized by the HDP, detaining six party members as well as two others. Party members were physically assaulted during the intervention. An officer verbally threatened MP Ayşe Acar-Başaran.

May 7: The police in Muş intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, briefly detaining three party executives.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 8: The police in Şırnak detained Mahsun Birlik, an employee of the pro-Kurdish Yeni Yaşam newspaper.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 5: The police in Ankara intervened in an event organized by the HDP, detaining six party members as well as two others. Party members were physically assaulted during the intervention. An officer verbally threatened MP Ayşe Acar-Başaran.

May 7: The police in Muş intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, briefly detaining three party executives.

May 8: The police in Şırnak detained Mahsun Birlik, an employee of the pro-Kurdish Yeni Yaşam newspaper.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

May 3: The guards in a Bitlis prison threatened with death an inmate named Naif İşçi.

May 4: The police in Şırnak physically assaulted a man named Ebubekir Çıkmaz during an ID check.

May 5: The police in Ankara physically assaulted HDP MPs during an intervention in a party event. An officer also verbally threatened MP Ayşe Acar-Başaran.

Issue 99[107]

9-15 May 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

May 10: The police in Mardin briefly detained 12 people, including five minors, over their participation in Newroz celebrations.

[107] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 99 | May 9-15, 2022* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/99-EN.pdf*

May 10: The Batman Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

May 11: The police in Mardin detained 10 people over their participation in Newroz celebrations.

May 13: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

May 13: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 7 days.

May 14: The police in Tunceli violently intervened in the funeral of a Kurdish politician, detaining four people. Three of the detainees were later released while one was arrested by a court on charges of resisting the police.

May 15: The Kocaeli Municipality cancelled a concert by Kurdish singer Aynur Doğan.

May 16: Opposition MP Sezgin Tanrıkulu announced that the police detained 288 people in 45 demonstrations in April.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 11: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web page used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

May 10: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit four police officers who were previously sentenced to two years, 15 days in prison on negligence charges over a bomb attack against a rally organized by the HDP. The officers' were retried after an appeals court overturned their sentences.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 10: The police in Mardin briefly detained 12 people, including five minors, over their participation in Newroz celebrations.

May 10: The police in Şırnak detained two people, including HDP executive Müzeyyen İnan.

May 11: The police in Mardin detained 10 people over their participation in Newroz celebrations.

May 14: The police in Tunceli violently intervened in the funeral of a Kurdish politician, detaining four people. Three of the detainees were later released while one was arrested by a court on charges of resisting the police.

May 15: An Ankara prison refused to deliver a book to jailed Kurdish politician Sebahat Tuncel on the grounds that it contained "security threats."

May 15: The police in Diyarbakır detained pro-Kurdish politician Hafize İpek and NGO executive Metin Kılavuz as part of an investigation into widespread Kurdish protests in 2014.

PRISON CONDITIONS

May 15: An Ankara prison refused to deliver a book to jailed Kurdish politician Sebahat Tuncel on the grounds that it contained “security threats.”

Issue 100[108]

16-22 May 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

May 17: The Muş Governor’s Office banned a concert by Metin Kahraman and Kemal Kahraman.

May 17: A municipality in Kocaeli banned the staging of a Kurdish-language theater play.

May 20: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, briefly detaining four people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 20: The police in İstanbul briefly detained Kurdish musician Zelal Gökçe on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

May 17: The Human Rights Association (İHD) announced that one of its provincial co-chairs in Hakkari received death threats.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 19: The police in Diyarbakır detained 12 people, including executives and members of the HDP.

May 20: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, briefly detaining four people.

May 20: The police in İstanbul briefly detained Kurdish musician Zelal Gökçe on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda.

[108] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 100 | May 16-22, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/100-EN.pdf*

Issue 101[109]

23-29 May 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

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 Tunceli briefly detained 11 people staging a protest.

May 28: The police in Tunceli detained 20 people for attending Newroz celebrations.

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

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.

KURDISH MINORITY

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.

Issue 102[110]

30 May – 5 June 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

[109] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/101-EN.pdf*

[110] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 102 | May 30-June 5, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/102-EN.pdf*

May 30: A district governor's office in Bitlis canceled a Kurdish-language theater play, citing technical problems.

May 31: The police in Şırnak intervened in a protest organized by the HDP, detaining five party executives.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 30: An Ardahan court ruled to block access to five news websites and online magazines, citing national security and public order reasons.

May 31: A Van court handed down a suspended prison sentence of eight months, 22 days to reporter Zelal Tunç on charges of insulting a public official.

May 31: Diyarbakır courts ruled to block access to three pro-Kurdish news websites.

June 3: The police in Diyarbakır detained journalist Dicle Müftüoğlu.

June 3: Ankara prosecutors summoned journalist Berivan Altan for a questioning over her coverage of an alleged racist attack targeting a Kurdish family.

June 3: An İstanbul court ruled to censor and confiscate the copies of three books and a report published by an NGO about internally displaced Kurds and curfews imposed in predominantly Kurdish provinces.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 30: The police in Şırnak physically assaulted local HDP executive Ahmet Aktuğ.

May 31: The police in Batman detained 19 people, including local HDP executives.

May 31: The police in Şırnak intervened in a protest organized by the HDP, detaining five party executives.

May 31: Diyarbakır courts ruled to block access to three pro-Kurdish news websites.

June 3: Prosecutors issued detention warrants for more than 40 members of the HDP across 10 provinces.

June 3: The police in Van detained 13 people, including members and executives of the HDP.

June 3: The police in Bingöl detained local HDP executive Saadet Fırat.

June 3: The police in Diyarbakır detained journalist Dicle Müftüoğlu.

June 3: Ankara prosecutors summoned journalist Berivan Altan for a questioning over her coverage of an alleged racist attack targeting a Kurdish family.

June 3: An İstanbul court ruled to censor and confiscate the copies of three books and a report published by an NGO about internally displaced Kurds and curfews imposed in predominantly Kurdish provinces.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

May 30: The police in Şırnak physically assaulted local HDP executive Ahmet Aktuğ.

May 30: The Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) announced that it received 984 complaints about torture in 2021, the highest annual number since the foundation's establishment in 1990.

May 31: The guards in a Van prison physically assaulted inmates Mehmet Kültür and Feyyaz Başak.

Issue 103[111]

6-12 June 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

June 6: Governors of Adana and Mersin banned the Kurdish-language staging of Tartuffe without a justification.

June 11: The police in Diyarbakır detained 12 pro Kurdish politicians and activists who staged a demonstration.

June 12: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 6: A Şanlıurfa court ordered activist Emine Şenyaşar to pay damages for allegedly insulting government officials.

June 6: The Dicle Fırat Journalists' Association (DFG) reported that Turkish authorities detained 11 journalists and mistreated 11 others in May.

June 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

[111] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 103 | June 6-12, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/103-EN.pdf*

June 6: The authorities released journalist Dicle Müftüoğlu, who was detained last week.

June 8: The police in Diyarbakır conducted house raids to detain 21 Kurdish journalists. The police also raided offices of pro-Kurdish media outlets, confiscating computers, drives and printed material.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

June 12: Şanlıurfa prosecutors decided for non prosecution in the case of prison guards accused of torturing inmates.

KURDISH MINORITY

June 6: The Adana Governor's Office banned the Kurdish-language staging of Tartuffe without a justification.

June 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

June 8: The police in Diyarbakır conducted house raids to detain 21 Kurdish journalists. The police also raided offices of pro-Kurdish media outlets, confiscating computers, drives and printed material.

June 8: The police in Tekirdağ detained eight Kurdish politicians on terrorism charges.

June 8: A Kurdish construction worker in Bursa was subjected to a racist attack by his coworkers and injured as a result. The worker was also fired after the incident.

June 11: The police in Diyarbakır detained 12 pro Kurdish politicians and activists who staged a demonstration.

PRISON CONDITIONS

June 7: A Batman prison denied medical treatment to inmate Önder Poyraz.

June 7: A prison administration in Şanlıurfa denied hospitalization to inmates.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 6: Mehmet Ali Aykal, an inmate held in a Diyarbakır prison, was physically assaulted by soldiers during a hospital visit.

June 7: The guards in a Şanlıurfa prison verbally threatened inmate Cesim Karataş.

June 12: The guards in a Batman prison physically assaulted two inmates who resisted a head count.

June 12: Şanlıurfa prosecutors decided for non prosecution in the case of prison guards accused of torturing inmates.

Issue 104[112]

13-19 June 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

June 14: A Diyarbakır court sentenced NGO activist Mehmet Hafız Şık to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 14: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

June 15: The police in Van detained two people, one of whom a minor, for wearing t-shirts with a picture of jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş. The police later detained six others who objected to the detentions.

June 16: A court arrested 16 Kurdish journalists out of the 22 who were detained a week earlier on terrorism charges.

June 16: An Erzurum court sentenced journalist Mehmet Arslan to one year, six months on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda. The court suspended the execution of the sentence.

June 16: A Diyarbakır court handed down a suspended prison sentence of one year, two months and 17 days to Mehmet Yıldırım on charges of insulting the president on social media.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

June 15: The police in Ankara detained Adile Erkan, a provincial executive of the Human Rights Association (İHD).

KURDISH MINORITY

June 14: The police in Batman detained local Kurdish politician Seyhan Başak.

June 14: A prison administration in Kayseri refused to deliver a bookmark to an inmate on the grounds that it contained jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş's name on it.

June 15: The police in İstanbul detained 10 people during a wedding for wearing scarves in traditional Kurdish colors. The detainees were later arrested by a court.

[112] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 104 | June 13-19, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/104-EN.pdf*

June 15: The police in Van detained two people, one of whom a minor, for wearing t-shirts with a picture of jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş. The police later detained six others who objected to the detentions.

June 16: A court arrested 16 Kurdish journalists out of the 22 who were detained a week earlier on terrorism charges.

June 16: An Erzurum court sentenced journalist Mehmet Arslan to one year, six months on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda. The court suspended the execution of the sentences. Arslan stood trial over his work for the pro-Kurdish Dicle news agency (DİHA).

June 16: The police in İstanbul carried out house raids to detain 10 members and executives of the HDP.

June 17: The police in İzmir detained HDP youth member Serhat İrlan.

PRISON CONDITIONS

June 14: A prison administration in Kayseri refused to deliver a bookmark to an inmate on the grounds that it contained jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş's name on it.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 19: The guards in an Elazığ prison physically assaulted inmate Abdo Şeyh for resisting a strip-search.

Issue 105[113]

20-26 June 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

June 25: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the Saturday Mothers (Cumartesi Anneleri), briefly detaining 16 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 21: A Diyarbakır court handed down a suspended prison sentence of 10 months to Kurdish politician Sırrı Süreyya Önder on charges of insulting the president.

KURDISH MINORITY

[113] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/105-EN.pdf*

June 21: In a video that sparked outrage on social media, a group of gendarmes were seen terrorizing civilians in a Kurdish-majority province by firing random shots in the air as they arrived to detain a suspect.

June 22: The police in Mersin detained 20 people, including a local HDP executive, on terrorism-charges.

June 24: The Supreme Court of Appeals (Yargıtay) upheld prison sentences handed down in 2018 to 13 Kurdish politicians, including former Van Mayor Bekir Kaya, on terrorism charges.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 21: In a video that sparked outrage on social media, a group of gendarmes were seen terrorizing civilians in a Kurdish-majority province by firing random shots in the air as they arrived to detain a suspect.

June 22: The guards in an Elazığ prison mistreated inmate Süleyman Göksel Yerdut.

June 26: Gendarmerie in Hakkari mistreated 20 people, including minors, who were detained in house raids. Two lawyers who went to meet with the victims were also reportedly mistreated.

June 26: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison physically assaulted six inmates during a ward search.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

June 22: A Turkish national who was arrested in Germany last year admitted in court to spying on members of the Gülen movement and the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Issue 106[114]

27 June – 3 July 2022

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

June 30: A Diyarbakır court sentenced photojournalist Abdurrahman Gök to one year, six months and 22 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda for taking photos of university student Kemal Kurkut being shot to death by a police officer during Newroz celebrations in 2017.

[114] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 106 | June 27-July 3, 2022* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/106-EN.pdf*

July 3: Gendarmerie in Van opened fire on a vehicle carrying migrants on the grounds that the vehicle did not comply with a warning to stop, killing a four-year-old child and injuring 12 others who were inside.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

June 30: The police in Kocaeli attacked an outdoor exhibition organized by the HDP, briefly detaining six party members.

July 2: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 27: The police in Aydın detained musician Veysi Belketin on terrorism charges for singing in Kurdish at a wedding.

July 1: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a news website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

KURDISH MINORITY

June 27: The police in Adana detained 36 people, including members and executives of the HDP.

June 27: The police in Aydın detained musician Veysi Belketin on terrorism charges for singing in Kurdish at a wedding.

June 28: A Hatay court sentenced a man named Menci Orman to 10 months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda for wearing a scarf in yellow, red and green during Newroz celebrations. The court suspended the sentence.

June 30: A Diyarbakır court sentenced photojournalist Abdurrahman Gök to one year, six months and 22 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda for taking photos of university student Kemal Kurkut being shot to death by a police officer during Newroz celebrations in 2017.

June 30: The police in Kocaeli attacked an outdoor exhibition organized by the HDP, briefly detaining six party members.

July 3: The police in Ankara detained five people over slogans chanted at a meeting organized by the HDP.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 27: The guards in an Ağrı prison physically assaulted inmate Zülküf Kaya. The victim was later transferred to another prison against his will.

June 30: The police in Siirt physically assaulted a man named Welat İnan.

Issue 107[115]

4-10 July 2022

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

July 7: The Constitutional Court found inadmissible applications filed by people affected by a curfews in the predominantly Kurdish southeast of Turkey in which 137 were killed in counterterrorism operations in 2015-2016.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

July 4: Gendarmerie in Şırnak intervened in a protest by local inhabitants against an energy company, detaining 20 people.

July 5: The police in Batman detained four people over slogans chanted at a HDP rally.

July 7: The police in Mardin detained seven people protesting a local energy supplier.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 5: The police in Batman detained four people over slogans chanted at a HDP rally.

PRISON CONDITIONS

July 7: An Elazığ prison denied medical care to inmates suffering from health problems.

Issue 108[116]

11-17 July 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

July 14: The Council of Forensic Medicine issued a controversial report in which it stated that Aysel Tuğluk, a jailed Kurdish politician suffering from dementia, is fit to remain in prison.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

[115] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/107-EN.pdf*

[116] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 108 | July 11-17, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/108-EN.pdf*

July 14: The Van Governor's Office released a statement designating the vicinity of government offices as well as a number of streets as parks as localities categorically forbidden for demonstrations while lifting restrictions to assembly imposed in other areas in the province.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 14: The police in Tunceli confiscated two books at a book fair, citing a court order.

July 16: The police in Tunceli detained journalist Azime Bozkurt at a road checkpoint. Bozkurt was released the next day.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 11: Kadri Devir, a HDP executive in Şanlıurfa, was arrested and sent to prison after appeals courts upheld his prison sentence.

July 16: The Constitutional Court ruled that the conviction of Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ on terrorism charges violated her rights. Yüksekdağ was sentenced to 10 months in prison for participating in a funeral in 2012.

PRISON CONDITIONS

July 11: A Diyarbakır prison confiscated letters sent by jailed journalists Mehmet Ali Ertaş, Serdar Altan and Zeynel Abidin Bulut.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 14: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison strip searched the spouse of jailed journalist Serdar Altan who was visiting.

Issue 109[117]

18-24 July 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

July 18: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 17 days.

July 18: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

[117] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 109 | July 18-24, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/109-EN.pdf*

July 21: A culture festival in Tunceli was cancelled after local authorities imposed roadblocks that made the event impossible to hold.

July 23: The police in İstanbul intervened in a football event organized by the HDP to commemorate a 19-year old Kurdish university student who was killed by the police, detaining 11 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 19: İstanbul prosecutors ordered the confiscation and censorship of two books on the Kurdish militants' fight against ISIL.

July 20: Mardin prosecutors launched an investigation into Kurdish journalist Öznur Değer over her social media messages and summoned her for a questioning.

July 22: Diyarbakır prosecutors launched an investigation into the Diyarbakır Bar Association over a statement that the bar released about alleged Turkish artillery strikes that killed nine civilians in northern Iraq.

KURDISH MINORITY July 20: Members of a Kurdish family in Denizli was targeted in a racist attack by local inhabitants who threatened them with death.

July 20: The Constitutional Court found rights violations in the trial of Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş, who was prosecuted over slogans chanted at a demonstration he attended in 2011.

July 22: The police in Van detained HDP youth member Arjin Tüncer.

July 23: The police in İstanbul intervened in a football event organized by the HDP to commemorate a 19-year old Kurdish university student who was killed by the police, detaining 11 people.

PRISON CONDITIONS

July 21: Kadri Ekinci, an inmate incarcerated in a Diyarbakır prison, was found dead in his cell. While the authorities classified Ekinci's death as suicide, his family claimed that he was heavily mistreated by the prison administration and that he was unlikely to have killed himself.

July 24: An Elazığ prison refused to deliver a letter sent to sick inmate Mehmet Emin Özkan on the grounds that it would "cheer him up." The letter was sent by jailed Kurdish politician Leyla Güven.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 18: The guards in an Erzurum prison mistreated inmate Emrah Yakut and threatened to kill him.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

July 20: The Iraqi government blamed Turkey for artillery strikes that killed nine civilians and wounded 23 others in Zakho.

Issue 110[118]

25-31 July 2022

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 25: The police in Mardin removed a banner hung by the HDP on its provincial headquarters.

July 26: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

July 27: The police in Manisa briefly detained four people, three of whom members of the HDP, over their social media messages.

July 28: The police in Antalya detained six people on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 25: Esat Atabay, a Kurdish seasonal agricultural laborer, was targeted in a racist attack and was injured in his head.

July 25: The police in Antalya intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, briefly detaining seven people.

July 25: The police in Mardin removed a banner hung by the HDP on its provincial headquarters.

July 26: The police in Kars detained HDP member Gülcan Alp on terrorism-related charges.

July 26: A parliamentary committee lifted the parliamentary immunity of Kurdish MP Salihe Aydeniz.

July 26: The Constitutional Court found no rights violation in a disciplinary punishment given to 22 teachers for staging a protest about the freedom to use one's mother tongue.

July 27: The police in Manisa briefly detained four people, three of whom members of the HDP, over their social media messages.

[118] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 110 | July 25-31, 2022* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/110-EN.pdf*

July 28: The police in Mersin detained 21 people, including local HDP executives, on terrorism-related charges.

July 29: The police in İstanbul detained seven members of the HDP. During the house raids, the police mistreated the family members of HDP executive Livan Orman who was detained as part of the operation.

July 30: Opera singer Pervin Çakar announced that a university in Mardin refused to give her a hall for a concert on the grounds that there were Kurdish language songs in her repertoire.

PRISON CONDITIONS

July 25: A Van prison rejected the requests to visit hospital of four inmates who tested positive for Covid-19.

July 26: Reports indicated that a Van prison has been keeping six inmates in one-person cells for 67 months, restricting their social and cultural rights and confiscating their petitions to the Ministry of Justice.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 29: The police in İstanbul mistreated family members of HDP executive Livan Orman during a house raid to detain him.

Issue 111[119]

1-7 August 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

August 1: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

August 4: The Constitutional Court ruled that a monetary fine imposed on 10 people in Van for handing out flyers about a HDP meeting was in violation of the right to assembly.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

August 1: The police in Tunceli detained a newspaper distributor working for a left-wing opposition daily, confiscating his newspapers.

[119] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 111 | August 1-7, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/111-EN.pdf*

August 3: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to websites used by the Etkin news agency (ETHA) and the Yeni Demokrasi newspaper, two pro-Kurdish media outlets.

August 4: The Constitutional Court ruled that universities that imposed disciplinary penalties on several academics for signing a joint petition in 2016 violated the academics' right to freedom of speech and expression. The group of academics had released a joint petition that criticized the government's handling of the armed conflict in the predominantly Kurdish southeast.

August 6: The police in Diyarbakır detained nine people over slogans chanted at a rally organized by the HDP.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

August 1: Jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk was forced to present her defense in a court hearing despite suffering from dementia. Tuğluk was arrested in December 2016 as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political movement and despite her health problems, the authorities have ignored repeated calls for her release.

KURDISH MINORITY

August 1: Jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk was forced to present her defense in a court hearing despite suffering from dementia. Tuğluk was arrested in December 2016 as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political movement and despite her health problems, the authorities have ignored repeated calls for her release.

August 3: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to websites used by the Etkin news agency (ETHA) and the Yeni Demokrasi newspaper, two pro-Kurdish media outlets.

August 4: Ömer Çelik, one of the 16 Kurdish journalists arrested in June on terrorism-related charges, announced to his family during a visit that they were not allowed to buy refrigerators to use in their cells and that the prison administration did not deliver the books sent for them.

August 4: The Constitutional Court ruled that a monetary fine imposed on 10 people in Van for handing out flyers about a HDP meeting was in violation of the right to assembly.

August 6: The police in Diyarbakır detained nine people over slogans chanted at a rally organized by the HDP.

August 6: The police in Diyarbakır detained HDP district executive Berat Can.

PRISON CONDITIONS

August 1: A Şanlıurfa prison confiscated inmates' personal belongings during ward searches, restricted their video calls and denied medical care to four inmates suffering from health problems.

August 4: Ömer Çelik, one of the 16 Kurdish journalists arrested in June on terrorism-related charges, announced to his family during a visit that they were not allowed to buy refrigerators to use in their cells and that the prison administration did not deliver the books sent for them.

August 5: A Diyarbakır prison arbitrarily reduced the duration of inmates' visitation rights, restricted their access to social and cultural activities.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

August 5: The guards in an Elazığ prison mistreated sick inmate Fevzi Fidan.

August 6: The guards in a women's prison in Diyarbakır verbally assaulted inmates.

Issue 112[120]

8-14 August 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

August 12: The Constitutional Court ruled that jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk should receive neurological and psychiatric treatment in hospital while rejecting a plea for her release. Tuğluk's lawyers and rights groups have announced that she suffers from dementia and repeatedly called for her release.

August 14: An Ankara prison denied parole to Mukaddes Kubilay, jailed Kurdish politician and the former mayor of Ağrı, on the grounds that she had exchanged greetings with families of other prisoners.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

August 10: The Batman Governor's Office restricted all outdoor gatherings for a period of 10 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

August 12: Several Kurdish musicians announced that the municipal police in İstanbul were preventing them from singing in Kurdish on the streets.

KURDISH MINORITY

August 9: The police in Batman detained local HDP executive Sezgin Yavuz.

[120] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 112 | August 8-14, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/112-EN.pdf*

August 11: The police in Şırnak detained local HDP executive Sabuha Akdağ.

August 12: The Constitutional Court ruled that jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk should receive neurological and psychiatric treatment in hospital while rejecting a plea for her release.

August 12: Several Kurdish musicians announced that the municipal police in İstanbul were preventing them from singing in Kurdish on the streets.

August 13: The police in Hakkari detained nine people, including local HDP executives.

August 14: Jailed Kurdish politician Mehmet Candemir died after being taken to a hospital from a prison in Giresun. The authorities said the cause of death was a heart attack. Candemir was serving a sentence of 17 years, six months on terrorism-related charges.

August 14: An Ankara prison denied parole to Mukaddes Kubilay, jailed Kurdish politician and the former mayor of Ağrı, on the grounds that she had exchanged greetings with families of other prisoners.

August 14: The police in Mersin, Hatay, Adana, İzmir, Van and Manisa detained 43 members and executives of the HDP.

PRISON CONDITIONS

August 12: Reports said that a women's prison in Diyarbakır was offering insufficient food and hygiene products to inmates.

Issue 113[121]

15-21 August 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

August 18: Bazo Yılmaz, a 67-year-old bedridden Kurdish politician, lost his life in a Şanlıurfa prison. Yılmaz was a former district mayor in the province before he was arrested and sentenced to prison on terrorism-related charges.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

August 16: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

[121] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 113 | August 15-21, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/113-EN.pdf*

August 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

August 15: The police in İstanbul detained Diren Yurtsever, the editor-in-chief of the Mezopotamya news agency. Yurtsever was released the next day.

August 17: The police in Şırnak removed a banner hung by the HDP to commemorate the victims of a massacre in 1992. The police also summoned three HDP executives for a questioning about the banner.

KURDISH MINORITY

August 15: The police in İstanbul detained Diren Yurtsever, the editor-in-chief of the Mezopotamya news agency. Yurtsever was released the next day.

August 16: The HDP announced that one of their district offices in Ankara was broken into by assailants. August 17: Aydın prosecutors indicted 11 members of the HDP on terrorism-related charges.

August 17: The police in Şırnak removed a banner hung by the HDP to commemorate the victims of a massacre in 1992. The police also summoned three HDP executives for a questioning about the banner.

PRISON CONDITIONS

August 18: A Bayburt prison belated inmates' hospital referrals, forced them to undergo treatment in handcuffs and refused treatment to those who refused.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

August 21: Soldiers in Van mistreated a person named Adem Yiğit during house raids in a village.

August 21: The guards in a Kilis prison verbally threatened four inmates who resisted a head count in military order.

Issue 114[122]

22-28 August 2022

[122] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 114 | August 22-28, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/114-EN.pdf*

PRISON CONDITIONS

August 27: A prison administration in Van denied treatment and medication to inmates who tested positive for Covid-19.

August 28: Hasan Karapınar, an end-stage cancer patient who was released from an İstanbul prison two months ago, revealed to the media that the prison administration denied him treatment for five months during his incarceration.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

August 27: Village guards in Mardin physically assaulted and injured five villagers over an argument.

Issue 115[123]

29 August – 4 September 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

August 30: Turkish authorities arrested Reyhan Abdi, a Kurdish migrant woman from Syria and the mother of a two-month-old baby, on terrorism-related charges. Turkey's laws prohibit the incarceration of pregnant and post-partum women even if they are found guilty.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

August 30: A district governor's office in Adana and the Mardin Governor's Office banned concerts that were organized on the occasion of a national holiday.

August 31: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 1: The police in İstanbul and Van intervened in demonstrations held on the occasion of the International Day of Peace, briefly detaining at least 108 activists.

September 1: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

[123] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 115 | August 29-September 4, 2022* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/115-EN.pdf*

September 1: Police officers in Van pulled guns on journalists during their intervention in a demonstration held on the occasion of the International Day of Peace.

September 2: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA).

KURDISH MINORITY

August 29: Makbule Özer, a 80-year-old Kurdish prisoner, was not provided with an interpreter during her hospital referral and had to communicate with doctors “in body language.”

August 29: The personal notes kept by Bazo Yılmaz, a 67-year-old Kurdish politician who died in a Şanlıurfa prison on August 18, revealed that he was deprived of nutrients and subjected to neglect and mistreatment during his incarceration.

August 30: The remains of Hakan Arslan, a man who was killed during clashes between Turkish security forces and the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) in January 2016 were returned to his father in a plastic bag nearly seven years after his death.

August 30: A group of Kurdish agricultural workers in Sakarya were assaulted by local inhabitants. The incident resulted in the injury of two people including a minor and led the workers to leave the district.

September 1: Muhammed Eren Sütçü, an assailant who in December staged an attack at a HDP office in İstanbul verbally threatened by the prison director who told him and injured two party employees, was released from prison pending trial.

September 3: Kurdish politician Semra Güzel was detained while trying to flee the country. Güzel was stripped of her parliamentary immunity and was facing terrorism-related charges.

PRISON CONDITIONS

August 29: The personal notes kept by Bazo Yılmaz, a 67-year-old Kurdish politician who died in a Şanlıurfa prison on August 18, revealed that he was deprived of nutrients and subjected to neglect and mistreatment during his incarceration.

August 31: Reports revealed that Reyhan Abdi, a Kurdish Syrian woman who was arrested on August 30 despite having a two-month-old baby, was held in an unventilated room and was given only a bottle of water a day.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

August 30: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison mistreated inmate Kurbani Özcan. Reports in the media revealed that when Özcan wanted to report the incident, he was verbally threatened by the prison director who told him “you are not going to leave here alive.”

Issue 116[124]

5-11 September 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

September 7: The Forensic Medicine Institution issued a report on Mehmet Emin Özkan, a 83-year-old ailing prisoner, in which it said that his apparent difficulty walking in a video footage was "exaggerated". Özkan is suffering from heart problems, blood pressure, osteolysis and memory loss.

September 9: Aysel Tuğluk, an imprisoned Kurdish politician who was kept behind bars despite being diagnosed with dementia over a year ago, was reportedly hospitalized after her situation worsened.

September 9: The authorities refused to release sick inmate Şemsettin Kargılı despite a university hospital report describing him as severely disabled. Kargılı is incarcerated in a Gaziantep prison.

September 9: Makbule Özer, an ailing 80-year-old inmate in Van, was released due to her health problems after spending four months behind bars.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 7: A Gaziantep court sentenced the admin of a prominent government-critical Twitter account to 12 years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

September 7: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted Kurdish politician Leyla Güven, seeking up to 43 years in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda. Güven is already incarcerated on conviction of other terrorism-related charges.

September 7: Van prosecutors indicted media executives Ferhat Çelik and İdris Yayla over coverage of allegations that a group of soldiers had tortured two villagers in the province.

September 7: Van prosecutors launched an investigation into journalist Oktay Candemir after he reported on vehicles rented for a presidential rally in the province.

September 8: An İstanbul court sentenced journalists Sadiye Eser and Sadık Topaloğlu to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

September 8: An Antalya court banned the publication, distribution and sale of a poetry book written by Kurdish politician Figen Yüksekdağ who has been behind bars since November 2016.

[124] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 116 | September 5-11, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/116-EN.pdf*

September 9: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) faulted Turkey in the case of Fehime Ete, a Kurdish woman who was convicted of disseminating terrorist propaganda for celebrating the birthday of jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The court concluded that Ete's conviction was in violation of freedom of expression.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 6: A prison administration in Diyarbakır refused to deliver three government-critical newspapers to 16 jailed Kurdish journalists.

September 7: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted Kurdish politician Leyla Güven, seeking up to 43 years in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda. Güven is already incarcerated on conviction of other terrorism-related charges.

September 8: An İstanbul court sentenced journalists Sadiye Eser and Sadık Topaloğlu to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges. The journalists had previously worked as reporters for the Mezopotamya news agency (MA).

September 9: Aysel Tuğluk, an imprisoned Kurdish politician who was kept behind bars despite being diagnosed with dementia over a year ago, was reportedly hospitalized after her situation worsened.

September 9: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) faulted Turkey in the case of Fehime Ete, a Kurdish woman who was convicted of disseminating terrorist propaganda for celebrating the birthday of jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The court concluded that Ete's conviction was in violation of freedom of expression.

September 11: A racist attack against Kurdish construction workers in Kastamonu resulted in one death and one injury. One person was detained and arrested in connection with the incident.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 6: A prison administration in Diyarbakır refused to deliver three government-critical newspapers to 16 jailed Kurdish journalists.

September 9: A Gaziantep prison denied medical treatment to sick inmate Şemsettin Kargılı.

Issue 117[125]

12-18 September 2022

[125] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 117 | September 12-18, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/117-EN.pdf*

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

September 12: Gülser Yıldırım, an imprisoned Kurdish politician, has not been released despite being eligible for parole.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

September 13: The Şırnak Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 16: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP to demand mother tongue education for Kurds, detaining nine people.

September 16: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Yıldız Damla, a member of an association established for solidarity with people who lost relatives in the conflict in the predominantly Kurdish southeast, to six years, three months on terrorism charges. The judgment came after an appeals court overturned the same sentence that was previously handed down to Damla.

September 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 12: Diyarbakır prosecutors launched an investigation into opposition politician Nevaf Bilek for allegedly disseminating terrorist propaganda in an interview he gave to a Kurdish-language television channel.

September 12: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the Etkin news agency (ETHA).

September 13: The anti-terror department of İstanbul police summoned human rights lawyer Eren Keskin for a questioning over a reply to one of her tweets.

September 14: The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK), Turkey's broadcasting regulator, imposed monetary fines and a temporary broadcast ban on the pro-opposition Halk TV channel due to its coverage of the handing over of the remains of a young Kurdish man to his father.

September 15: An Elazığ court sentenced a man named Yusuf Güneş to one year, six months, 22 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda for posting a video of people singing in Kurdish on social media.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 12: Gülser Yıldırım, an imprisoned Kurdish politician, has not been released despite being eligible for parole.

September 12: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a web address used by the Etkin news agency (ETHA).

September 13: Members of a Kurdish family in Aydın were assaulted by local inhabitants.

September 13: The police in Mersin detained local Kurdish politician Metin İnci. On September 16, İnci was arrested by a court.

September 14: A group of Kurdish workers were assaulted by local inhabitants in Mersin.

September 15: An Elazığ court sentenced a man named Yusuf Güneş to one year, six months, 22 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda for posting a video of people singing in Kurdish on social media.

September 15: The guards in an Ankara prison verbally threatened inmate Murat Bilger for speaking in Kurdish on the phone with his family.

September 16: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP to demand mother tongue education for Kurds, detaining nine people.

September 16: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Yıldız Damla, a member of an association established for solidarity with people who lost relatives in the conflict in the predominantly Kurdish southeast, to six years, three months on terrorism charges. The judgment came after an appeals court overturned the same sentence that was previously handed down to Damla.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 12: Images of a 70-year-old prisoner who was brought to the hospital in handcuffs in Mardin sparked widespread public reaction.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 15: The guards in an Ankara prison verbally threatened inmate Murat Bilger for speaking in Kurdish on the phone with his family.

Issue 118[126]

19-25 September 2022

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

[126] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 118 | September 19-25, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/118-EN.pdf*

September 21: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest, briefly detaining 16 people. The demonstration was organized by the Saturday Mothers, a group of activists and family members seeking the whereabouts of loved ones who disappeared while in police custody in the 1990s. Some of the group's members are on trial over their participation in earlier protests.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

September 21: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office banned a concert by singer İlkay Akkaya, citing security and public order reasons.

September 25: The police in Diyarbakır detained six people for carrying a flag of the Iraqi Kurdistan in a football stadium during a match.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 19: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Hatice Şahin to six years, three months in prison on conviction of terrorist organization membership due to her coverage of events held by a Kurdish political group.

September 19: The police in Diyarbakır confiscated 100 copies of a Kurdish-language newspaper without a reason.

September 20: A Hatay court sentenced a woman named Feleknaz Aslan to 10 months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda for carrying a shawl in traditional Kurdish colors during Newroz celebrations in 2015.

September 20: The police in Aydın briefly detained musician Kadir Çat over a song he sang at a HDP rally.

September 21: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Kadri Esen to one year, three months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda on social media.

September 23: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Nurcan Yalçın to two years, six months in prison on charges of aiding and abetting a terrorist organization, due to her journalistic work in 2015 and 2016.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 19: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Hatice Şahin to six years, three months in prison on conviction of terrorist organization membership due to her coverage of events held by a Kurdish political group.

September 19: The police in Diyarbakır confiscated 100 copies of a Kurdish-language newspaper without a reason.

September 20: A Hatay court sentenced a woman named Feleknaz Aslan to 10 months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda for carrying a shawl in traditional Kurdish colors during Newroz celebrations in 2015.

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September 21: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Kadri Esen to one year, three months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda on social media.

September 23: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Nurcan Yalçın to two years, six months in prison on charges of aiding and abetting a terrorist organization, due to her journalistic work in 2015 and 2016.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 19: Barış Keve, a prisoner incarcerated in Malatya, reportedly committed suicide after being placed in a one-person cell.

September 25: A Diyarbakır prison denied medical treatment to inmate Mehmet Polat.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 20: The Constitutional Court ruled that the violent detention of Gülsüm Elvan in 2017 was in violation of the prohibition of ill-treatment. The police had broken Elvan's arm while rear-handcuffing her.

September 21: The police in Hakkari mistreated a man named Esat Çakmak who was in custody.

September 21: Media reports indicated that 10 people who were detained by gendarmes in Hakkari were coerced into becoming informants for the state.

September 22: Letters of Mehmet Bozan, an inmate who lost his life in an Ankara prison a month ago, revealed that he was frequently mistreated by prison guards.

Issue 119[127]

26 September – 2 October 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

September 27: The Mersin Governor's Office banned a concert by Kurdish musician Mem Ararat.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

[127] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 119 | September 26-October 2, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/119-EN.pdf*

September 29: The police in Şırnak detained three people due to their social media posts.

October 2: The police in Van physically assaulted reporter Hakan Yalçın while he was covering a press conference.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 27: A mob in a university campus in Ankara assaulted a group of protesters for chanting slogans in Kurdish.

September 30: Ankara prosecutors indicted Kurdish politician Semra Güzel, seeking up to 15 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 29: Mustafa Murat Ayhan, an inmate held in a one-person cell in a Diyarbakır prison, committed suicide.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 2: The guards in an Erzurum prison mistreated several inmates during visitation.

October 2: The police in Van physically assaulted reporter Hakan Yalçın while he was covering a press conference.

Issue 120[128]

3-9 October 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

October 5: The Constitutional Court ruled that Kurdish politician Leyla Güven's re-arrest despite her election to parliament in 2018 violated her right to liberty and security.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

October 3: The police in İstanbul and Diyarbakır intervened in demonstrations organized by the HDP to protest the assassination of a journalist in Iraqi Kurdistan, briefly detaining 36 people.

October 5: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of eight days.

[128] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 120 | October 3-9, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/120-EN.pdf*

October 9: The police in İstanbul and several provinces across the country intervened in demonstrations held to call for the release of the jailed leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), detaining at least 170 people. Video footage of the police intervention showed HDP MPs Habip Eksik and Sait Dede being battered on the ground. Eksik's leg and nose were broken.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 6: A Mardin court sentenced Kurdish journalist Çetin Kurşun to 13 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

October 6: The police in Şırnak detained a man named Mehmet Şirin Demirtaş over his social media posts.

October 6: An İstanbul court ruled to block access to at least three news reports about gendarmerie colonel Yılmaz Kırgel's verbal attack targeting a football club from a predominantly Kurdish province.

October 7: The police in Siirt detained Cemil Taşkesen, a man who was previously detained and released for referring to the region as Kurdistan in a video where he was talking to an opposition politician. Taşkesen was released under judicial control on October 9. He faces charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 3: The police in Erzurum detained local HDP executives Muammer Duman, Türkan Sümbül, Yüksel Kişi, Çetin Demir, Remziye Tosun and Emin Tosun. The detainees were released the next day.

October 3: The police in Van detained local Kurdish politician Ökkeş Kava. Kava was released the next day.

October 3: The police in İstanbul and Diyarbakır intervened in demonstrations organized by the HDP to protest the assassination of a journalist in Iraqi Kurdistan, briefly detaining 36 people.

October 4: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former district mayor Belgin Diken to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges. Diken was one of the elected mayors in the predominantly Kurdish southeast who were removed from office by the interior ministry and replaced by government-designated trustees.

October 5: The Constitutional Court ruled that Kurdish politician Leyla Güven's re-arrest despite her election to parliament in 2018 violated her right to liberty and security.

October 6: A Mardin court sentenced Kurdish journalist Çetin Kurşun to 13 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

October 7: The police in Siirt detained Cemil Taşkesen, a man who was previously detained and released for referring to the region as Kurdistan in a video where he was talking to an opposition politician. Taşkesen was released under judicial control on October 9. He faces charges of

disseminating terrorist propaganda. October 9: The police in İstanbul several provinces across the country intervened in demonstrations held to call for the release of the jailed leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), detaining more than 130 people. Video footage of the police intervention showed HDP MPs Habip Eksik and Sait Dede being battered on the ground. Eksik's leg and nose were broken.

PRISON CONDITIONS

October 3: Some inmates in a women's prison in Diyarbakır were hospitalized due to food poisoning.

October 7: A prison disciplinary board in Bursa imposed a three-month visitation ban on Abdullah Öcalan, the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 7: The police in Hakkari mistreated two people, one of them a minor, during a house raid.

October 7: The Human Rights Association (İHD) released a report which said that in 2021 a total of 5,488 people in Turkey were subjected to torture and ill treatment in police custody, on the street or in prison.

October 9: The police in Hakkari physically assaulted HDP MPs Habip Eksik and Sait Dede during a demonstration, breaking Eksik's leg and nose.

Issue 121[129]

10-16 October 2022

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 10: A Hatay court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency to publish news.

October 13: The police in Konya briefly detained Dilan Babat and Fırat Can Arslan, two reporters working for the pro-Kurdish media, who were covering a funeral event.

October 14: An Ankara court sentenced Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş to two-and-a-half years in prison due to his remarks allegedly targeting a prosecutor who had indicted him.

[129] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 121 | October 10-16, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/121-EN.pdf*

October 14: A Kilis court ruled to block access to two news report and a tweet about a ruling party member who became a public prosecutor despite his criminal record.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

October 12: A German newspaper reported that Turkish authorities are refusing to allow more than 120 German citizens, many of whom are Turkish or Kurdish Germans, to leave the country due to their criticism of the Turkish government or their affiliation with some groups not liked by the government.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 10: A Hatay court ruled to block access to a web address used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency to publish news.

October 12: Reports said that an İstanbul prison was not responding to petitions submitted by jailed HDP MP Semra Güzel and not allowing her to participate in joint activities with other prisoners.

October 12: Jailed Kurdish journalist Ziya Ataman said in a letter that he was held in a one-person cell and that his access to outdoors was limited to 1.5 hours per day.

October 13: The police in Konya briefly detained Dilan Babat and Fırat Can Arslan, two reporters working for the pro-Kurdish media, who were covering a funeral event.

October 14: An Ankara court sentenced Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş to two-and-a-half years in prison due to his remarks allegedly targeting a prosecutor who had indicted him.

October 14: The police in İstanbul briefly detained journalist Meral Danyıldız who was covering the demolition of houses as part of an urban renewal project.

October 17: The police in Diyarbakır confiscated copies of the Kurdish-language Xwebûn newspaper that were being sent to İstanbul.

PRISON CONDITIONS

October 10: An Erzurum prison denied to inmate Abdulbaki Harmancı the nutrients he specifically needs due to a health condition.

October 12: Jailed Kurdish journalist Ziya Ataman said in a letter that he was held in a one-person cell and that his access to outdoors was limited to 1.5 hours per day.

October 13: A women’s prison in Diyarbakır imposed disciplinary sanctions on 36 women due to their participation in a joint hunger strike. The sanctions were later annulled by a court.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 10: The police in Hakkari strip-searched and mistreated seven women who were taken into custody for participating in a demonstration.

October 10: Reports revealed that prisoners Abdülkadir Turay, Hamdullah Öz and Yusuf Erat were physically assaulted during their transfer from Mardin to Erzincan.

October 15: The guards in an Elazığ prison physically assaulted two inmates who were involuntarily transferred from Van.

Issue 122[130]

17-23 October 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

October 18: The authorities released from prison Kurdish politician Gülser Yıldırım four months after she became eligible for parole.

October 21: The Turkish Medical Association (TTB) released a report stating that jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk's state of health has rapidly deteriorated and that proper treatment cannot be provided in prison.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

Provincial governors and other local authorities imposed the following blanket bans on outdoor gatherings:

Date	Governor's Office	Duration
October 19	Muş	15 days
October 19	Diyarbakır	1 day
October 20	Adıyaman	10 days
October 20	Şanlıurfa	3 days
October 20	Gaziantep	7 days
October 20	Tunceli	4 days
October 20	Bitlis	15 days
October 20	Şırnak	2 days
October 20	Bingöl	15 days
October 20	Elazığ	7 days
October 23	Şanlıurfa	15 days

The blanket bans were mostly issued in predominantly Kurdish cities, in apparent anticipation of potential protests that could be sparked by allegations that Turkey's military used chemical weapons in its fight against the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in northern Iraq.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 20: A Van court sentenced Kurdish musician Şilan Dora to one year, three months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda in a song she sang at a rally. The court suspended the execution of the sentence.

[130] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 122 | October 17-23, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/122-EN.pdf*

October 20: Ankara prosecutors launched an investigation into prominent human rights advocate Şebnem Korur Fincancı for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda and denigrating the state, over her remarks about allegations that Turkey used chemical weapons in its fight against the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

October 20: İzmir prosecutors launched an investigation into journalist Bahattin Seçilir over a news report about an armed attack that killed a HDP employee last year.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 17: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish politician Leyla Güven to 11 years, seven months, 15 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda.

October 18: The authorities released from prison Kurdish politician Gülser Yıldırım four months after she became eligible for parole.

October 19: The police in Van detained local HDP members Muhittin Üzümcüoğlu, Abdullah İşleyen, Şemsettin Esen and Mürsel Sayıner.

October 20: A Van court sentenced Kurdish musician Şilan Dora to one year, three months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda in a song she sang at a rally. The court suspended the execution of the sentence.

October 20: The police in Gaziantep detained eight people over their participation in a Newroz celebration. The detainees were released the next day.

October 21: The Turkish Medical Association (TTB) released a report stating that jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk's state of health has rapidly deteriorated and that proper treatment cannot be provided in prison.

PRISON CONDITIONS

October 21: A Kocaeli prison denied proper healthcare to cancer patient Ahmet Dizlek.

October 21: The guards in a women's prison in Bayburt confiscated personal items of inmates Delila Roj Erkmen and Neslihan Çetin.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 18: The guards in a women's prison in Diyarbakır physically assaulted inmate Sariye Taşkesen for refusing to undergo a strip-search.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

October 18: Reports on the pro-Kurdish media claimed that Turkey carried out a chemical attack on militants of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), releasing video footage allegedly showing militants exposed to chemical weapons. The Turkish government denied the allegation.

Issue 123[131]

24-30 October 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

October 26: The Forensic Medicine Institution issued a report that found jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk unfit to remain in prison. Tuğluk was released on October 27. She suffers from dementia and rights groups have been calling for her release for a long time.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 25: The police in several provinces carried out house raids and detained 12 journalists who work for pro-Kurdish news outlets Mezopotamya and Jinnews. Nine were arrested by a court on October 29 while the others were released under judicial control or to house arrest.

October 26: The police in İstanbul detained Şebnem Korur Fincancı, the head of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) and a prominent human rights advocate, on allegations of spreading terrorist propaganda after she called for a probe into the military's alleged use of chemical weapons against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in northern Iraq. Fincancı was arrested the next day.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

October 26: The police in İstanbul detained Şebnem Korur Fincancı, the head of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) and a prominent human rights advocate, on allegations of spreading terrorist propaganda after she called for a probe into the military's alleged use of chemical weapons against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in northern Iraq. Fincancı was arrested the next day.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 25: The police in several provinces carried out house raids and detained 12 journalists who work for pro-Kurdish news outlets Mezopotamya and Jinnews. Nine were arrested by a court on October 29 while the others were released under judicial control or to house arrest.

October 25: The police in Ankara rear-handcuffed and verbally mistreated Kurdish journalist Berivan Altan while detaining her. Öznur Değer, another Kurdish journalist detained as part of the same operation, was physically mistreated at the police headquarters.

October 25: The guards in a women's prison in Diyarbakır physically assaulted Kurdish journalist Derya Ren who resisted a strip-search.

[131] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 123 | October 24-30, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/123-EN.pdf*

October 26: The Forensic Medicine Institution issued a report that found jailed Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk unfit to remain in prison. Tuğluk was released on October 27. She suffers from dementia and rights groups have been calling for her release for a long time.

October 26: The police in Adıyaman detained local HDP executive Hüseyin Uzun on terrorism-related charges. Uzun was arrested by a court the next day.

October 27: The police in Batman detained HDP members Barış Avşar, Muhammet Sevacı and Fikret Soysal on terrorism-related charges.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 25: The police in Ankara rear-handcuffed and verbally mistreated Kurdish journalist Berivan Altan while detaining her. Öznur Değer, another Kurdish journalist detained as part of the same operation, was physically mistreated at the police headquarters.

October 25: The guards in a women's prison in Diyarbakır physically assaulted Kurdish journalist Derya Ren who resisted a strip-search.

October 26: Soldiers in Hakkari physically mistreated a 16-year-old minor that they detained in a village. Reports indicated that a local hospital denied the minor a medical report documenting injuries from the incident.

October 27: The police in Batman physically assaulted three people who were taken into custody.

Issue 124[132]

31 October – 6 November 2022

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

November 4: The Constitutional Court found no rights violations in a 2015-2016 curfew in Şırnak where 137 people were killed in counterterrorism operations.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

October 31: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 2: The Şırnak Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 5 days.

[132] https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/124-EN.pdf

November 6: The gendarmes in Şırnak intervened in a protest about the military's alleged use of chemical weapons in northern Iraq, detaining 32 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 2: A Hatay court sentenced a HDP supporter to three years in prison on terrorism charges for live streaming Kurdish songs on social media.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 31: The guards in a women's prison in Ankara strip-searched Kurdish journalists Diren Yurtsever, Berivan Altan, Ceylan Şahinli, Habibe Eren and Öznur Değer.

November 2: A Hatay court sentenced a HDP supporter to three years in prison on terrorism charges for live streaming Kurdish songs on social media.

PRISON CONDITIONS

November 3: Ceylan Şahinli, a jailed Kurdish journalist, was denied healthcare for refusing to undergo treatment in handcuffs.

November 5: Reports revealed that an Ağrı prison has been denying hospital referrals to inmates for nearly a year.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 31: The guards in a women's prison in Ankara strip-searched Kurdish journalists Diren Yurtsever, Berivan Altan, Ceylan Şahinli, Habibe Eren and Öznur Değer.

November 2: Gendarmes in Van mistreated two people during a house raid. One of the victims, a woman, was hospitalized due to the incident.

Issue 125[133]

7-13 November 2022

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 10: A court handed down a suspended prison sentence of five months to former HDP MP Sırrı Süreyya Önder for insulting the state, the government and judicial authorities.

[133] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 125 | November 7-13, 2022* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/125-EN.pdf*

November 10: A Diyarbakır prison blocked several names submitted as visitors by jailed journalists Serdar Altan, Mehmet Ali Ertaş, Ömer Çelik, Zeynel Abidin Bulut and Mazlum Güler on the grounds that they were "undesirable."

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

November 13: A lawyer named Jiyan Tosun was targeted by some social media users following a deadly explosion in İstanbul. After receiving death threats, Tosun spent the night in a courthouse in İstanbul because she feared for her safety.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 8: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) faulted Turkey over the pretrial detention of 13 former HDP MPs, ordering the release of two of them who are still in jail.

November 10: A court handed down a suspended prison sentence of five months to former HDP MP Sırrı Süreyya Önder for insulting the state, the government and judicial authorities.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 9: The guards in a Kahramanmaraş prison physically mistreated inmates Ahmet Bilge, Rahim Durukan and Ahmet İsmail.

November 10: A Diyarbakır prison blocked several names submitted as visitors by jailed journalists Serdar Altan, Mehmet Ali Ertaş, Ömer Çelik, Zeynel Abidin Bulut and Mazlum Güler on the grounds that they were "undesirable."

Issue 126[134]

14-20 November 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

Provincial governors and other local authorities imposed the following blanket bans on outdoor gatherings.

[134] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 126 | November 14-20, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/126-EN.pdf*

Date	Governor's Office	Duration
November 14	Mardin	15 days
November 15	Hakkari	15 days
November 17	Tunceli	5 days
November 20	Elazığ	15 days
November 20	Bingöl	15 days
November 20	Van	9 days
November 20	Şanlıurfa	15 days
November 20	Bitlis	15 days

The blanket bans were mostly issued in predominantly Kurdish provinces, in apparent anticipation of potential protests that could erupt following Turkey's airstrikes in Kurdish-majority areas in Syria and Iraq.

November 20: The police in Tunceli intervened in a protest against Turkey's airstrikes in Iraq and Syria, detaining one person.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 15: A Diyarbakır court sentenced HDP MP Çağlar Demirel to five months in prison on charges of denigrating the state, due to her statements and her attendance in demonstrations.

November 15: An İzmir court ruled to acquit human rights defender Günseli Kaya who was standing trial on terrorism-related charges due to her criticism of curfews imposed on Kurdish-majority provinces in 2016.

November 17: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Beritan Canözer to three years, one month and 15 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda on social media.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

November 15: An İzmir court ruled to acquit human rights defender Günseli Kaya who was standing trial on terrorism-related charges due to her criticism of curfews imposed on Kurdish-majority provinces in 2016.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 15: A Diyarbakır court sentenced HDP MP Çağlar Demirel to five months in prison on charges of denigrating the state, due to her statements and her attendance in demonstrations.

November 15: Diyarbakır prosecutors drafted a new indictment for Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk, demanding up to 15 years in prison on terrorism-related charges. Diagnosed with dementia, Tuğluk was recently released from prison due to her worsening health condition.

November 17: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Beritan Canözer to three years, one month and 15 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda on social media.

PRISON CONDITIONS

November 14: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison confiscated inmates' letters and draft texts.

November 19: Reports revealed that an Ankara prison has been holding inmate Bager Sayak in a one-person cell since October 2021 and was not delivering Kurdish language books and magazines sent to inmates from outside.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 15: Soldiers in Şırnak physically mistreated three shepherds while interrogating them.

Issue 127[135]

21-27 November 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

November 21: The police in İstanbul, Ankara, Van and Diyarbakır intervened in protests held against Turkey's airstrikes in Kurdish-majority areas in Iraq and Syria, detaining 125 people.

November 21: The Diyarbakır Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

November 22: The Şırnak Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

November 24: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 25: The police in İstanbul, Ankara, Ağrı, Erzurum and Şırnak intervened in women's rights demonstrations, detaining 260 people.

[135] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 127 | November 21-27, 2022* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/127-EN.pdf*

November 23: The Batman Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of eight days.

November 25: The Gaziantep Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

November 25: The Kilis Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

November 25: Governors in Osmaniye, Bursa and Tunceli refused to authorize women's rights marches on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 21: The police in Van briefly detained reporter Şakir Bedir while he was covering a demonstration against Turkey's airstrikes in Iraq and Syria.

November 24: A regional appeals court in İstanbul upheld the sentences handed down to journalists Mahir Kanaat, Ömer Çelik, Tunca Öğreten,Eray Sargın and Metin Yoksu on terrorism-related charges due to their reporting on hacked emails belonging to former energy minister. The court also overturned the acquittal of journalist Derya Okatan who had stood trial on the same charges.

November 25: Ankara prosecutors indicted human rights defender Şebnem Korur Fincancı, seeking up to seven-and-a-half years in prison on terrorism-related charges due to her remarks calling for an investigation into the Turkish army's alleged use of chemical weapons in northern Iraq.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

November 24: Van prosecutors decided not to prosecute police officers accused of physically assaulting an individual in August 2022.

November 26: Prosecutors declined to pursue the case of Garibe Gezer, an inmate who was reportedly beaten and sexually harassed by prison guards and found dead in her cell in December 2021, despite video footage clearly showing Gezer's mistreatment.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 26: The police in Şırnak briefly detained nine people, including local HDP executive Sedat Soysal.

November 27: The police in Mardin detained six people, including local politician İsmail Asi. The detainees were released the next day.

PRISON CONDITIONS

November 23: Reports revealed that a Diyarbakır prison was holding inmate Seda Baykan in a one-person cell.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 22: Gendarmes in Şanlıurfa mistreated three minors who were detained for allegedly taking down a flag from a schoolyard flagpole.

November 23: The guards in an Elazığ prison mistreated inmate Güneş Akan.

November 24: Van prosecutors decided not to prosecute police officers accused of physically assaulting an individual in August 2022.

Issue 128[136]

28 November – 4 December 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

November 28: The police in Manisa detained 10 people as part of an investigation into a Newroz demonstration.

November 29: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 1: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 28: The police in Manisa detained seven people, including local HDP executives, due to slogans shouted at Newroz celebrations and social media messages.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 28: The police in Manisa detained 17 people, including local HDP executives, due to slogans shouted at Newroz celebrations and social media messages.

November 29: The police in 14 provinces detained 19 people, including HDP executives.

[136] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 128* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/128-EN.pdf*

November 30: The authorities interrupted the hospital visit of inmate İhsan Uğur after he spoke to someone in Kurdish at the hospital. Uğur was taken back to prison without completing his examination.

December 1: The authorities mistreated 18 Kurdish political activists who were detained six provinces. One of them, Figen Ekti, was physically assaulted at the Ankara police headquarters.

PRISON CONDITIONS

November 30: The authorities interrupted the hospital visit of inmate İhsan Uğur after he spoke to someone in Kurdish at the hospital. Uğur was taken back to prison without completing his examination.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 28: A law firm announced that their client Gülten Matur was tortured in a military zone after being detained by the police in İstanbul.

December 1: The authorities mistreated 18 Kurdish political activists who were detained six provinces. One of them, Figen Ekti, was physically assaulted at the Ankara police headquarters.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

December 2: Sweden extradited Mahmut Tat, a man who was sentenced to imprisonment in Turkey for alleged membership in the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Tat was arrested upon his arrival in Turkey. His asylum application was rejected in Sweden in 2015. The development came amid Turkey's pressure on the Nordic country for the extradition of a number of people sought on terrorism-related charges in return for Ankara's approval of Sweden's NATO membership.

Issue 129[137]

5-11 December 2022

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

December 10: Tahir Gürdal, a sick inmate who was handcuffed to his hospital bed for 19 days, lost his life only two weeks after the execution of his sentence was suspended.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

[137] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 129 | December 5-11, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/129-EN.pdf*

December 11: The police in Diyarbakır intervened in a demonstration march about the imprisoned leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), detaining two people.

December 11: The Diyarbakır Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a day.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 6: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit journalist Hayri Tunç who was standing trial due to his social media posts.

December 8: Ankara prosecutors indicted 11 former HDP executives on charges of insulting the Turkish nation for referring to the Armenian Genocide in a statement last year.

December 8: An Ankara court ruled to acquit Fatih Kanar, an executive of the Human Rights Association (İHD) who was standing trial on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 7: Deputy parliamentary speaker Haydar Akar turned off the microphone of HDP MP İmam Taşçıer for giving his speech in Kurdish.

December 7: The Supreme Court of Appeals (Yargıtay) declined to uphold a prison sentence of nine years, four months and 15 days handed down by a lower court to Kurdish politician Selçuk Mızraklı, stating that the terrorism-related charges against him had not been sufficiently investigated. Yet, the appeals court rejected Mızraklı's request for release from prison.

December 8: Ankara prosecutors indicted 11 former HDP executives on charges of insulting the Turkish nation for referring to the Armenian Genocide in a statement last year.

December 8: A national railway company officer in İzmir was reassigned to a post in eastern Turkey after his superior told the police he possessed a book authored by jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş.

December 9: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former HDP executive Ramazan Dengiz to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

PRISON CONDITIONS

December 9: Sick inmate Emre Abalak lost his life in a Şırnak prison. The prison administration announced the cause of death as falling down in the bathroom.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

December 6: The guards in an İstanbul prison strip searched inmate Güneş Akan as she was being taken to court for a hearing. The prison authorities also reportedly censored Akan's letter where she told about the incident and prevented her from sending a fax to the Human Rights Association (İHD).

Issue 130[138]

12-18 December 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

December 12: The police in Van intervened in a demonstration staged to protest the detention conditions of the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), briefly detaining 48 people.

December 13: The Şırnak Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 7 days.

December 15: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 17: The Küçükçekmece district governor's office in İstanbul banned a concert organized by a pro Kurdish association. The police intervened in a protest staged against the ban, briefly detaining 26 people.

December 17: The police in Diyarbakır detained Kurdish activists Jiyan Timurtaş and Şerzan Kılıçarslan due to an event about the flag of Kurdistan.

December 18: The police in İzmir intervened in a protest against the prison conditions of jailed PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan, detaining 42 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 14: The police in Bitlis detained journalist Sinan Aygül on charges of inciting hatred and hostility due to his reporting on a child abuse incident in the province.

December 16: İzmir prosecutors indicted Eren Keskin, an executive of the Human Rights Association (İHD), due to her social media posts.

December 16: The police in Ankara detained documentary filmmaker and journalist Sibel Tekin on terrorism charges. The next day, Tekin was arrested by an Ankara court.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 13: An Adıyaman court sentenced Kurdish politician Mehmet Varol to six years, 10 months and 15 days in prison on terrorism-related charges.

[138] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 130 | December 12-18, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/130-EN.pdf*

December 14: The police in Mersin detained nine people, including HDP executives, on terrorism-related charges.

December 17: The police in Diyarbakır detained Kurdish activists Jiyan Timurtaş and Şerzan Kılıçarslan due to an event about the flag of Kurdistan.

December 17: The Küçükçekmece district governor's office in İstanbul banned a concert organized by a pro Kurdish association.

December 18: A plainclothes police officer in İstanbul slapped Kurdish politician Ferhat Encü during a scuffle at a protest.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

December 17: The police in Diyarbakır mistreated Suphi Orhan and Muhsin Acar during house raids.

December 18: A plainclothes police officer in İstanbul slapped Kurdish politician Ferhat Encü during a scuffle at a protest.

Issue 131[139]

19-25 December 2022

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

December 19: The Muş Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 13 days.

December 23: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration against the detention of Kurdish politicians, detaining one activist.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 21: An Ankara court handed down a suspended prison sentence of two years, nine months and 22 days to Kurdish journalist Hayri Demir on terrorism-related charges.

December 21: The police in Tunceli detained a man named Gökhan Karakuş for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda on social media. Karakuş was arrested by a court on December 23.

[139] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2022). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 131 | December 19-25, 2022*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/131-EN.pdf*

December 23: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to at least three news reports on corruption allegations implicating Rıfat Ural, the government-appointed trustee who replaced the elected Diyarbakır mayor.

December 24: An Ankara court blocked access to five tweets and a news reports on torture allegations against Abdulkadir Türkyılmaz, a police officer working at the counterterrorism branch of the Ankara police department.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 19: A Hakkari court sentenced Kurdish politicians Dilek Hatipoğlu and Nurullah Çiftçi to 11 years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges. Hatipoğlu and Çiftçi were retried after their earlier sentence was overturned by the Constitutional Court on the grounds that their right to a fair trial was violated.

December 21: An Ankara court handed down a suspended prison sentence of two years, nine months and 22 days to Kurdish journalist Hayri Demir on terrorism-related charges.

December 23: The police in nine provinces detained 14 people, including Kurdish politicians from the Democratic Regions Party (DBP).

December 23: The police in İstanbul detained six members and executives of the HDP.

December 23: The police in Muş detained four members of the HDP.

December 25: The Interior Ministry banned HDP MP Zeynel Özen from travelling abroad.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

December 22: Turkish authorities decided to deport Hossein Manbari and Shugar Mohammadi, two Iranian Kurds who reportedly face execution in Iran for having taken part in protests against the government several years ago.

ANNEX 4 TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR (Period between 26 December 2022 and 31 December 2023)

(*Weekly Bulletins by Solidarity with Others, a Brussels-based human rights NGO)*

Below is all the reported human rights issues related to Kurdish population (including journalists, politicians or regular citizens) from December 2022 until December 2023.

Issue 132[140]

26 December 2022 – 1 January 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

December 26: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration staged outside the French consulate to protest an armed attack on a Kurdish association in Paris, briefly detaining 14 people.

December 29: The authorities in Van imposed monetary fines on at least 25 people for attending a women's rights march in November 2022.

December 30: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 30: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 27: A Hatay court ruled to block access to the Twitter account of the Etkin news agency (ETHA).

December 28: A Van court handed down suspended prison sentences of 10 months to HDP executives Fikret Doğan, Dilgeş Aslan and Cengiz Acar on charges of inciting hatred and enmity among the public. The court also imposed a monetary fine on Yaver Kumli as part of the same trial. The local politicians were on trial for hanging a banner on a party building about a racist attack against a Kurdish family in Konya.

[140] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 132. *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/132-EN.pdf*

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

December 27: Ankara prosecutors launched an investigation into leading human rights defender Şebnem Korur Fincancı on terrorism-related charges. Fincancı is already in pretrial detention and on trial for spreading terrorist propaganda due to her remarks calling for an investigation into allegations that Turkey's military used chemical weapons in northern Iraq.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 27: A court ruled to arrest Kurdish politicians Keskin Bayındır and Hayrettin Altun who were detained last week as part of an investigation into the Democratic Regions' Party (DBP). The other detainees taken into custody as part of the operation were released under judicial control.

December 29: An İstanbul court sentenced nine members and executives of the HDP on terrorism related charges while acquitting one who was on the same trial.

December 29: An Ankara prison rejected visitation applications of several people who were planning to visit nine jailed Kurdish journalists. The rejection was reportedly based on background checks conducted on the visitors by the provincial gendarmerie command.

PRISON CONDITIONS

December 28: A Diyarbakır prison did not deliver a book that was sent to jailed journalist Ramazan Geciken by his family.

December 29: An Ankara prison rejected visitation applications of several people who were planning to visit nine jailed Kurdish journalists. The rejection was reportedly based on background checks conducted on the visitors by the provincial gendarmerie command.

Issue 133[141]

2-8 January 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

January 3: The Kars Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

January 4: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 5: The police in Muş intervened in a funeral event, detaining 31 people.

[141] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/133-EN.pdf*

January 6: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 5: The police in Muş physically assaulted HDP executive Sedat Düşünmez whom they intercepted at a checkpoint as he was on his way to a demonstration.

January 5: The Constitutional Court suspended funding for the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) over its alleged ties to terrorism. The party also faces dissolution as the country's next parliamentary elections draw closer.

PRISON CONDITIONS

January 3: A Diyarbakır prison refused to dispatch petitions that inmate Seda Baykan wrote to the Justice Ministry as well as the parliamentary human rights committee about the rights violations that she was subjected to.

January 6: A women's prison in Diyarbakır denied video calls to inmates.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 2: In a video that went viral on social media, special operations police in Diyarbakır were seen mistreating a man on the street. The authorities announced that two officers were under investigation about the incident.

January 3: The guards in an Antalya prison strip searched inmate Dilan Yürüklü.

January 5: The police in Muş physically assaulted HDP executive Sedat Düşünmez whom they intercepted at a checkpoint as he was on his way to a demonstration.

January 5: Special operations police in Mardin mistreated two people, one of them a minor.

Issue 134[142]

9-15 January 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

January 13: Tunceli prosecutors indicted 19 people who were detained for participating in Newroz celebrations in the province.

[142] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 134 | January 9-15, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/134-EN.pdf*

January 13: The police in Van intervened in a folk celebration organized in a university campus, briefly detaining seven people.

January 13: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban has been held in effect in the province since January 2022.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 9: The Dicle Fırat Journalists Association (DFG) released a report which said that one Turkish journalist was killed and 65 others were physically assaulted in 2022. The report also noted that 39 journalists were sent to jail throughout the year.

January 10: The police in Istanbul detained journalist Sezgin Kartal. On January 13, Kartal was arrested by a court on terrorism-related charges.

January 11: A court sentenced human rights defender Şebnem Korur Fincancı to two years, eight months and 15 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda in remarks where she urged an investigation into allegations that the Turkish military had used chemical weapons in northern Iraq. The court also ruled to release Fincancı from prison.

January 11: German prosecutors in Darmstadt rejected a Turkish court's request for judicial assistance in the trial of singer Ferhat Tunç, on the grounds that it would violate his right to freedom of expression. Tunç is on trial for insulting the Turkish president due to his social media posts in 2018.

January 12: An appellate court in Diyarbakır upheld the conviction of photojournalist Abdurrahman Gök, who stood trial on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda for taking pictures of a university student being shot to death by the police in 2017.

January 13: An Aydın court ruled to acquit musician Kadir Çat, who stood trial on terrorism-related charges over a song that he sang at a HDP rally.

January 14: The police in Van summoned journalist Oktay Candemir for a questioning as part of an investigation launched into him due to his news reporting.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

January 13: Airport police in Istanbul prevented HDP MP Kemal Bülbül from travelling abroad, citing an administrative measure against him.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 9: An Ankara prison imposed disciplinary sanctions on inmates Rojdan Eraz and Ayşe Yağcı, suspending their visitation rights for a month for chanting Kurdish-language slogans about women's rights.

January 13: Airport police in Istanbul prevented HDP MP Kemal Bülbül from travelling abroad, citing an administrative measure against him.

January 13: Tunceli prosecutors indicted 19 people who were detained for participating in Newroz celebrations in the province.

January 13: The police in Izmir intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, brie ly detaining two party executives.

January 13: An Aydın court ruled to acquit musician Kadir Çat, who stood trial on terrorism-related charges over a song that he sang at a HDP rally.

PRISON CONDITIONS

January 9: An Ankara prison imposed disciplinary sanctions on inmates Rojdan Eraz and Ayşe Yağcı, suspending their visitation rights for a month for chanting Kurdish-language slogans about women's rights.

January 12: A Bursa prison imposed disciplinary sanctions on inmates Abdullah Ocalan, Omer Hayri Konar, Veysi Aktaş and Hamili Yıldırım, suspending their visitation rights for three months.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 9: Kurdish singer Hozan Canê gave an interview in which she recounted the mistreatment she faced during her imprisonment in Turkey. She also revealed the mistreatment of jailed members of the Gülen movement, which she had witnessed during the same time.

January 12: The guards in an Elazığ prison physically assaulted inmate Mahsum Sarp, breaking his teeth.

Issue 135[143]

16-22 January 2023

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

January 17: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit police of icer Yakup Şenocak who shot Kurdish university student Kemal Kurkut to death during Newroz celebrations in 2017.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 19: The police in Bitlis briefly detained journalist Sinan Aygül due his reporting of a news story.

[143] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 135 | January 16-22, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/135-EN.pdf*

January 19: A Tunceli court banned the publication and sale of two books of author Murat Kahraman.

January 19: An Istanbul court ruled to acquit journalist Nişmiye Güler who stood trial on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda on social media.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

January 17: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit police of icer Yakup Şenocak who shot Kurdish university student Kemal Kurkut to death during Newroz celebrations in 2017.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 17: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit police of icer Yakup Şenocak who shot Kurdish university student Kemal Kurkut to death during Newroz celebrations in 2017.

January 18: A Diyarbakır prison imposed a disciplinary sanction on inmate Ihsan Uğur for speaking in Kurdish during a hospital visit, suspending his sportive and social activities for a month.

January 18: Gençlerbirliği, an Ankara-based football club, terminated its contract with footballer Rodin Cem Deprem a day after it was concluded, reportedly after inding out that the Swedish club where he previously played was founded by the Kurdish diaspora in Sweden.

January 19: A Diyarbakır court sentenced HDP executive Bahar Karakaş Uluğ to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges. Uluğ was previously expelled from a local city council by the Interior Ministry.

PRISON CONDITIONS

January 16: An Ağrı prison denied hospital referrals to inmates who refused to undergo mouth searches.

January 18: A Diyarbakır prison imposed a disciplinary sanction on inmate Ihsan Uğur for speaking in Kurdish during a hospital visit, suspending his sportive and social activities for a month.

January 21: An Ağrı prison restricted inmates' access to books. Prosecutors in the province reportedly did not respond to inmates' petitions. The prison administration also did not provide sick inmate Abidin Inci his medication at the required frequency of once a month.

January 22: A Van prison reportedly obstructed sick inmate Gıyasettin Sevmiş's treatment.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 21: Media reports revealed that a Diyarbakır prison imposed on inmate Derya Ren a disciplinary sanction of three days in solitary confinement due to her resistance to a strip-search.

January 22: The guards in an Elazığ prison physically assaulted 15 inmates.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

January 16: The German Foreign Ministry announced that it had summoned the Turkish ambassador to issue a warning after ruling party MP Mustafa Açıkgöz was seen engaging in hate speech in a video that widely circulated on social media. In the video, Açıkgöz called for the "destruction" of the supporters of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) as well as the members of the Gülen movement.

Issue 136[144]

23-29 January 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

January 27: The Çanakkale Governor's Office banned a concert organized by the HDP.

January 28: Governorates of Hakkari, Siirt and Mardin issued 15-day-long bans on all outdoor gatherings.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 23: The police in Kocaeli detained Kurdish musicians Gencay Malkoç and Yusuf Keleş on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, due to songs they sang during an event organized by the HDP.

January 26: A Zonguldak court ruled to block access to a domain used by the pro-Kurdish Jinnews website to publish news.

January 28: The police in Istanbul detained Kurdish journalist Rojin Altay.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

January 28: Ağrı prosecutors dismissed a complaint iled by an inmate named Zülküf Kaya who was reportedly mistreated by prison guards.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 23: The police in Kocaeli detained Kurdish musicians Gencay Malkoç and Yusuf Keleş on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, due to songs they sang during an event organized by the HDP.

January 24: Former HDP executive Mehmet Sayit Demir was reportedly pushed back by Greek forces after leeing Turkey, and was subsequently arrested and sent to jail for violating parole.

[144] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 136 | January 23-29, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/136-EN.pdf*

January 26: A Hakkari court sentenced former mayor Cihan Karaman to 10 years, six months in prison on terrorism charges. Karaman was one of the mayors elected from the ranks of the HDP and subsequently removed from of ice by the Interior Ministry.

January 26: A Zonguldak court ruled to block access to a domain used by the pro-Kurdish Jinnews website to publish news.

January 27: A Mersin prosecutor demanded up to 15 years in prison for Osman Şiban, a Kurdish villager who in September 2020 was allegedly tortured by a group of soldiers and who is accused of membership in the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

January 27: The Çanakkale Governor's Office banned a concert organized by the HDP.

January 28: The police in Istanbul detained Kurdish journalist Rojin Altay.

PRISON CONDITIONS

January 27: Reports indicated that security cameras were installed in the wards and bathrooms of a women's prison in Diyarbakır and that sick inmates were not provided with meals compatible with their medically prescribed diets. The same prison facility also denied inmates' request for a Kurdish-language newspaper, restricted their right to have books with them and limited their social and collective activities.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 27: Inmates in a women's prison in Diyarbakır are reportedly strip-searched during their transfer to courts and hospitals. Their relatives who came to visit are also subjected to strip-searches. Reports also indicated that those who objected to the practice faced visitation bans as disciplinary sanction.

January 27: A Mersin prosecutor demanded up to 15 years in prison for Osman Şiban, a Kurdish villager who in September 2020 was allegedly tortured by a group of soldiers and who is accused of membership in the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Issue 137[145]

30 January – 5 February 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

[145] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 137 | January 30-February 5, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/137-EN.pdf*

February 3: The Mardin Governor's Of ice banned a concert by musician Azad Bedran, citing a blanket ban on outdoor events it previously issued.

February 4: Governorates of Van and Şırnak issued blanket bans on all outdoor gatherings for four days and 10 days respectively.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 31: Bitlis prosecutors indicted journalist Sinan Aygü l on charges of disinformation over his reporting on an alleged child abuse case in the province. Reports highlighted that Aygül became the irst person in Turkey to be indicted under a controversial law which criminalizes the dissemination of "false or misleading information" and stipulates prison sentences of up to three years for those who are found guilty of it.

January 31: Istanbul prosecutors indicted journalist Sezgin Kartal on terrorism-related charges. Kartal was arrested on January 13.

February 2: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit reporter Ramazan Akoğul, who stood trial due to his work for the Dicle news agency (DIHA).

February 2: An appeals court in Izmir overturned a prison sentence previously handed down to Mezopotamya news agency reporter Ahmet Kanbal. The court ruled to acquit Kanbal, who stood trial due to a complaint iled against him by a high-ranking military of icer.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

February 4: Bingöl prosecutors declined to investigate a complaint iled by a person named Sonuç Gürdeğer who claimed to be tortured while in police custody in August 2021.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 2: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit reporter Ramazan Akoğul, who stood trial due to his work for the Dicle news agency (DIHA).

February 2: An appeals court in Izmir overturned a prison sentence previously handed down to Mezopotamya news agency reporter Ahmet Kanbal. The court ruled to acquit Kanbal, who stood trial due to a complaint iled against him by a high-ranking military of icer.

February 3: A Mardin court sentenced district mayors Nilüfer Elik Yılmaz and Gülistan Oncü to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

February 3: A Mardin court sentenced former district mayor Ahmet Inci and local Kurdish politician Mehmet Kılıç to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges due to their attendance in a political event.

February 3: The police in Van detained seven people, including local Kurdish politicians.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 3: Revealed video footage showed a police of icer in Mardin physically assaulting a person on the street. The local governor's of ice announced that an investigation was launched into the incident.

February 3: The guards in an Elazığ prison physically mistreated and injured inmate Deniz Şah.

February 4: Bingöl prosecutors declined to investigate a complaint iled by a person named Sonuç Gürdeğer who claimed to be tortured while in police custody in August 2021.

Issue 138[146]

6-12 February 2023

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 8: The police in Şanlıurfa detained journalists Mahmut Altıntaş and Sema Çağlak for taking pictures of a collapsed building in the aftermath of the earthquake.

February 8: The police in Diyarbakır detained reporter Mehmet Güleş along with a person that he was interviewing. Güleş was released on probation the next day. He faces charges of disseminating misleading information.

February 8: The police in Van summoned journalist Oktay Candemir for a questioning after local prosecutors launched an investigation into him for allegedly insulting a local government agency on social media.

February 9: The authorities obstructed several members of the press who were reporting from areas hit by the earthquakes. Gendarmes in Hatay prevented reporter Fırat Fıstık from shooting videos. The police in Malatya physically assaulted reporter Ferit Demir who was covering news.

February 11: The police in Diyarbakır detained one person who protested the justice minister's visit to the province.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 6: The police in Izmir detained ive people, including HDP executives and Jinnews reporter Nazlıcan Yıldız.

February 7: Local governors in several predominantly Kurdish provinces obstructed disaster relief efforts initiated by the HDP and con iscated vehicles carrying humanitarian aid.

[146] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 138 | February 6-12, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/138-EN.pdf*

PRISON CONDITIONS

February 11: A Şanlıurfa prison restricted visitations due to the earthquakes.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 9: The police in Malatya physically assaulted reporter Ferit Demir who was covering news.

February 12: The police in Adıyaman physically assaulted ive people who were assigned by a district governor's of ice in Diyarbakır to assist in disaster relief efforts in the province and who were detained by gendarmes on suspicion.

Issue 139[147]

13-19 February 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

February 13: The governorates of Mardin, Hakkari and Siirt issued blanket bans on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

February 14: The police in Istanbul briefly detained NGO executive Mazlum Ortaç on charges of fomenting enmity and hatred among the public.

February 15: The police in Hakkari detained three people due to their social media posts.

February 17: Diyarbakır prosecutors launched an investigation into journalist Mir Ali Koçer on charges of spreading misinformation on social media. The journalist was summoned by the police for a questioning.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 16: Local authorities continued to obstruct earthquake relief efforts initiated by the HDP in predominantly Kurdish provinces and to seize humanitarian aid. On February 17, the party announced that the authorities had confiscated 1500 tents, eight trucks, 30 containers and 120 generators.

PRISON CONDITIONS

[147] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 139 | February 13-19, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/139-EN.pdf*

February 17: A mouse was detected in the meals offered to inmates in a Diyarbakır prison. One inmate was briefly hospitalized.

Issue 140[148]

20-26 February 2023

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

February 24: A Van court ruled to acquit two soldiers who shot dead a villager named Ibrahim Baykara on the grounds that they were acting in "self-defense."

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

February 23: The Constitutional Court ruled in favor of Saturday Mothers, a group of activists seeking the whereabouts of loved ones disappeared in police custody in the 1980s whose protest vigil in August 2018 was violently dispersed by the police.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 21: The police in Gaziantep detained Umut Polat, a socialist activist who was in the province to assist search and rescue efforts after the earthquakes, on charges of insulting the president. Polat was arrested by a court the next day.

February 21: Gaziantep prosecutors launched an investigation into NGO executive Mehmet Türkmen on charges of spreading misinformation. Türkmen was summoned by the police for a questioning.

February 22: A Hakkari court ruled to arrest Osman Arslan, a 76-year-old man, on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda.

February 24: A court handed down suspended sentences to six executives of the Chamber of Architects of Turkey, including its chairperson Tezcan Karakuş, on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda, due to an award granted to JIN TV, a women's TV station that broadcasts in Kurdish.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

[148] *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 140 | February 20-26, 2023*. (2023). [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/140-EN.pdf*

February 20: An Istanbul prosecutor demanded prison sentences of up to 15 years for four lawyers who previously represented Abdullah Ocalan, the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), on terrorism-related charges.

February 24: A Van court ruled to acquit two soldiers who shot dead a villager named Ibrahim Baykara on the grounds that they were acting in "self-defense."

KURDISH MINORITY

February 23: The gendarmes in Mardin detained former HDP executive Şiyar Koç. Koç was released the next day.

February 24: A court handed down suspended sentences to six executives of the Chamber of Architects of Turkey, including its chairperson Tezcan Karakuş, on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda, due to an award granted to JIN TV, a women's TV station that broadcasts in Kurdish.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

February 21: The guards in a Gaziantep prison physically assaulted and injured six inmates on the grounds that they showed "disrespect."

February 23: Ahmet Bugur, a man who was detained for arguing with an imam in Ağrı, lost his life in police custody.

Issue 141[149]

27 February-5 March 2023

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 28: A Bitlis court handed down a suspended prison sentence of 10 months to journalist Sinan Aygül on charges of spreading "disinformation," due to his reporting on allegations of child abuse. Aygül became the irst member of the press in Turkey to be convicted under a controversial law that criminalizes the dissemination of "false or misleading information."

February 28: The police in Elazığ detained academic Ovgün Ahmet Ercan on charges of fomenting hatred and enmity among the public, due to his social media posts about the earthquakes. Ercan was released under judicial control and with a travel ban the next day.

[149] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/141-EN.pdf*

February 28: A Zonguldak court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA), citing national security and public order reasons.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 5: The squad and fans of Amedspor, a football club from the predominantly Kurdish province of Diyarbakır, were subjected to a number of racist attacks during an away game in Bursa.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 1: The police in Tunceli mistreated a man named Erkan Gü l during a house raid.

March 4: The Şanlıurfa Bar Association announced that two people (Mehmet Samur and Adle Samur) who were detained on March 2 were mistreated in police custody.

Issue 142[150]

6-12 March 2023

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

March 8: Azad Aktaş, a man living in Diyarbakır, was brie ly abducted by plainclothes police of icers and coerced into becoming an informant for the authorities.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 7: The police in Şanlıurfa brie ly detained eight people protesting an incident of anti-Kurdish racism in a football game.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 7: Konya prosecutors indicted Kurdish journalists Dilan Babat and Fırat Can Arslan on terrorism-related charges for covering the funeral of a colleague who was killed in Iraq.

March 9: The police in Istanbul brie ly detained Germany based Kurdish musician Ali Baran on terrorism-charges upon his arrival at the airport. Baran was released with a travel ban.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 7: Konya prosecutors indicted Kurdish journalists Dilan Babat and Fırat Can Arslan on terrorism-related charges for covering the funeral of a colleague who was killed in Iraq.

[150] https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/142-EN.pdf

March 9: The Constitutional Court removed a freeze on state funds allocated to the pro-Kurdish HDP. The court had imposed the freeze in January on the grounds that the party has links to terrorism.

March 11: Former HDP MP Ibrahim Binici was detained and arrested in Ankara after his terrorism-related prison sentence of two years, six months was upheld by appeals courts.

PRISON CONDITIONS

March 8: The authorities charged inmate Ahmet Kaya an exorbitant amount of money for a needed surgery. Kaya's ribs were broken as a result of an incident of mistreatment in a Van prison.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 9: The guards in a Şanlıurfa prison strip-searched two elderly people (Mehmet Samur and Adle Samur) who were arrested.

March 9: The guards in a Gaziantep prison strip-searched Umut Polat, a socialist activist who was detained and arrested while assisting in disaster relief efforts after the earthquakes.

March 10: An Erzincan prison arbitrarily restricted the rights of political prisoners and refused to dispatch their letters to an MP complaining of the mistreatment they suffered.

Issue 143[151]

13-19 March 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 13: The police in Izmir brie ly detained 13 people, including members and executives of the HDP, due to their attendance in an event held at a party building.

March 19: The police in Istanbul, Mardin and Izmir intervened in Newroz celebrations, detaining 272 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 13: An administrative court in Ankara ruled for the reinstatement of ive academics who were previously dismissed from their positions after signing a declaration criticizing the government's handling of the Kurdish conflict.

[151] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 143 | March 13-19, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/143-EN.pdf*

March 14: The police in Istanbul briefly detained Ferhat Çelik, an executive of the pro-Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency.

March 16: The police in Ankara detained Kurdish journalist Hamdullah Bayram, who is facing terrorism related charges. Bayram was later arrested by a court.

March 16: The police in Van detained nine people, including politicians and NGO executives, on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda.

March 17: The police in Şanlıurfa detained journalist Gülistan Dursun who was following a protest vigil.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 13: The police in Izmir briefly detained 13 people, including members and executives of the HDP, due to their attendance in an event held at a party building.

March 14: The police in Istanbul briefly detained Ferhat Çelik, an executive of the pro-Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency.

March 19: The police in Istanbul, Mardin and Izmir intervened in Newroz celebrations, detaining 272 people.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 16: An Ağrı prison imposed restrictions on the phone call rights of jailed religious community leader Alparslan Kuytul on the grounds that "he was the only one who spoke" during his phone calls. Kuytul was imprisoned following his outspoken criticism of the government.

Issue 144[152]

20-26 March 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 20: The police in Kocaeli brie ly detained two people following their attendance in a Newroz celebration.

March 21: The police in Diyarbakır detained 160 people who gathered to celebrate the Newroz.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

[152] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 144 | March 20-26, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/144-EN.pdf*

March 20: Istanbul prosecutors launched an investigation into journalist Mehmet Ali Erdoğan due to a news report which contained a reference to “Kurdistan.” Erdoğan was summoned by the police for a questioning as part of the investigation.

March 23: Reports indicated that in the last month courts in blocked access to six websites used by pro-Kurdish or leftist news outlets.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 20: The police in Bursa briefly detained local HDP executive Mehmet Dilek.

March 20: The police in Kocaeli briefly detained two people following their attendance in a Newroz celebration.

March 21: The police in Diyarbakır detained 160 people who gathered to celebrate the Newroz.

March 22: The Diyarbakır Bar Association filed a criminal complaint against police of icers who allegedly tortured a 14-year-old Kurdish boy during Newroz celebrations in the province.

March 22: The police in Izmir detained seven people, including HDP executive Idil Uğurlu.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 22: The Diyarbakır Bar Association iled a criminal complaint against police of icers who allegedly tortured a 14-year-old Kurdish boy during Newroz celebrations in the province. Five of icers were suspended from their duties in connection with the incident.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

March 21: Turkey-backed ighters in northern Syria reportedly shot at a family of Kurds celebrating Newroz, killing at least four people.

Issue 145[153]

27 March – 2 April 2023

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

March 28: An Erzincan prison denied parole to journalist Abdulkadir Turay who was arrested in 2016 on terrorism related charges, postponing Turay’s release for three months.

[153] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 145 | March 27-April 2, 2023*. [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/145-EN.pdf*

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

April 1: Zeki Oğuz, a Kurdish businessman, was reportedly abducted in İstanbul. His lawyer announced that they were told by a ruling party MP that Oğuz was held by the state.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 29: Gendarmes in Şanlıurfa intervened in a protest against plans to install solar panels in a rural area, detaining nine protesters.

March 31: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 10 days.

April 2: The Muş Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of five days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 28: An Erzincan prison denied parole to journalist Abdulkadir Turay who was arrested in 2016 on terrorism related charges, postponing Turay's release for three months.

March 29: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted a group of Kurdish journalists who were detained in June 2022 on terrorism charges. The indictment came 10 months after the journalists' detention.

March 30: Van prosecutors launched an investigation into journalist Ruşen Takva due to his social media posts about a political party that joined the ruling coalition. Takva was summoned by the police for a questioning.

March 31: The police in İzmir detained 11 people on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda due to slogans chanted during Newroz celebrations.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 27: The police in Şanlıurfa detained 25 local Kurdish politicians, including members of the HDP.

March 29: Diyarbakır prosecutors indicted a group of Kurdish journalists who were detained in June 2022 on terrorism charges. The indictment came 10 months after the journalists' detention.

March 30: Reports claimed that President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan telephoned some members of the Constitutional Court earlier in March to account for their decision to remove a freeze on state funds allocated to the HDP.

March 30: The police in Antalya briefly detained 10 people as part of an investigation into a Newroz celebration held in the province.

March 30: An İzmir court ruled to acquit local HDP executive Murat Tufan who was arrested on February 2023.

March 31: The police in İzmir detained 11 people on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda due to slogans chanted during Newroz celebrations.

April 1: Gendarmes in Diyarbakır shot dead Mikail Ekinci, a 28-year-old murder suspect. Ekinci was reportedly killed while trying to escape arrest.

PRISON CONDITIONS

March 30: A Malatya prison has reportedly been offering insufficient meals to inmates.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 29: The police in Diyarbakır physically assaulted a man named Şehmus Demir in a courthouse.

March 29: Gendarmes in Şanlıurfa mistreated nine people who were detained during a protest.

Issue 146[154]

3-9 April 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

April 3: The Şırnak Governor's Of ice issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of two days.

April 4: Gendarmes in Şanlıurfa intervened in the opening ceremony of the Green Left Party's (YSP) local branch, detaining seven people. Green Left Party is pro-Kurdish party, formerly known as HDP.

April 5: An Istanbul court ruled to acquit former HDP MPs Levent Tüzel and Sebahat Tuncel who stood trial due to a demonstration they attended.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA) to publish news.

April 7: Diyarbakır prosecutors launched an investigation into reporter Cengiz Ozbasar for reporting on a local energy distribution company. Ozbasar was summoned by the police for a questioning as part of the investigation.

[154] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/146-EN.pdf*

KURDISH MINORITY

April 3: Three Kurdish construction workers were physically assaulted in Muğla for speaking in Kurdish among themselves. The victims were injured as a result.

April 3: A racist mob in Bursa physically assaulted a vehicle due to its license plate indicating the province of Diyarbakır.

April 6: HDP MP Remziye Tosun claimed in a parliamentary inquiry that three prisoners incarcerated in Izmir were placed in solitary con inement for writing books in Kurdish.

April 6: A Bursa court sentenced local HDP executive Ceylan Erol Erdoğan to one year, six months in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda.

April 6: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a website used by the pro-Kurdish Etkin news agency (ETHA) to publish news.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 6: HDP MP Remziye Tosun claimed in a parliamentary inquiry that three prisoners incarcerated in Izmir were placed in solitary con inement for writing books in Kurdish.

April 6: A prison administration in Diyarbakır con iscated a letter written by inmate Neşe Toprak on the occasion of the Intenational Women's Day on the grounds that the letter was "objectionable."

April 8: The police in Van strip-searched a 17-year-old girl who was taken into custody.

Issue 147[155]

10-16 April 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

April 11: Gendarmes in Şanliurfa intervened in a protest against plans to build a solar power plant, detaining three people.

April 14: The police in Hakkari briefly detained 15 people due to their attendance in a demonstration.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

[155] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 147 | April 10-16, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/147-EN.pdf*

April 14: The police in Antalya briefly detained Kurdish journalist Dilan Akyol on terrorism-related charges.

April 14: An Ankara court issued an injunction on a fine and broadcasting ban imposed on the Halk TV channel for promoting a book written by jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş.

April 15: The police in Istanbul briefly detained human rights defender Eren Keskin due to her social media posts.

April 15: Mardin prosecutors launched an investigation into Kurdish journalist Ahmet Kanbal due to news reports he published. Kanbal was summoned by the police for a questioning as part of the investigation.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 11: A Mersin court handed down a terrorism-related prison sentence of seven-and-a-half years to Kurdish villager Osman Şiban who was allegedly dumped off a military helicopter and beaten by security forces in 2020.

April 11: The police in Tekirdağ briefly detained 10 people due to the slogans they chanted and the scarves that they carried during Newroz celebrations in March.

April 13: The police in Antalya detained four people due to the slogans they chanted during the Newroz celebrations in March.

April 14: The police in Antalya briefly detained Kurdish journalist Dilan Akyol on terrorism-related charges.

April 14: An Ankara court issued an injunction on a fine and broadcasting ban imposed on the Halk TV channel for promoting a book written by jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş.

April 15: Mardin prosecutors launched an investigation into Kurdish journalist Ahmet Kanbal due to news reports he published. Kanbal was summoned by the police for a questioning as part of the investigation.

PRISON CONDITIONS

April 13: An Ağrı prison restricted visitation rights for political prisoners and denied them video calls. Reports also revealed that the prison was providing low quality meals and restricting access to hot water. Prison officials confiscated inmates' books and written drafts.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 10: The police in Osmaniye physically assaulted a person named Ganivar Eye over a discussion.

April 11: The police in Şırnak physically mistreated a man named Faruk Iverendi during a house raid.

April 11: A Mersin court handed down a terrorism-related prison sentence of seven-and-a-half years to Kurdish villager Osman Şiban who was allegedly dumped off a military helicopter and beaten by security forces in 2020.

April 14: Reports revealed that an Ağrı prison is keeping political prisoner Alpaslan Kuytul in a one-person cell and depriving him of social and sportive contact with other inmates. The leader of a religious group, Kuytul was imprisoned following his outspoken criticism of the government.

Issue 148[156]

17-23 April 2023

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 18: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Ismail Çoban to one year, six months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda.

April 18: An Elazığ court sentenced journalist Mehmet Güleş to one year, nine months, 25 days in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda on social media.

April 20: The authorities blocked access to the YouTube account of a Kurdish businessman who has recently been making allegations about the ruling party.

April 22: The police in Van briefly detained Kurdish journalist Gülşen Konuk over news reports and social media posts.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 18: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Ismail Çoban to one year, six months in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda.

April 18: The police in Şırnak detained former district co mayor Berivan Kutlu. Kutlu was released the next day.

April 19: A court sentenced Kurdish politician Ayşe Gökkan to three years, nine months in prison on terrorism related charges.

April 22: The police in Van briefly detained Kurdish journalist Gülşen Konuk over news reports and social media posts.

[156] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 148 | April 17-23, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/148-EN.pdf*

April 23: A racist mob in Antalya attacked a passenger bus to a predominantly Kurdish province, injuring three people.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 18: Mardin prosecutors dismissed a complaint against police of icers who physically assaulted a person during Newroz celebrations on the grounds that the of icers involved in the incident were not identified.

Issue 149[157]

24-30 April 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

April 25: The police in Istanbul intervened in Green Left Party (YSP) election events, detaining at least 22 people. YSP (Green Left Party) is the pro-Kurdish party, also known as HDP.

April 25: The police in Diyarbakır intervened in a protest about the widespread detention of Kurdish politicians and activists, detaining two people.

April 27: The police in Muş detained 10 people after their attendance in a Green Left Party (YSP) rally.

April 28: The police in Diyarbakır detained ive opposition party members and executives who were carrying out an election campaign event.

April 30: The police in Istanbul detained 13 people after their attendance at a Green Left Party (YSP) rally.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 27: The police detained journalists Beritan Canözer, Mehmetşah Oruç, Abdurrahman Gök and Mikail Bulut as part of a Diyarbakır-based investigation into the Kurdish political movement. The operation, carried out across several provinces, led to the detention of at least 141 people including lawyers, activists and politicians.

April 29: The police in Diyarbakır detained journalists Sedat Yılmaz and Dicle Müftüoğlu as part of an investigation into Kurdish political movements.

[157] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 149 | April 24-30, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/149-EN.pdf*

April 30: The police detained journalist Nadiye Namoğlu Gürbüz as part of an operation against Kurdish political movements.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 27: The police in 21 provinces detained at least 141 people, including activists, lawyers, politicians and journalists, as part of a Diyarbakır-based investigation into the Kurdish political movement.

April 27: The police detained Kurdish parliamentary candidate Ayten Dönmez on terrorism-related charges. The detention came after Dönmez was verbally targeted by Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu.

April 29: The police in 15 provinces carried out house raids to detained 17 people as part of an investigation into Kurdish political movements.

April 30: A man named Ali Kaya was injured while beet picking in Hakkari due to a land mine explosion. Reports indicated that security forces put up warning signs about the mine field after the incident.

April 30: The police in eight provinces carried out house raids to detain 23 people, including parliamentary candidates from and journalists, as part of an investigation into Kurdish political movements.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 29: The police in Diyarbakır physically assaulted journalist Sedat Yılmaz who was in custody.

April 30: The police in Istanbul sprayed tear gas into the eyes of HDP MP Züleyha Gülüm during an intervention in an election rally.

Issue 150[158]

1-7 May 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

May 2: The police in Edirne intervened in an election event organized by the Green Left Party (YSP), detaining seven party members.

[158] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 150 | May 1-7, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/150-EN.pdf*

May 4: The police in Istanbul intervened in a demonstration staged to protest the murder of a Kurdish street musician, detaining two people.

May 4: The police in Adana intervened in an election event held by the Green Left Party (YSP), detaining 14 people. The detainees were released the next day.

May 4: The police in Istanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the Green Left Party (YSP), detaining 15 people.

May 7: The police in Istanbul detained four people following their attendance at a rally, for wearing bracelets colored yellow, red and green – colors associated with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 3: An Ankara court ruled to arrest journalists Dicle Müftüoğlu, Sedat Yılmaz, Erol Balcı, Abdurrahim Tanyeli and Ramazan Debe who were detained last week as part of widespread detentions against pro-Kurdish political networks.

May 3: The police in Şırnak detained seven people, including a 15-year-old minor, on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda.

May 4: A Bitlis court sentenced Kurdish journalist Sinan Aygül to four months, 15 days in prison over his reporting on the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay) in 2020.

May 5: A Van court sentenced journalists Ferhat Çelik and Idris Yayla to one year, three months in prison for reporting on allegations that two Kurdish villagers were tortured by soldiers in the province in 2021.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

May 5: Media reports indicated that four lawyers were among those who were detained as part of the large-scale investigations carried out against pro-Kurdish political networks.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 2: The police in Istanbul detained 32 people as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political networks.

May 3: An Ankara court ruled to arrest journalists Dicle Müftüoğlu, Sedat Yılmaz, Erol Balcı, Abdurrahim Tanyeli and Ramazan Debe who were detained last week as part of widespread detentions against pro-Kurdish political networks.

May 4: Cihan Aymaz, a Kurdish street musician, was stabbed to death in Istanbul after he refused to sing a nationalist song.

May 4: A Bitlis court sentenced Kurdish journalist Sinan Aygü l to four months, 15 days in prison over his reporting on the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay) in 2020.

May 5: A Van court sentenced journalists Ferhat Çelik and Idris Yayla to one year, three months in prison for reporting on allegations that two Kurdish villagers were tortured by soldiers in the province in 2021.

May 5: Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu said in an interview that the practice of removing elected mayors from of ice in predominantly Kurdish provinces and replacing them with pro-government trustees was carried out upon instructions from President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

May 7: The police in Istanbul detained four people following their attendance at a rally, for wearing bracelets colored yellow, red and green – colors associated with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

May 4: The police in Istanbul physically mistreated Aydın Koçuk and Mehmet Ikto who were detained during a demonstration to protest the murder of a Kurdish street musician. The victims were reportedly injured as a result of the violence.

Issue 151[159]

8-14 May 2023

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

May 8: A spokesperson for the HDP announced that 295 people were detained and 61 were arrested as part of several investigations launched into Kurdish political networks over the course of a month.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 8: A spokesperson for the HDP announced that 295 people were detained and 61 were arrested as part of several investigations launched into Kurdish political networks over the course of a month.

May 9: Imprisoned Kurdish politician Ayşe Gökkan iled a criminal complaint against law enforcement of icials involved in her transfer from a Diyarbakır prison to Ankara prison in March, alleging mistreatment.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

[159] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 151 | May 8-14, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/151-EN.pdf*

May 9: Imprisoned Kurdish politician Ayşe Gökkan iled a criminal complaint against law enforcement of icials involved in her transfer from a Diyarbakır prison to Ankara prison in March, alleging mistreatment.

May 11: The police in Diyarbakır physically assaulted a man named Şeyhmus Eşen who they intercepted in traf ic.

May 14: The police in Mardin physically assaulted two people on the street.

Issue 152[160]

15-21 May 2023

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 18: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to three news reports covering allegations that a religious extremist was hired by the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay).

KURDISH MINORITY

May 17: The police in Batman physically mistreated local HDP executive Yakup Orak on the street.

May 18: The police in Istanbul physically mistreated local HDP executive Yavuz Kahraman and Green Left Party (YSP) executive Cemal Korkmaz.

May 21: The police in Istanbul detained four young Kurdish men for publicly playing music and doing traditional dance. The detainees were seen forced to lie on the ground in handcuffs.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

May 17: The police in Batman physically mistreated local HDP executive Yakup Orak on the street.

May 21: The police in Istanbul detained four young Kurdish men for publicly playing music and doing traditional dance. The detainees were seen forced to lie on the ground in handcuffs.

May 21: The police in Şanlıurfa physically mistreated an individual named Ceylan Demir.

[160] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 152 | May 15-21, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/152-EN.pdf*

Issue 153[161]

22-28 May 2023

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

May 23: The police detained 65 people across the country as part of investigations into Kurdish political networks. On May 25, the police detained 32 more.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

May 22: The police in ive provinces detained 17 people, including executives of the HDP, as part of an Ankara-based investigation into Newroz celebrations.

May 23: The police in ive provinces detained 24 people as part of an investigation into a Kurdish NGO for solidarity with the families of political prisoners.

May 24: The police in Izmir detained 11 people on terrorism-related charges due to their attendance in a Green Left Party (YSP, aka former HDP) election event.

May 24: The police in Mardin detained four people, including members of the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions of Turkey (DISK), on terrorism-related charges.

May 26: The police in Ağrı brie ly detained 35 people due to their attendance in a demonstration in 2014.

May 26: An Istanbul court sentenced HDP executive Koray Türkay to pay a ine due to a demonstration.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

May 23: Prosecutors indicted former HDP MP Selma Irmak on charges of insulting the president in remarks on a TV program in 2015, seeking up to eight years in prison.

May 24: The police detained Kurdish journalist Ferhat Çelik.

May 25: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to three news reports covering allegations that a number of election observers were not provided with necessary documentation.

May 26: The police in Bingöl detained six people on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda on social media.

[161] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 153 | May 22-28, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/153-EN-1.pdf*

May 28: The police in Batman detained at least 20 people for doing victory sign to ruling party supporters who were celebrating the election results.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 22: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish politician Gülşen Ozer to 15 years in prison on two separate terrorism-related charges.

May 22: The police in ive provinces detained 19 people, including executives of the HDP, as part of an Ankara-based investigation into Newroz celebrations.

May 23: The police detained 65 people across the country as part of investigations into Kurdish political networks. On May 25, the police detained 32 more.

May 23: Prosecutors indicted former HDP MP Selma Irmak on charges of insulting the president in remarks on a TV program in 2015, seeking up to eight years in prison.

May 23: Airport police in Diyarbakır detained Kurdish musician Şêrko Kanîwar upon his arrival from Germany. Kanîwar was released the next day.

May 24: The police in Mardin detained 11 people as part of an investigation into the HDP's youth network.

May 24: The police in Manisa carried out house raids to detain local Kurdish politicians Gülsüm Tozan, Ayşe Karagöz and Kardelen Çetin. The detainees were released on May 26.

May 24: The police in Izmir detained 11 people on terrorism-related charges due to their attendance in a Green Left Party (YSP) election event.

May 24: The police in Gaziantep detained four people, including local Kurdish politicians.

May 24: The police detained Kurdish journalist Ferhat Çelik.

May 26: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish politician Feridun Çelik to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

May 26: A Van court sentenced Kurdish politician Rojbin Çetin to 10 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

May 28: Ruling party supporters who gathered outside the presidential palace for the president's election victory speech shouted slogans demanding the execution of jailed Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtaş.

May 28: A HDP district of ice was vandalized by unidenti ied individuals who wrote racist slogans on the walls.

PRISON CONDITIONS

May 23: Kamil Turanoğlu, an inmate incarcerated in Elazığ, lost his life at the hospital after suffering a heart attack behind bars.

Issue 154[162]

29 May -4 June 2023

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 1: An Izmir court ruled to acquit human rights activist Eren Keskin who stood trial due to her social media commentary about an armed attack targeting the HDP.

KURDISH MINORITY

May 30: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Fethi Gümüş, the former chair of the Diyarbakır bar association, to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges due to his alleged involvement in pro-Kurdish political networks.

May 31: Zeynel Bulut, a Kurdish journalist imprisoned on terrorism-related charges, was forced to speak in Turkish by soldiers during his hospital visit.

June 1: The police in Izmir detained six members of the HDP's youth network.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

May 29: The police in Hakkari physically mistreated eight people during house raids.

May 31: Zeynel Bulut, a Kurdish journalist imprisoned on terrorism-related charges, was forced to speak in Turkish by soldiers during his hospital visit.

June 3: The guards in a Mersin prison strip-searched Azat Taş, a mentally handicapped man who was arrested as part of an investigation into a Kurdish NGO.

Issue 155[163]

5-11 June 2023

[162] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 154 | May 29-June 4, 2023* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/154-EN-1.pdf*

[163] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 155 | June 5-11, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/155-EN.pdf*

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

June 5: A prison administration in Ankara has reportedly been denying parole to several political prisoners on arbitrary grounds such as “reading too many books,” “consuming too much water,” “meeting with the prison imam,” “not expressing regret for alleged crimes,” or “attending the open university while in prison.” The practice concerned inmates convicted due to their involvement in the Gülen movement or Kurdish political organizations.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

June 6: A Batman court ruled to acquit jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş of charges related to his attendance in a Newroz event in 2016.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 7: The police in Ankara detained Kurdish journalist Fırat Can Arslan on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda. Arslan was released on June 10.

June 8: A Şanlıurfa court sentenced activist Emine Şenyaşar to pay a monetary fine on charges of insulting ruling party member Ibrahim Halil Yıldız. Şenyaşar is known for her protests to seek justice for family members who were killed by Yıldız and his bodyguards.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

June 6: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that Turkey violated the rights of imprisoned Kurdish politicians Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ by failing to respect the confidentiality of their meetings with their lawyers.

KURDISH MINORITY

June 5: A Şanlıurfa court ruled to acquit local Kurdish politician Vahit Akgün who stood trial due to his involvement in pro-Kurdish political networks.

June 6: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that Turkey violated the rights of imprisoned Kurdish politicians Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ by failing to respect the confidentiality of their meetings with their lawyers.

June 7: The police in Ankara detained Kurdish journalist Fırat Can Arslan on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda. Arslan was released on June 10.

June 7: A real estate agency in Antalya annulled the tenancy agreement of two Kurdish university students after the police called their bureau and threatened.

June 8: A military vehicle in Hakkari fatally struck Erdem Aşkan, a five-year-old child. Such armored vehicle collisions are a frequent problem in the predominantly Kurdish provinces with more than 20 children losing their lives over the past 10 years.

June 8: The police in Izmir detained Dilan Karakoç, a member of the HDP's youth network.

June 10: The police in Ağrı detained Müşerref Geçer and Emrah Kılıç, the co-mayors of a district in the province, as well as a municipal employee.

PRISON CONDITIONS

June 9: A Diyarbakır prison denied hospitalization to Fırat Nebioğlu, an inmate suffering from kidney failure, despite the availability of a donor.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 6: The police in Diyarbakır physically assaulted a 16 year-old minor who was in custody.

June 8: A prison doctor in Erzurum reportedly refused to refer sick inmate Serhat Karsu to the hospital and verbally assaulted him with the words "I am not sending you anywhere. If you will die, you will die here."

June 9: The police in Şırnak mistreated a person during a house raid.

June 11: The police in Diyarbakır physically mistreated a man named Ali Çetinkaya who was taken into custody.

Issue 156[164]

12-18 June 2023

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

June 12: Kurdish musician Dildar Didêrî announced that he was brie ly abducted in Diyarbakır by individuals who introduced themselves as police of icers and taken to a remote location in a vehicle without a license plate. Didêrî said he was left on the side of a road four hours later.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

June 12: The police in Muş detained 18 people over their attendance in the funeral of a man who died in an armed attack against a Kurdish cultural center in Paris. On June 15, the police intervened in a demonstration held to protest the detentions, brie ly detaining four others.

June 13: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

[164] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 156 | June 12-18, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/156-EN.pdf*

June 16: A district governor's of ice in Istanbul banned a cultural event organized by a Kurdish NGO.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 12: An Ankara court ruled to acquit Kurdish journalist Ceylan Şahinli who stood trial on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda over her attendance in events.

June 13: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) faulted Turkey in the case of former MP Osman Baydemir who was disciplined for referring to "Kurdistan" during a parliamentary session. The ECtHR ruled that the parliament's disciplinary sanction was in violation of freedom of expression.

June 14: A Van court handed down a suspended prison sentence of more than four months to journalist Idris Yılmaz for "intentional injury" over his attempt to defend himself when he was assaulted by a contractor while reporting on a construction project.

June 16: An Adana court sentenced Kurdish musician Ilyas Arzu to six years, three months in prison on terrorism related charges due to music lessons he gave. Musician Jiyan Savcı who also stood trial in the same case was acquitted.

June 16: Sa iye Alagaş, one of the Kurdish journalists who were arrested in June 2022, was released under judicial control after the irst hearing of her trial.

June 17: Journalist Sinan Aygül announced that he was physically assaulted by the security team of Mehmet Emin Geylani, the ruling party mayor of a district in the province of Bitlis. The incident occurred after Aygül reported on alleged municipal irregularities implicating Geylani. Aygü l said the attackers also verbally threatened him, saying "If you write about the mayor again, you'll die."

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

June 14: The police in Diyarbakır detained lawyer Süleyman Şahin at the instruction of local prosecutors. Şahin was released under judicial control two days later.

June 15: An Ankara court ruled to acquit Aslı Saraç, a former executive of the Human Rights Association (IHD) who stood trial on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda due to her social media posts.

KURDISH MINORITY

June 12: Kurdish musician Dildar Didêrî announced that he was brie ly abducted in Diyarbakır by individuals who introduced themselves as police of icers and taken to a remote location in a vehicle without a license plate. Didêrî said he was left on the side of a road four hours later.

June 12: The police in Şırnak detained 12 people, including local HDP executives.

June 12: The police in Muş detained 18 people over their attendance in the funeral of a man who died in an armed attack against a Kurdish cultural center in Paris.

June 12: An Ankara court ruled to acquit Kurdish journalist Ceylan Şahinli who stood trial on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda over her attendance in events.

June 13: The police in Bitlis detained local Kurdish politicians Berivan Birlik and Mahmut Arıkbağ.

June 13: The police in Ankara detained HDP executive Doğan Erbaş on account of an upheld prison sentence of 14 years, nine months and 22 days handed down to him on terrorism-related charges.

June 13: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) faulted Turkey in the case of former MP Osman Baydemir who was disciplined for referring to "Kurdistan" during a parliamentary session. The ECtHR ruled that the parliament's disciplinary sanction was in violation of freedom of expression.

June 14: The police in Tekirdağ detained ive people, including local Kurdish politicians, on terrorism-related charges. The detainees were arrested by a court two days later.

June 15: A Diyarbakır court ruled to acquit Kurdish politician Mehmet Şirin Tunç who stood trial as part of an investigation into the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), an umbrella organization for several pro-Kurdish political networks.

June 16: An Adana court sentenced Kurdish musician Ilyas Arzu to six years, three months in prison on terrorism related charges due to music lessons he gave. Musician Jiyan Savcı who also stood trial in the same case was acquitted.

June 16: The police in Tunceli detained former HDP executive Hıdır Çiçek.

June 16: The police in Istanbul raided a district of ice of the HDP, confiscating printed materials.

June 16: A district governor's of ice in Istanbul banned a cultural event organized by a Kurdish NGO.

June 16: Safiye Alagaş, one of the Kurdish journalists who were arrested in June 2022, was released under judicial control after the first hearing of her trial.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 12: The guards in an Iğdır prison mistreated inmates and threatened lawyers who visited to meet with their clients.

June 14: An Erzurum prison restricted the communication privileges of sick inmate Sinan Karaer for 16 months on account of disciplinary investigations against him.

Issue 157[165]

19-25 June 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

June 19: A district governor's of ice in Bitlis banned a Kurdish-language theater play without a justification. June 21: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 22: A Batman court ruled to acquit 25 people who stood trial over their attendance in a protest against the removal of elected Kurdish mayors from of ice.

June 23: An Istanbul court sentenced eight people, including a former HDP MP, to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges due to their attendance in protests and events, while acquitting nine others who were tried in the same case.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 21: A Bursa court sentenced musician Cafer Alp to one year, eight months in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, due to songs he sang at a HDP event in 2017.

June 23: Imprisoned journalist Sezgin Kartal was released from pre-trial detention under judicial control. Arrested in January 2023, Kartal faces terrorism-related charges due to a photo allegedly depicting him with a member of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

KURDISH MINORITY

June 19: A district governor's of ice in Bitlis banned a Kurdish-language theater play without a justification.

June 20: The guards in a women's prison in Ankara verbally assaulted inmates for speaking in Kurdish among themselves, saying "If you are going to live in Turkey you will speak in Turkish."

June 20: The guards in a Tekirdağ prison physically assaulted jailed HDP executive Seyithan Kırmızı.

June 21: A Bursa court sentenced musician Cafer Alp to one year, eight months in prison on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, due to songs he sang at a HDP event in 2017.

June 21: A racist mob in Trabzon physically assaulted Kurdish construction workers, causing injury to six people and leaving two of them in critical condition.

[165] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 157 | June 19-25, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/157-EN.pdf*

June 21: Media reports indicated that a prison administration in Izmir was imposing visitation bans on inmates for speaking in Kurdish.

June 22: A Batman court ruled to acquit 25 people who stood trial over their attendance in a protest against the removal of elected Kurdish mayors from of ice.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

June 19: A prison administration in Şanlıurfa destroyed petitions where inmates reported rights violations they suffered behind bars.

June 20: The guards in a women's prison in Ankara verbally assaulted inmates for speaking in Kurdish among themselves, saying "If you are going to live in Turkey you will speak in Turkish."

June 20: The guards in a Tekirdağ prison physically assaulted jailed HDP executive Seyithan Kırmızı.

June 21: Media reports indicated that a prison administration in Izmir was regularly subjecting inmates' visitors to strip-searches, imposing visitation bans on inmates for speaking in Kurdish, restricting the communication privileges of inmates and failing to deliver print materials sent to inmates by their families.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

June 20: Turkish airstrikes in northern Syria reportedly killed local Kurdish politicians Yusra Derwêş and Lîman Şiwêş as well as another civilian.

Issue 158[166]

26 June -2 July 2023

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

June 26: The police in Istanbul detained journalist Merdan Yanardağ due to his televised remarks criticizing the "isolation" imposed on the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party's (PKK) jailed leader Abdullah Ocalan. Charged with disseminating terrorist propaganda, Yanardağ was arrested by a court the next day.

June 27: The police in Şanlıurfa detained local journalist Mehmet Yetim for sharing a video of an elderly man sexually harassing a two-year-old girl. Yetim was released the same day.

PRISON CONDITIONS

[166] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/158-EN.pdf*

July 1: A prison administration in Diyarbakır did not respond to a request for a kidney transplant for sick inmate Fırat Nebioğlu, despite the availability of an organ donor.

Issue 159[167]

3-9 July 2023

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

July 7: The authorities did not allow jailed Kurdish politician Doğan Erbaş to attend his mother's funeral.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

July 6: A Van court handed down a suspended prison sentence of eight months to a man named Bedir Yamaç who was detained during a demonstration in 2018, while acquitting 14 others who stood trial in the same case.

July 7: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 9: The police in Şanlıurfa intervened in a protest against power outages, detaining 20 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 4: An Ankara court handed down a suspended prison sentence of 10 months to poet Ahmet Telli on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda due to his participation in a press statement in 2017.

July 4: The police in Diyarbakır detained journalist Kadir Bayram.

July 4: Van prosecutors launched an investigation into local journalist Sıddık Güler on disinformation charges due to his reporting on an alleged incident of physical violence in an government building in the province. Güler was summoned by the police for a questioning as part of the investigation.

July 5: A secret witness testifying in the trial of 11 Kurdish journalists admitted that they worked for the Kurdish media outlets on behalf of the authorities. In politically motivated prosecution of government critics, Turkish courts regularly rely on secret witness testimonies as evidence of the defendants' purported links to terrorism.

[167] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/159-EN.pdf*

July 6: The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTUK), the broadcasting regulator, imposed a monetary fine and a seven-day broadcasting ban on the TELE1 TV station for remarks of journalist Merdan Yanardağ on the air. Yanardağ himself was previously arrested due to his comments about the isolation imposed on Abdullah Ocalan, the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

July 5: A secret witness testifying in the trial of 11 Kurdish journalists admitted that they worked for the Kurdish media outlets on behalf of the authorities. In politically motivated prosecution of government critics, Turkish courts regularly rely on secret witness testimonies as evidence of the defendants' purported links to terrorism.

July 5: An Istanbul court ruled to acquit eight lawyers who stood trial on terrorism-related charges over their meetings with Abdullah Ocalan, the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

KURDISH MINORITY

July 7: The authorities did not allow jailed Kurdish politician Doğan Erbaş to attend his mother's funeral.

July 7: A prison administration in Ankara did not deliver Kurdish-language books that were sent to inmate Ozan Alpkaya on the grounds that they were not able to review the books that are not in Turkish. The prison administration said that the inmate must request a translator and pay for the fees.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 9: The police in Adana physically assaulted Green Left Party (YSP) MP Perihan Koca during an intervention in a pride event.

Issue 160[168]

10-16 July 2023

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

[168] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 160 | July 10-16, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/160-EN.pdf*

July 14: A man named Mazlum Çelik announced that he was brie ly abducted in Şanlıurfa by three people who took him to a remote location where he was interrogated under torture and coerced into becoming an informant for the authorities.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

July 12: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 15: Gendarmes in Şanlıurfa intervened in a demonstration about power outages, detaining 20 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 12: A Diyarbakır court ruled to release pending trial 15 Kurdish journalists who were arrested in June 2022 on terrorism-related charges.

July 13: An Elazığ court ruled to block access to 225 tweets, 165 news articles, 24 Facebook posts, three Reddit posts, two YouTube videos, two Instagram posts and one forum page on allegations that Gıyas Güven, a senior of icial of a government agency, deceived women with promises of job opportunities to engage in sexual relations with them.

July 14: Istanbul prosecutors indicted journalist Merdan Yanardağ who was arrested on June 27 over televised remarks about the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), demanding up to 10 years, six months in prison.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 10: A prison administration in Antalya restricted inmates' social privileges.

July 11: The police in Balıkesir detained four members and executives of the HDP. Two of the detainees were arrested by a court on July 13 while the other two were released under judicial control.

July 12: A Diyarbakır court ruled to release pending trial 15 Kurdish journalists who were arrested in June 2022 on terrorism-related charges.

July 13: Video footage circulating on a social media platform showed a group of soldiers engaged in violent behavior toward four shepherds in Diyarbakır.

July 14: The police in Mersin detained 11 people as part of an investigation into Newroz celebrations held in the province.

PRISON CONDITIONS

July 15: A women's prison in Istanbul denied medical care to sick inmate Şivekar Ataş.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 10: Rangers in Diyarbakır physically assaulted three shepherds.

July 12: The police in Kars physically assaulted local journalist Serkan Çağlar over a parking dispute.

July 13: Video footage circulating on a social media platform showed a group of soldiers engaged in violent behavior toward four shepherds in Diyarbakır.

July 14: The guards in a Diyarbakır prison con iscated the letters, diaries and notebooks of jailed journalists Abdurrahman Gök and Mehmet Şah Oruç.

Issue 161[169]

17-23 July 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

July 22: The police in Istanbul and Tunceli intervened in demonstrations about those who disappeared in police custody in the 1990s, briefly detaining a total of 30 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 17: The police in Diyarbakır detained three distributors of the Kurdish-language Azadî newspaper. The detainees were released the next day.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 17: The police in Diyarbakır detained three distributors of the Kurdish-language Azadî newspaper. The detainees were released the next day.

Issue 162[170]

24-30 July 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

[169] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 161 | July 17-23, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/161-EN.pdf*

[170] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 162 | July 24-30, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/162-EN.pdf*

July 24: The Istanbul Governor's Office banned a march aimed at drawing attention to the suppression of the Kurdish language and Kurds' longstanding demand for access to education in their mother tongue.

July 28: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a day.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

July 25: The police across the country detained journalists Delal Akyüz, Fırat Can Arslan, Sibel Yükler, Evrim Kepenek, and Evrim Deniz on charges of "targeting a public of icial involved in the ight against terrorism," due to their social media posts about a judge-prosecutor couple who were involved in the investigation and prosecution of Kurdish journalists. Arslan was arrested after appearing in court the same day while the other four were released on judicial probation.

July 28: A Diyarbakır court ruled to block access to a news report about the replacement of a judge and her prosecutor husband that led to the detention of ive journalists on July 25.

KURDISH MINORITY

July 24: The Istanbul Governor's Office banned a march aimed at drawing attention to the suppression of the Kurdish language and Kurds' longstanding demand for access to education in their mother tongue.

July 25: The police across the country detained journalists Delal Akyüz, Fırat Can Arslan, Sibel Yükler, Evrim Kepenek, and Evrim Deniz on charges of "targeting a public official involved in the fight against terrorism," due to their social media posts about a judge-prosecutor couple who were involved in the investigation and prosecution of Kurdish journalists. Arslan was arrested after appearing in court the same day while the other four were released on judicial probation.

July 25: A Şanlıurfa court acquitted former district co mayor Hatice Çevik of terrorism-related charges. Elected from the ranks of the HDP, Çevik was one of the dozens of Kurdish mayors who was summarily removed from of ice by the Interior Ministry.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

July 25: Soldiers in Hakkari physically mistreated four people grazing their sheep in a rural area.

Issue 163[171]

31 July – 6 August 2023

[171] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 163 | July 31-August 6, 2023* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/163-EN.pdf*

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

August 1: The Tunceli Governor's Office banned three concerts that were planned as part of a local cultural festival. Several band members were detained after the announcement of the ban.

August 1: An Istanbul court ruled that a ban on a 2021 cultural event organized by a Kurdish NGO was unlawful

August 2: Gendarmes in Mardin and Şanlıurfa intervened in protests against a local electricity supplier, detaining a total of seven people.

August 5: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of two days.

KURDISH MINORITY

August 1: An Istanbul court ruled that a ban on a 2021 cultural event organized by a Kurdish NGO was unlawful.

August 2: A women's prison in Agrı sent several inmates to one-person cells as a disciplinary punishment for singing in Kurdish and performing a folk dance.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

August 1: Burhan Barut, an inmate incarcerated in Antalya, went on a hunger strike alleging that he was subjected to severe torture including being hogtied. August 2: A women's prison in Ag rı sent several inmates to one-person cells as a disciplinary punishment for singing in Kurdish and performing a folk dance.

Issue 164[172]

7-13 August 2023

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

August 13: Pro-Kurdish media reported that an Ankara prison has not released 14 female inmates who are eligible for parole, citing as grounds their alleged lack of remorse. ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

August 8: Two inmates in an Elazıg prison stabbed eight political prisoners arrested or convicted on charges of affiliation with the Gulen movement or the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party

[172] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 164 | August 7-13, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/164-EN.pdf*

(PKK). The assailants reportedly identified themselves as “men of the deep state.” One of the victims was severely injured as a result of the assault. The incident drew widespread public outcry as it took place in a high-security prison and was perceived as possibly deliberate negligence threatening the safety of political prisoners.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

August 8: The Tunceli Governor’s Office banned a concert that was planned to be held in the province.

August 11: The Van Governor’s Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for two days.

August 12: The police in Gaziantep briefly detained labor union leader Mehmet Turkmen Şireci over a protest march against low wages.

August 12: The police in Muş briefly detained 20 people who joined a campaign event organized by the HDP.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

August 10: Bitlis prosecutors indicted jailed Kurdish journalist Mehmet Şah Oruç on terrorism-related charges.

August 11: The family members of Kurdish journalist Ruken Tuncel suffered racist assault and harassment near their home in Istanbul.

KURDISH MINORITY

August 10: Bitlis prosecutors indicted jailed Kurdish journalist Mehmet Şah Oruç on terrorism-related charges.

August 11: The family members of Kurdish journalist Ruken Tuncel suffered racist assault and harassment near their home in Istanbul.

August 11: The Mersin police detained 11 people for spreading terrorist propaganda during Newroz celebrations.

August 12: The police in Muş briefly detained 20 people who joined a campaign event organized by the HDP.

August 13: Pro-Kurdish media reported that an Ankara prison has not released 14 female inmates who are eligible for parole, citing as grounds their alleged lack of remorse.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

August 8: Two inmates in an Elazıg prison stabbed eight political prisoners arrested or convicted on charges of affiliation with the Gulen movement or the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK). The assailants reportedly identified themselves as “men of the deep state.” One of the victims was severely injured as a result of the assault. The incident drew widespread public outcry

as it took place in a high-security prison and was perceived as possibly deliberate negligence threatening the safety of political prisoners.

August 12: Soldiers in Bitlis tortured a villager named Kerem Arvas who was detained during a military operation.

Issue 165[173]

14-20 August 2023

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

August 22: Emel Çiftçi, a Kurdish musician who is undergoing treatment for cancer was arrested on terror related charges in southeastern Turkey despite medical reports conirming her condition.

August 23: Prison Administration and Observation Board postponed the release of Mehmet Hüseyin Oz, a prisoner in Gaziantep H Type Prison, for 6 months on the grounds of "high potential to reoffend".

August 25: Human Rights Association (IHD) Diyarbakır Branch Co-Chair Ercan Yılmaz revealed that the release of at least 271 prisoners in prisons across Turkey is postponed by the decisions of Administration and Observation Boards in prisons.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

August 27: The Şanlıurfa 2nd Criminal Judicature of Peace ruled to block access to 3 news about the arrest of the father and uncle who allegedly tortured a 15-year-old boy in Şanlıurfa on the grounds of violation of personal rights upon the request of the Ministry of Family and Social Services.

Issue 167[174]

28 August – 3 September 2023

[173] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 166*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/166-EN.pdf*

[174] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 167*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/167-EN.pdf*

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

August 30: Şakir Turan, 70, a Kurdish inmate who was suffering from throat cancer, passed away while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Turkey's Erzincan province.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 1: Activist, writer, and journalist Celaletttin Can was sent to prison to serve a 15-month sentence on conviction of disseminating terrorist propaganda for acting as the symbolic editor-in-chief of a now-closed Kurdish newspaper.

KURDISH MINORITY

August 28: Amedspor fans who were detained for not standing up during the singing of the National Anthem were referred to the courthouse on charges of "insulting the signs of the sovereignty of the state".

August 31: In Şırnak, a 12-year-old boy hit by an armored police vehicle was seriously wounded.

September 1: It is learned that Doğukan Yen, a member of Green Left Party Youth Assembly, was kidnapped and forced into a car by two people claiming themselves to be police of icers in Ataşehir district of Istanbul on August 25, 2023. Doğukan Yen was threatened while he was in the car and was released on the same day.

Issue 168[175]

4-10 September 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

September 8: The police intervened with the people protesting the demolition of 411 workplaces in Suruç district of Sanliurfa by the municipality appointed with trustees and detained 4 people.

KURDISH MINORITY

September 5: 5 Amedspor fans, including a disabled child, who came to the stadium with their uniforms to watch the Sarıyerspor-Amedspor match in Istanbul were attacked by a racist group.
September 8: Kurdish political activist Amir Kahrizi faced a deportation threat to Iran despite being entitled to protection as a refugee.

PRISON CONDITIONS

[175] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 168* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/168-EN.pdf*

September 6: Celalettin Can, a writer incarcerated in an Istanbul prison, was not given food or water for two days.

September 8: Fevzi Arslan, an ill prisoner in Urfa T Type Prison No 1, was not given a corset which is mandatory for him to use, and was not referred to hospital.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 5: A Kurdish farmer in southeast Turkey's Muş province on Monday was allegedly severely beaten by soldiers in a detention center.

Issue 169[176]

11-17 September 2023

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 13: Şener Levent, the editor-in-chief of the daily newspaper Avrupa in Cyprus, was sentenced to 11 months and 20 days in prison in Turkey for insulting the Turkish President for his article titled "Kurds and us".

September 14: A Kurdish journalist, Abdurrahman Gök, who has been the subject of frequent judicial harassment since he photographed the killing of a Kurdish university student by a police of icer in 2017 has not been released from prison after five months in pretrial detention.

September 14: A Turkish court has handed down a suspended 15-month sentence to a Kurdish journalist, Rojin Altay, on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda in her social media posts.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

September 13: Former HDP MP Hüda Kaya was sentenced to pay compensation for 'attacking SADAT's personal rights' due to a parliamentary question.

September 15: Y.B., a municipality employee who attacked Bitlis Journalists' Association President Sinan Aygül on in Tatvan Municipality, and police officer E.K. who prevented bystanders from intervening were released.

KURDISH MINORITY

[176] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 169*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/169-EN.pdf*

September 12: A Diyarbakır court has sentenced Narin Gezgör, a founding member of the Rosa Women's Association, a Kurdish women's rights group, to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism-related charges.

September 14: Afyon Prison refused to give writer Rizgar Turhan, who has been imprisoned since 1995, the books "Cangoriyên Mişarê" and "Dilopek Ji Ava Jînê", which he wrote in prison.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 13: It was reported that a prisoner named H. B. A. in Diyarbakır Prison was subjected to physical violence by the wardens and was wounded in various parts of his body.

Issue 170[177]

18-24 September 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

September 18: The police in Izmir intervened in a demonstration against military clashes in northern Iraq, briefly detaining 12 people.

September 18: A Van court ruled to acquit human rights defenders Huseyin Yaviç and Sevim Çiçek who stood trial over their attendance at a demonstration in 2021.

September 22: A Şanlıurfa court ruled to acquit lawyers Hidayet Enmek, Eyup Sabri Tinaş, and Mehmet Emin Uyguner who stood trial over their detention during a Newroz celebration in 2012.

September 22: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for two days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 20: A Bitlis court sentenced journalist Sinan Aygul to six months in prison on trespassing charges due to a 2020 report about misused charity donations implicating a ruling party lawmaker.

September 21: A Tunceli court ruled to acquit journalist Ruken Tuncel who stood trial for sharing a video of an academic.

September 22: The police in Şanlıurfa briefly detained Kurdish politician Kamil Goktaş on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda in a speech.

[177] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue 170 | September 18-24, 2023*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/170-EN.pdf*

KURDISH MINORITY

September 19: A Diyarbakır court sentenced local politician Seyit Narin to one year in prison.

September 22: The police in Şanlıurfa briefly detained Kurdish politician Kamil Goktaş on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda in a speech.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

September 22: Prison guards in Agrı physically assaulted and hogtied two female inmates for four hours.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

September 19: An Iraqi military official announced that a drone that killed three Kurdish counterterrorism officers had originated in Turkey.

Issue 171[178]

25 September – 1 October 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

September 29: Governorate of Van made a declaration on September 28, 2023 and banned all activities such as press declarations, sit-ins and surveys, setting up/opening tents and stands, organizing petitions, distributing leaflets, brochures and flyers and all kinds of protest actions for 2 days.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

September 27: A Turkish court has sentenced Kurdish politician and former MP Selma Irmak to four years, two months in prison on charges of insulting President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and denigrating the government.

PRISON CONDITIONS

September 27: Isa Kaya, a prisoner in Kayseri T Type Prison, was not given his Kurdish book "Mirxas" for 3 months on the grounds that it is "under review".

September 29: Selver Yıldırım, an ill prisoner in Ankara Sincan Women's Prison, was not being treated and was at risk of losing her eyesight.

[178] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 171* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/171-EN.pdf*

Issue 172[179]

2-8 October 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

October 6: The Governorate of Van banned all activities such as press declarations, sit-ins and surveys, setting up/opening tents and stands, organizing petitions, distributing lealets, brochures and lyers and all kinds of protest actions for 4 days as of October 6, 2023.

October 6: Şırnak Governorate announced a ban on demonstrations, marches, and open-air meetings for 10 days starting from October 6.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 3: As part of a Tunceli based investigation against Partizan magazine and Yeni Demokrasi newspaper, 6 people including a reporter of Yeni Demokrasi newspaper were detained in house raids in Tunceli and Istanbul.

October 5: Etkin Haber, Komun Dergi, Gazete Patika and Kızıl Bayrak were blocked on the grounds of national security and protection of public order.

October 6: Mezopotamya Agency (MA) reporter Ahmet Kanbal was detained on charges of "making illegal organization propaganda" in a raid on his house in central Mardin, based on his social media posts and news reports.

Issue 173[180]

9-15 October 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

October 11: During the closing concert of the 3rd International Refugee Film Festival organized by the Peoples' Bridge Association, held at Izmir Ahmet Adnan Soygun Art Center, a demand was

[179] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 172* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/172-EN.pdf*

[180] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 173*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/173-EN.pdf*

made to stop the concert on the grounds that while Bajar was on stage, a traditional Kurdish dance, halay, was being performed in the hall.

October 12: The governorate of Mardin made a declaration on October 12, 2023 and announced that all meetings, demonstrations, press declarations, open and closed meetings and similar events and activities are banned for 7 days as of October 13, 2023.

October 14: The gendarmerie intervened in the protest against the dismantling of horse transformers in Dilimli rural neighborhood of Eyyübiye district of Şanlıurfa and detained 6 people, including the headman of the neighborhood, using physical violence.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 9: At least 1 news article on the torture of minors during "zikir" in Şanlıurfa was blocked by Şanlıurfa 1st Criminal Judicature of Peace on the grounds of violation of personal rights.

October 11: A Turkish court has ordered Kurdish politician and former member of parliament Sebahat Tuncel to pay damages to a paramilitary organization with alleged ties to the country's president due to a speech she made in 2016.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 10: On the eighth anniversary of the biggest terrorist attack in the history of the Turkish Republic, lawyers for the victims' families are still demanding accountability for the lack of transparency in the case, the failure to arrest the main suspects, the ignoring of earlier leads and the withholding of evidence and intelligence reports from the court.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 13: The guards in a prison in western Turkey allegedly strip-searched and verbally assaulted Berna Çelik, a provincial executive of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) who was recently arrested on terrorism-related charges.

Issue 174[181]

16 – 22 October 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

October 20: Tunceli Governorate made a declaration on October 19, 2023 and announced that press declarations, meetings, demonstrations, rallies, protests, sit-ins, commemorations, hunger

[181] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 174* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/174-EN.pdf*

strikes, opening stands, petitions, concerts, festivals, distributing flyers, leaflets, brochures and similar actions and activities throughout the province are subject to the permission of the local administrative chief for 5 days as of October 20, 2023.

October 21: Police detained 26 people, including activists and family members of the Saturday Mothers, during the group's 969th weekly demonstration in Istanbul's Galatasaray Square, where they were demanding justice for their loved ones who disappeared in police custody in the 1990s.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 16: At least 2 news articles on the torture of children during "zikir" in Şanlıurfa were blocked from access by the Şanlıurfa 2nd Criminal Judgeship of Peace on the grounds of violation of personal rights.

October 16: At least 3 news articles on the allegation that Mehmet Sait D., a public prosecutor in Mardin's Midyat district, beat Dr. Gözde Bağcı, the director of the Forensic Medicine Branch in the district, were blocked from access by the Midyat Criminal Judgeship of Peace on the grounds of violation of personal rights.

October 17: At least 3 news articles about the engagement ceremony for an 8-year-old girl and her 9-year-old uncle's son in Mardin's Kızıltepe district were blocked from access after the Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Services launched an investigation.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

October 19: Greens and Left Party for the Future (Green Left Party) Diyarbakır MP Ceylan Akça Cupolo submitted the Law on the Recognition and Protection of Human Rights Defenders to the Parliament.

October 19: Green Left Party Diyarbakır MP Serhat Eren demanded an investigation into the deaths of children hit by armored vehicles in Kurdish provinces in the Child Rights Sub-Committee of the Human Rights Investigation Commission of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, but the AKP and IYI Party opposed the request.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 21: Wedding singers and 23 people were detained in Eskişehir on the allegation that 4 songs sung by 2 wedding singers at a wedding in Eskişehir contained lyrics containing "illegal organization propaganda".

Issue 175[182]

[182] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 175*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/175-EN.pdf*

23-29 October 2023

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 23: Naiye Bal, editor of the weekly Kurdish language newspaper Xwebûn, was detained in a raid on his house.

October 24: A court in southeastern Turkey ruled to arrest Selahattin Kaygusuz, a Kurdish journalist who was detained last week for alleged membership in a terrorist organization.

October 26: A prosecutor in southeastern Turkey requested up to 15 years in prison for Beritan Canözer, a journalist accused of membership in a terrorist organization due to her involvement in pro-Kurdish media.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 23: Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Party Assembly member Ali Gültepe and HDP member Cüneyt Yeşilyurt were detained in house raids in Istanbul. The reason for the detentions could not be learned.

October 26: A court in Turkey ruled for the arrest of Emin Soyal, a 78-year-old man with documented disabilities and health issues who was detained for alleged links to terrorism.

October 27: Gültan Kışanak, a Kurdish politician and the former co-mayor of the southeastern Turkish province of Diyarbakır incarcerated in Turkey, was denied release by the authorities despite her eligibility to be freed.

October 27: Drone strikes by the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) on Kurdish-held areas of northeast Syria between Oct. 5 and 10 damaged critical infrastructure and resulted in water and electricity disruptions for millions of people.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 26: A disciplinary investigation was launched against 10 prisoners in Diyarbakır High Security Prison No 2 on the grounds of "creating fear by banging on the doors" and the prisoners were sentenced to 'deprivation of visitation for 3 months' at the end of the investigation.

Issue 176[183]

30 October – 5 November 2023

[183] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 176*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/176-EN.pdf*

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

November 1: The police intervened the "Peoples resist from Palestine to Rojava" demonstration in Sultangazi district of Istanbul and detained 17 people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 2: A Kurdish writer, Dilşah Kocakaya, was sent to prison to serve a 15-month sentence on conviction of disseminating terrorist propaganda when acting as the symbolic editor-in-chief of a now-closed Kurdish newspaper.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

October 30: Lawyers for a Kurdish politician, Gültan Kışanak, who has been jailed for seven years called on Turkish judicial authorities to release her as she has spent the maximum amount of time behind bars without a conviction upheld by an appeals court.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 1: Former HDP Istanbul MP Hüda Kaya, who was detained at Istanbul Airport after Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation against her, was arrested on charges of participating in unlawful meetings or demonstrations and insisting on dispersing despite warnings and use of force, and resisting with more than one person to prevent the execution of duty.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 2: Selami Ustündağ , a prisoner in Erzincan T Type Prison was subjected to physical violence because he rejected strip search and was transferred to Samsun Kavaklı S Type Prison.

Issue 177[184]

6-12 November 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

November 9: Private security units and the police intervened the protest organized by the Federation of Socialist Youth Associations (SGDF) at Diyarbakır Dicle University campus and detained 2 people using physical violence.

[184] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 177*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/177-EN.pdf*

KURDISH MINORITY

November 6: Fatma Aydın, the mother of Kurdish professional soccer player Oktay Aydın, was briely detained on Sunday for failing to stand during the national anthem at a stadium in Diyarbakır.

November 6: The indictment prepared against 11 people detained in May accused them of "membership in a terrorist organization" because they were HDP members and listened to Kurdish songs.

November 8: The response to a written parliamentary question revealed that the district governorship had not issued a ban on the play "Haylo Dîsa Tevlihev bû", which was banned in June on the grounds of a decision by the Tatvan District Governorate.

November 8: A Kurdish politician, Aysel Tuğluk, who was released from prison last year following a long-awaited medical report stating that her dementia did not allow her to remain behind bars has been detained in Istanbul.

November 11: Mizgin Yalçın, a teacher of the Kurdish language based in Diyarbakır, received numerous insulting and threatening messages on social media after she shared a video in which she mentioned the Kurdish names of provinces.

PRISON CONDITIONS

November 10: Sick prisoners in Adana Kürkçüler T Type Prison No 1 and Ağrı Patnos L Type Prison were not referred to inirmary and hospital.

Issue 178[185]

13-19 November 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

November 18: The Diyarbakır leg of the march to Gemlik against the isolation of PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan started under police blockade. Citing the governorate's ban, the police detained at least 30 people.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

November 15: Notorious Turkish crime boss Alaattin Çakıcı threatened pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (HEDEP) lawmaker and rights advocate Omer Faruk Gergerlioğlu

[185] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 178* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/178-EN.pdf*

on social media over his criticism of Devlet Bahçeli, leader of the far-right Nationalist Movement Party (MHP).

KURDISH MINORITY

November 16: Reber Dosky, a Dutch-Kurdish journalist, producer and director, was detained on November 8 in Turkey, where he had arrived for a new project, and deported after being taken to the Repatriation Center (GGM) in Urfa.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

November 14: Prisoners in Ankara Sincan High Security Prison No 1 were asked to pay for translation of Kurdish books.

November 15: Aziz Beyaztaş and Dilber Beyaztaş were subjected to physical violence of a police of icer in Eyyübiye district of Şanlıurfa. Aziz Beyaztaş was hit on his head with the butt of a gun and got wounded.

Issue 179[186]

20-26 November 2023

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 20: Pro-government media targeted main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Ozgür Ozel for attending the recent performance of a Kurdish opera singer along with Pervin Buldan, an MP from the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (HEDEP) and other politicians from both parties.

November 23: Courts in eastern Turkey have convicted and handed down sentences to Kurdish journalists Hacı Boğatekin and Ozgür Boğatekin.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 21: Turkey's Justice Ministry sought an INTERPOL Red Notice for famous Kurdish singer and activist Ferhat Tunç, who lives in exile in Germany, in line with an arrest warrant issued for him in 2021 for failing to attend court hearings.

[186] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 179* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/179-EN.pdf*

November 24: Halil Aksoy, former Ağrı MP of Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), was detained in Istanbul on the grounds that he had a inalized prison sentence of 8 years and 9 months for 'being an illegal organization member' and was arrested by the court.

Issue 180[187]

27 November – 3 December 2023

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

December 1: Turkey's Council of Forensic Medicine (ATK) issued a report that finds Makbule Ozer, an 81-year-old Kurdish woman with serious disabilities and health problems, it to serve her prison sentence.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

November 30: Urfa Governorate made a declaration on November 29, 2023 and banned press declarations, meetings, marches, hunger strikes, sit-in protests, rallies, opening stands, setting up tents, distributing leaflets, hanging banners and similar actions and activities for 3 days as of November 29, 2023.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

November 27: 17 people were detained in house raids in Derik and Kızıltepe districts of Mardin on the grounds of making illegal organization propaganda in their social media posts.

November 27: During house raids in Sanliurfa, 1 person was detained on the grounds of making illegal organization propaganda in social media posts.

December 1: Emine Şenyaşar, a woman who has been demanding justice for three of her family members murdered by people connected to a lawmaker from Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), faced up to two years in prison for allegedly insulting the MP Ibrahim Halil Yıldız.

KURDISH MINORITY

November 30: The Turkish court that retried Selçuk Mızraklı, the former co-mayor of the predominantly Kurdish province of Diyarbakır in southeastern Turkey who was dismissed and replaced by a trustee, handed down the same sentence of more than nine years to the politician.

[187] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 180* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/180-EN.pdf*

December 1: Former Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) district co-chairs Şiyar Koç and Dilan Çıtanak were detained in Nusaybin district of Mardin by the police who stopped the car they were in through a Muş based investigation.

Issue 181[188]

4-10 December 2023

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

December 8: The police intervened the demonstration organized by Anatolian Association for Assistance and Solidarity with Families who Lost Their Relatives (ANYAKAYDER) in Bahçelievler district of Istanbul on December 7, 2023 to protest in the delivery of PKK militants' bodies to their families in cardboard boxes. 46 people including Istanbul Co-Chair of Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (HEDEP) were detained by the police using physical violence and handcuffing them behind their backs.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

December 8: The Council of Europe's (CoE) Committee of Ministers, in its quarterly meeting December 5-7, addressed Turkey's non-compliance with European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) rulings in the cases of jailed Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtaş and Osman Kavala.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 5: A court in central Turkey ruled to conclude the trial in absentia of a gendarme charged with the mass murder a Kurdish family in a deliberately lit fire in October 1993 due to the expiration of the statute of limitations.

December 8: Lawyer Ahmet Atış, who went to Urfa Organized Industrial Zone Gendarmerie Station to meet his client who was detained during a protest in Urfa Organized Industrial Zone, was subjected to physical and verbal violence of soldiers, including a person reported to be the station commander, for speaking Kurdish with his client.

PRISON CONDITIONS

December 8: Imprisoned writer, activist and journalist Celalettin Can sent an open letter addressed to members of parliament in which he detailed the mistreatment of political prisoners and the denial of probation.

[188] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 181*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/181-EN.pdf*

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

December 8: Edanur Ibrahimoğlu, a youth spokesperson for the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (HEDEP), was physically assaulted by police who intervened in a press conference organized by the party.

Issue 182[189]

11-17 December 2023

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

December 13: Mehmet Güvcin, a prisoner in Şırnak T Type Closed Prison, died in Diyarbakır hospital.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 12: DEM Party Co-Chair Tuncer Bakırhan, who started his speech at the budget talks in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) with a greeting in Kurdish, was told by GNAT Speaker Numan Kurtulmuş: "Mr. Bakırhan, as the GNAT, we would like you to explain what you said in Turkish. This is the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Turkish will be spoken here, and since our of icial language is Turkish, we expect it to be spoken in Turkish. On behalf of our friends, we ask you to explain it in Turkish." It is also stated in the news reports that Tuncer Bakırhan's Kurdish remarks were censored in the minutes.

December 12: Democratic Regions Party (DBP) District Co-Chair Remziye Bayhan was detained in a house raid in Nusaybin district of Mardin.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

December 12: Books and blankets of some prisoners in Şırnak T Type Prison were seized by the wardens.

Issue 183[190]

18-24 December 2023

[189] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 182* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/182_EN.pdf*

[190] TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR. (2023). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 183*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/183_EN.pdf*

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

December 24: 60 people including 5 children were detained by physical violence after DEM Party 1st Youth Assembly Congress in Diyarbakır and Diyarbakır Public Prosecutor's Office initiated an investigation on the congress. DEM Party is the pro-Kurdish party previously known as HDP.

Issue 184[191]

25-31 December 2023

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

December 26: An investigation was launched into veteran journalist Can Ataklı due to his statements targeting the father of a Turkish soldier who was recently killed in an attack by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in northern Iraq.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

December 27: It was learned that 2 people were detained in house raids on December 26, 2023 through the investigation of Diyarbakır Public Prosecutor's Office on Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) 1st Youth Assembly Congress held in Diyarbakır on December 24, 2023 and detention period was extended for 1 more day on December 27, 2023.

December 27: Governorates of Bingöl and Siirt announced on December 26, 2023 that all events such as demonstrations, marches, press declarations, hunger strikes, sit-in protests, rallies, opening stands, setting up tents, distributing lealets, hanging banners and similar activities are banned for 6 days from December 26, 2023 until January 1, 2024.

December 28: The police intervened the press declaration of Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Tunceli Provincial Organization and DEM Party Dersim Provincial Organization against the operations in Northeast Syria and detained 6 people. The police intervened the press declaration in front of DEM Party Ceylanpınar District Organization in Ceylanpınar district of Urfa for the same reason and detained 10 people.

KURDISH MINORITY

December 28: On the 12th anniversary of the 2011 Roboski massacre, the families who gathered to commemorate the 34 Kurdish civilians killed in a Turkish military airstrike are still demanding

[191] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2023). TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 184. In *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR* (Issue 184, pp. 1–3). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/184_EN.pdf*

accountability for the killings, the perpetrators of which have not been disclosed by the Justice and Development Party (AKP) government.

December 28: A granddaughter of Sheikh Said, an iconic Kurdish igure who led a Kurdish nationalist rebellion against the new Republic of Turkey in 1925, was ordered to post a photo of a Turkish lag on her social media accounts for 30 days as part of punitive measures following her release from detention.

ANNEX 5 TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR (Period between 1 January 2024 and 29 December 2024)

(*Weekly Bulletins by Solidarity with Others, a Brussels-based human rights NGO)*

Below is all the reported human rights issues related to Kurdish population (including journalists, politicians or regular citizens) from January 2024 until December 2024.

Issue 185[192]

1-7 January 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 5: At least 3 news articles on the allegation that a judge in Mardin detained three students who allegedly swore at his wife, a teacher, when he came to the school with ive police cars, were blocked from access by the Mardin 1st Criminal Judgeship of Peace on the grounds of violation of personal rights.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 4: A university student F.B. in Istanbul was allegedly brutalized by roommates due to his Kurdish and Alevi identities.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 4: Prisoners in Ağrı Patnos L Type Prison were not given hot water, the drinking water given to prisoners was contaminated and books belonging to prisoners were seized during ward searches.

January 4: Mehmet Ali Uğur, an ill prisoner in Ağrı Patnos L Type Prison, was not given food suitable for his diet.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

[192] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 185* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/185-EN.pdf*

January 6: The Mesopotamia Women Journalists Association (MKG) released a report focusing on alleged rights violations of female journalists in Turkey in 2023, which found that 168 of them stood trial throughout the year.

Issue 186[193]

8-14 January 2024

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 9: Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) MP Hüda Kaya has been kept in solitary cell in Istanbul Marmara (Silivri) Prison since November 1, 2023.

January 10: 4 people (Idris Kurt, Sıtar Kurt, Canan Kurt, Sabiha Kurt) were subjected to torture and ill-treatment in a house raid in Yüksekova district of Hakkari.

Issue 187[194]

15-21 January 2024

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

January 18: Abdullah Varışlı, an ill prisoner in Erzurum Oltu Prison who was being treated for cancer, died in hospital on January 16, 2024.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 18: A court in the southeastern Turkish province of Diyarbakır has decided to keep a Kurdish journalist, Dicle Müftüoğlu, co-chairperson of the Dicle Fırat Journalists' Association and an editor at the Mezopotamya news agency, who was arrested in May on terrorism related charges in jail.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

[193] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 186* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/186-EN.pdf*

[194] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 187* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/187-EN.pdf*

January 15: Turkish prosecutors have found no grounds to investigate public broadcaster Turkish Radio and Television (TRT) for airing an interview with the brother the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in the run-up to a critical election in Istanbul in 2019 although the man had been sought by Turkey on terrorism charges.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 15: A Turkish prosecutor has demanded the continued pretrial detention of Gültan Kışanak, a Kurdish politician and the former co-mayor of Diyarbakır who has been behind bars on terrorism-related charges since October 2016.

January 16: Turkish police on Tuesday conducted raids across 28 provinces and detained a total of 165 people, including peace activists and members of the Peoples' Democracy and Equality (DEM) Party, for alleged ties to terrorism.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 15: Emin Gü ler, a 94 percent disabled seriously ill prisoner in Sanliurfa T Type Prison No 2, was transferred to Erzincan L Type Prison against his will.

Issue 188[195]

22-28 January 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

January 24: Gendarmes in southeastern Turkey have detained three school principals over their WhatsApp stories commemorating the victims of the 2011 Roboski massacre.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

January 22: Prison guards in Diyarbakır allegedly beat six inmates for greeting a fellow inmate on his way back to his cell from seeing visitors.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

January 25: According to a Freedom House report on global transnational repression cited by the Stockholm Center for Freedom (SCF), Ankara's campaign primarily targets people affiliated with the Gü len movement, but the efforts of the government have expanded to include Kurds and

[195] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 188* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/188-EN.pdf*

leftists as well. Turkish authorities have committed 132 incidents, or 15 percent of the total, of direct, physical transnational repression since 2014.

Issue 189[196]

29 January – 4 February 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

February 1: Governorate of Bitlis made a declaration on February 1, 2024 and announced that demonstrations, outdoor and indoor meetings, press declarations, sit-ins and polls, setting up/opening tents and stands, organizing petitions, distributing leaflets and flyers and all kinds of protest activities are banned for 4 days between February 1, 2024 and February 4, 2024.

February 2: Hakkari Governorate made a declaration on February 1, 2024 and announced that all events such as demonstrations, sit-ins, press declarations, protests, demonstrations, sit-ins, press statements, protests etc. are banned for 4 days between February 1, 2024 and February 4, 2024.

February 2: Ağrı Governorate made a declaration on February 1, 2024 and announced that demonstrations, outdoor and indoor meetings, press declarations, sit-in protests and surveys, setting up/opening tents and stands, organizing petitions, distributing leaflets, brochures and flyers and all kinds of protest activities are banned for 4 days between February 2, 2024 and February 5, 2024.

KURDISH MINORITY

January 29: Dicle Müftüoğlu, a Kurdish journalist who was arrested in May on terrorism-related charges, has gone on a hunger strike to draw attention to the criminalization of journalistic activities in Turkey.

Issue 190[197]

5-11 February 2024

[196] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 189* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/189-EN.pdf*

[197] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 190* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/190-EN.pdf*

No issues related to Kurdish population reported.

Issue 191[198]

12-18 February 2024

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

February 14: The Governorate of Tunceli announced that the exit from Tunceli to Erzincan is banned for 5 days between February 14, 2024 and February 18, 2024.

Issue 192[199]

19-25 February 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

February 22: Metin and Kemal Kahraman's concert planned by Eğitim-Sen in Bingöl for February 21, World Mother Language Day, was banned by the governorship and police.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 19: the billboards prepared by Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) and Democratic Regions Party (DBP) for February 21, World Mother Language Day and local elections with the slogan "Dem dema zimanê Kurdî ye" were prevented by the trustee from being hung on billboards.

February 22: A court in southeast Turkey has announced its verdict in the trial of 15 local Kurdish politicians accused of terrorism, handing down sentences totalling close to 104 years in prison in total.

[198] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 191*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/191-EN.pdf*

[199] Human Rights Watch. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 192*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/192-EN.pdf*

Issue 193[200]

26 February – 3 March 2024

February 27: Human Rights Association (IHD) Prison Commission member Mehmet Acettin, Socialist Assemblies Federation (SMF) Term Spokesperson Barış Kayaoğlu and SMF member Metin Keleş, Partizan magazine reader Ibrahim Hakkı Eren, ESP members Ali Haydar Keleş, Ali Karaçay, Mesut Çeki, Hüseyin Gültepe, Uğur Ok, Hacer Elçin, SKM MYK member Ezgi Gürbüz and Selda Aydoğdu were detained in house raids in Istanbul.

KURDISH MINORITY

February 27: Police forced their way into the Istanbul home of Çiçek Otlu, a deputy from the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) in an early morning raid.

February 27: An appeals court in Turkey has ruled to remove from her job Mühdan Sağlam, an academic who was recently reinstated after initially being fired for signing a joint petition about the Kurdish issue.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 1: Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party, formerly known as HDP) Party Assembly member Sıtkı Güngör was detained in a house raid in Istanbul. He was subjected to reverse handcuf ing and physical violence of the police of icers during detention and transfer to hospital and got injured due to this.

Issue 194[201]

4-10 March 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 5: At least 3 news articles about AKP Sur District Chairman Davut Yıldız and his uncle's son and Sur Municipality Public Works Director Mehmet Yıldız distributing aid parcels prepared by AFAD for the needy in Diyarbakır to their relatives were blocked from access by Diyarbakır 4th Criminal Judgeship of Peace on the grounds of violation of personal rights.

[200] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 193* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/193-EN.pdf*

[201] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 194* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/194-EN.pdf*

March 7: 16 social media posts on allegations against the mayor of Hilal town in Uludere district of Şırnak were banned to access by Şırnak Uludere Criminal Judicature of Peace.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 7: Controversial remarks from a mayoral candidate, Burcu Köksal, and senior executive of Turkey's main opposition party targeting a pro-Kurdish party have caused anger, disappointment and frustration not only among the country's Kurds but also within her party.

PRISON CONDITIONS

March 4: Prisoner Celal Inedi reported that Kurdish songs and letters were blocked in Afyonkarahisar T Type Prison.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 6: It is learned that Berzan Güneş, a prisoner in Van High Security Prison had health problems but was not referred to hospital.

Issue 195[202]

11-17 March 2024

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

March 12: The mother of Berkin Elvan, a teenager who was struck in the head with a gas canister fired by a police of icer during the anti-government Gezi Park protests in Istanbul in 2013 and subsequently succumbed to his injuries, has said justice remains elusive 10 years after her son's death.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 11: Şırnak Governorate made a declaration on March 11, 2024 and announced that Gabar Mountain Region within the borders of Central District and Güçlükonak District of Şırnak Province has been declared as a temporary special security zone for 15 days between March 11 and March 25, 2024.

March 13: Members of DEM Party Istanbul Provincial Organization who were distributing lealets in front of Süreyya Opera House in Kadıköy district of Istanbul to call for the Istanbul Newroz to be held on 17 March 2024 at Yenikapı Meeting Area were prevented by the people

[202] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 195* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/195-EN.pdf*

distributing lea lets were blockaded by the police. 18 people, including DEM Party Kadıköy Co Mayoral Candidates Nimet Çelebi Erdoğan and Veysi Eski, were detained.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

March 13: A local court in eastern Turkey has blocked access to the Kurdish Mezopotamya news agency on the grounds that it poses a threat to national security and public order.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 12: The UN's Commission of Inquiry on Syria has released a statement that said Turkey's airstrikes on civilian targets in northeast Syria could amount to war crimes.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 14: Selahattin Demirtaş, former co-chair of Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), who is kept in Edirne F Type Prison, was subjected to body search every time he enters and leaves the room and was asked to take off his shoes in front of the camera.

Issue 196[203]

18-24 March 2024

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

KURDISH MINORITY

March 18: At least 7 people (Ayşegü l Ceylan, Yakup Durak, Reşit Umut Çağlı, Agit Şerifoğlu, Ayşe Soysal, Rojhat Karaviş and an unnamed person) were detained during house raids in Şırnak. The reason for the detentions could not be learned.

March 18: At least 32 people, including DEM Party Izmir Çiğli Co-Chair Leyla Tufan, were detained in house raids in Izmir. The reason for the detentions could not be learned.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

March 19: Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) member Nezir Ilek and his family members who were detained in a house raid in Mazıdağı district of Mardin were subjected to physical violence of the police and their belongings were scattered by the police.

[203] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 196* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/196-EN.pdf*

March 20: Prisoners Ardıl Çeşme, Hacire Çay, Saime Karakuş, Mizgin Ozatiz, Ziynet Sağlam and Nurcan Aslan in Tarsus T Type Prison No 1 were transferred to Erzincan Women's Prison against their will and their families were not informed about the transfer.

March 21: E. E. (17, m), who was detained in Diyarbakır on the allegations of hitting a police car with a car he was driving without a license and causing injury to 1 police of icer, was subjected to physical violence in the police car where he was detained and was wounded in the head.

March 22: A. Ş., a prisoner in Iğdır S Type Prison, suffered from stomach ailments and was not taken to in irmary and hospital or his transfer procedures were delayed.

Issue 197[204]

25-31 March 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

March 26: Turkish authorities have banned at least 28 concerts and cultural events in the Kurdish language across 16 provinces since 2019.

March 29: 15 people were detained during the police intervention against executives and members of Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) and Marmara Association for Assistance to Families of Prisoners and Convicts (MATUHAYDER) who held a press declaration on March 28, 2024 in front of Bakırköy Women's Prison about Hatice Yıldız (75) who was detained on March 22, 2024 after the finalization of the sentence in the lawsuit filed against her for 'financing an illegal organisation' for sending money to her daughter and her daughter's ward mate in prison, and then arrested and sent to Istanbul Bakırköy Women's Prison.

KURDISH MINORITY

March 27: Turkish prosecutors have dropped the case of seven Kurdish civilians who were killed by soldiers in southeast Turkey in 1991 due to the expiration of the statute of limitations.

Issue 198[205]

1-7 April 2024

[204] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 197*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/197-EN.pdf*

[205] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 198* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/198-EN.pdf*

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

April 4: Muş Governorate made a declaration on April 3, 2024 and announced that all events in public areas such as squares, streets, roads, parks etc. will be banned for 3 days between April 4, 2024 and April 6, 2024.

April 4: Şırnak Governorate made a declaration on April 3, 2024 and announced that all open-door meetings and demonstrations are banned for 15 days between April 3, 2024 and April 17, 2024.

April 4: Turkish police have detained 340 people over protests that erupted across Turkey in response to a local electoral authority's decision to annul the victory of a pro Kurdish candidate in eastern Turkey and hand the mayorship to the ruling party's runner-up.

April 6: Turkish courts arrested 23 people among hundreds detained over protests that erupted across Turkey in response to a local electoral authority's decision to annul the victory of a pro-Kurdish party candidate in eastern Turkey and hand the mayorship to the ruling party's runner-up.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 3: At least 3 news articles on election irregularities during the March 31, 2024 Local Elections were blocked from access by the Adıyaman 2nd Criminal Judgeship of Peace on the grounds of violation of personal rights.

April 5: Diyarbakır prosecutors have launched an investigation into 11 executives of the Diyarbakır Bar Association on accusations of "denigrating the Turkish nation and state," over a 2021 statement commemorating the victims of the Armenian genocide.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

April 3: 29 people were subjected to torture and ill treatment during police intervention against people protesting in Yüksekova district of Hakkari.

April 5: Zilan Demir, a prisoner in Antalya Manavgat S Type Prison, cannot get treatment due to ill-treatment of health workers even though she is suffering from eye disease, and that Zilan Demir's eye number had changed on the date when the glasses that her family sent for eye disease were delivered to her.

Issue 199[206]

[206] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 199*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/199-EN.pdf*

8-14 April 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

April 8: Turkish police on Saturday used excessive force to disperse a group of young people who had gathered in the central Istanbul neighborhood of Taksim to demand that the Turkish government cut off its trade with Israel in light of Israel's ongoing war on Gaza and detained 38 of them.

April 9: The Van Bar Association, the Human Rights Association (IHD) and the Association for the Freedom of Lawyers (OHD) have prepared a joint report on law enforcement's handling of protests that erupted in Van over a local election controversy, accusing the police of firing plastic bullets at the protesters and using disproportionate force.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 8: Elazığ 1st Criminal Judgeship of Peace ruled that at least 3 news articles and posts on the allegation that 8 female students were sexually harassed by the school principal in Elazığ be blocked from access and deleted on the grounds of violation of personal rights.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 11: Medet Serhat, who was assassinated in 1994, was known for his defense of Kurdish politicians during the Democracy Party (DEP) Trial. His son, Rumet Serhat, said the grave was intact during their last visit and the attack must have happened within the past few days.

Issue 200[207]

15-21 April 2024

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

April 17: A Turkish court on Tuesday postponed the verdict in the long-running Kobani trial and ruled to continue the detention of 18 people, including Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

April 16: On 31 March 2024, an investigation was initiated against journalist Oktay Candemir on the charge of 'insulting a public officer' upon the complaint of Abdulahat Arvas, mayoral candidate of Justice and Development Party (AKP) for Van Metropolitan Municipality.

[207] *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/200-EN.pdf*

April 19: Turkish prosecutors have launched an investigation into a Kurdish man who questioned the voters who were allegedly “transferred” to his city of residence in the southeastern province of Şırnak on the day of the March 31 local elections in order to change the election results in favor of the ruling party.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

April 17: Governorate of Şırnak Governorate announced that Altındagları Region in Beytuşşebap District of Şırnak Province was declared as temporary special security zone for 15 days between 17 April 2024 and 1 May 2024.

KURDISH MINORITY

April 17: Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Agrı Diyadin District Co-Chair Ahmet Karatay was detained in a house raid through an investigation conducted by Agrı Chief Public Prosecutor's Office and was taken to Agrı Provincial Security Directorate. The reason for the detention is not known.

Issue 201[208]

22-28 April 2024

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

23 April: Makbule Ozer, an ailing 83-year-old Kurdish woman, was jailed for a second time on Monday after a medical report issued by Turkey’s Council of Forensic Medicine (ATK) said she was fit to remain in prison.

26 April: It is learned that Abdulalim Kaya (81, m), an ill prisoner in Elazıg R Type Prison, who has a 93% disability report issued by Siirt Education and Research Hospital, is kept in a single room although he cannot meet his vital needs on his own due to health problems.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

26 April: Three out of nine Kurdish journalists who were detained earlier this week have been referred to court for arrest and subsequently arrested after testifying to a prosecutor on Friday, while six of them were released from custody under judicial supervision.

[208] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 201 | Date 22 – 28 April*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/201-EN.pdf*

Issue 202[209]

29 April – 5 May 2024

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

1 May: Van High Security Prison is facing allegations of arbitrary practices affecting inmates' access to healthcare and legal consultations.

Issue 203[210]

6-12 May 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

10 May: Governorate of Van Governorate announced that demonstrations, open-air meetings, indoor and outdoor meetings, press declarations, sit-in protests and surveys, setting up/opening tents and stands, organising petitions, distributing leaflets, brochures and flyers and all kinds of protest activities are banned for 6 days between 10 May 2024 and 15 May 2024.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

6 May: Eight people including two journalists have been detained in house raids in the predominantly Kurdish province of Diyarbakır in southeastern Turkey.

10 May: A court has sentenced five journalists and a newspaper distributor associated with the now-defunct pro-Kurdish newspaper Ozgurlukçu Demokrasi to prison terms on charges of "aiding a terrorist organization without being members."

KURDISH MINORITY

7 May: Simultaneous police raids in the southeastern Urfa province led to at least 14 detentions, including members and executives of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy (DEM) Party.

[209] Solidarity with OTHERS. (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 202*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/202-EN.pdf*

[210] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). (n.d.). In *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR* (Issue 203, pp. 1–6) [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/203-EN.pdf*

Issue 204[211]

13-19 May 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

17 May: The governors of 12 provinces including Diyarbakır, Mardin, Dersim, Bingo l, Bitlis, Kars, and Izmir banned all kinds of demonstrations, meetings, and protests following the Kobane Trial in which Kurdish politicians were sentenced to imprisonment.

KURDISH MINORITY

15 May: Turkish police have detained dozens of people in several provinces across the country, including Istanbul, as part of operations that mainly targeted members of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM).

16 May: An Ankara court on Thursday issued a verdict in the long-running Kobani trial and handed down lengthy prison sentences for dozens of Kurdish politicians, including imprisoned leaders Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yuksekdag.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

14 May: Hatice Yıldız, an ailing 75-year-old woman who had been sentenced to four years on charges of "financing a terrorist organization" because she sent money to her jailed daughter and her cellmate, has reportedly been suffering from a declining state of health after falling ill in prison.

Issue 205[212]

20-26 May 2024

KURDISH MINORITY

22 May: 5 DEM Party members were detained in house raids in Şanlıurfa due to 'making propaganda for a terrorist organisation'.

[211] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 204* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/204_EN.pdf*

[212] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 205 | Date 20-26 May*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/205_EN.pdf*

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

25 May: Hanife Arslan, an ailing 81-year-old Kurdish woman serving a more than six-year sentence for alleged membership in a terrorist organization, has been denied parole five times despite suffering from several chronic health problems.

Issue 206[213]

27 May – 2 June 2024

KURDISH MINORITY

28 May: Turkish prosecutors have drafted an indictment seeking prison sentences for five former lawmakers from a pro-Kurdish party due to their alleged role in violent protests that erupted in southeastern Turkey over a siege of the Syrian Kurdish town of Kobani by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in 2014.

29 May: A cafe owner in the southeastern Turkish province of Diyarbakır was detained following a police raid on his cafe after he was targeted on social media for offering service only in the Kurdish language in his cafe.

29 May: An appeals court in the southeast Turkish province of Gaziantep has upheld prison sentences previously handed down to 58 Kurdish politicians, including former executives of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) and the Democratic Regions' Party (DBP) on terrorism-related charges.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

28 June: Abdulkadir Kuday, a Kurdish inmate with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) whose health has been deteriorating, remains imprisoned despite a Council of Forensic Medicine (ATK) report confirming he needs medical care.

28 May: Şeyhmus Buran, who was detained in Kızıltepe district of Mardin, was subjected to physical violence and threatened to death in the police car and at Mardin Security Directorate.

31 May: A. Ç. (14, m) who was going home on bicycle was stopped by an armoured vehicle and was handcuffed behind his back and was subjected to physical violence in Şemdinli district of Hakkari. The child who complained to the police officers who subjected him to torture and ill treatment was called by district governor and was pressured to withdraw his complaint.

[213] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 206 | Date 27 May- 2 June* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/206_EN.pdf*

Issue 207[214]

3-9 June 2024

KURDISH MINORITY

3 June: Turkey's Interior Ministry announced on Monday the removal of Mehmet Sıddık Akış, democratically elected the co-mayor of Hakkari from office, due to an ongoing investigation and a separate trial on terrorism-linked charges.

4 June: Turkey's pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) is holding protests in the southeastern city of Hakkari against the removal of the city's mayor amid a widespread ban on demonstrations imposed by governor's offices in 10 provinces in the predominantly Kurdish region.

4 June: DEM Party Spokesperson Ayşegu l Dog an banned from leaving the country due to a ruling by the Diyarbakır 9th High Criminal Court dated 2020.

8 June: Turkish police detained five Kurdish politicians — former mayors and their deputies from the Ergani district of Turkey's southeastern Diyarbakır city — on Saturday, in the latest episode of an ongoing crackdown on Kurdish politicians in the country.

Issue 208[215]

10-16 June 2024

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

14 June: Human rights lawyer Zilan Gu mu ş, co-chair of the Izmir branch of the Human Rights Association, has faced repeated police surveillance and harassment due to her advocacy work, prompting a press conference by multiple human rights organizations calling for an end to the intimidation and an investigation into the responsible officers.

KURDISH MINORITY

[214] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 207 | Date June 3-9* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/207_EN.pdf*

[215] Solidarity with OTHERS. (20234*TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 208 | Date 10-16 june*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/208_EN.pdf*

12 June: A Turkish court has arrested six politicians, former mayors and their deputies in the predominantly Kurdish province of Diyarbakır who were detained on June 8 as part of an ongoing crackdown on Kurdish politicians in the country.

Issue 209[216]

17-23 June 2024

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

20 june: Yıldırım Han, an inmate from Şırnak Type-T Prison, died Wednesday night after being transferred to a hospital in Ankara due to deteriorating health, having voiced concerns two weeks prior about extreme isolation, lack of hot water, and arbitrary punishments by guards.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

22 June: During a visit on June 22 to offer condolences for those who died in the June 20 fire in Diyarbakır and Mardin, Governor Ali İhsan Su's comment attributing the fire to "stubble burning" sparked a strong reaction from villagers, leading to an altercation in which the governor's guards assaulted a young man, S.Ç., and deleted the footage he had recorded on his phone.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

20 June: Followers of the faith-based Gülen movement and supporters of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) are the primary targets of Turkish intelligence agents in Germany, according to a report from the German interior ministry.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

19 June: A women's group has raised concerns about women's institutions in Diyarbakır and Batman, which were dismantled by government-appointed trustees and turned into 'coffee houses for men' after replacing elected mayors from pro-Kurdish parties due to 'terrorism' investigations.

Issue 210[217]

[216] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 209 | Date 17-23 June*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/209_EN.pdf*

[217] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 210 | Date 24-30 June*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/210_EN.pdf*

24-30 June 2024

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

26 June: The Chief Prosecutor's Office in Turkey's southeastern Urfa province has accepted yet another criminal complaint against Emine Şenyaşar, who has been targeted by the government for her protest demanding justice for her family members murdered by the organized crime unit after attempting to provide legal bodyguards of an AKP deputy.

KURDISH MINORITY

24 June: Nine co-mayors from the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) have been banned from leaving Turkey without the issuance of court orders.

25 June: A Kurdish man who questioned voters who were allegedly "transferred" to his city of residence in the southeastern province of Şırnak on the day of the March 31 local elections in order to change the election results in favor of the ruling party has been indicted.

25 June: A Turkish court began to hear the trial of five former lawmakers from a pro-Kurdish party over their alleged role in violent protests that erupted in southeastern Turkey over a siege of the Syrian Kurdish town of Kobani by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in 2014.

26 June: Following a peaceful protest in Mersin, a person named Munzur Can Erdoğan (21, m) was intercepted by unidentified persons, subjected to racist and discriminatory threats and physical violence.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

25 June: Two Kurdish journalists from Iranian Kurdistan are facing imminent deportation from Turkey to Iran, where they fear for their lives.

Issue 211[218]

1-7 July 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

[218] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 211 | Date 1-7 July*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/211_EN.pdf*

4 July: The Mezopotamya Female Journalists Association (MKG) has announced in a monthly report that a total of 22 women journalists were involved in trial proceedings in June over their professional activities.

KURDISH MINORITY

4 July: Eight Kurdish journalists who were arrested as part of an Ankara-based investigation and released pending trial on May 16, 2023 have been sentenced to six years, three months in prison.

6 July: Fermani Çetin, an inmate serving a life sentence in northwest Turkey, has seen his parole postponed by six years based on disciplinary penalties that the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) had ruled violated his rights.

Issue 212[219]

8-14 July 2024

KURDISH MINORITY

9 July: S. A. (15, m) was subjected to physical violence by the gendarmerie during a house raid in Eskihisar village of Mardin's Nusaybin district.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

10 July: The family of Mehmet Darga, a 65-year-old inmate suffering from diabetes and hypertension who has undergone two angioplasty procedures while in prison, is calling on Turkish authorities to grant him release for medical reasons.

Issue 213[220]

15-21 July 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

[219] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 212 | Date 8-14 July. *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR*, *212*, 1–8. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/212_EN.pdf*

[220] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 213 | Date 15-21 July. In *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR* (Issue Issue No. 213). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/213_EN.pdf*

20 July: Turkish police detained 20 protesters in Istanbul and the capital Ankara during commemoration marches for the 33 people who lost their lives in the ISIS suicide bomb attack in 2015 in the Suruç district of Turkey's eastern Şanlıurfa province.

KURDISH MINORITY

18 July: A regional branch of the Human Rights Association (İİHD) has released a midyear report on the human rights situation in Turkey's eastern and southeastern regions, detailing 3,895 rights violations.

19 July: A Turkish court sentenced Selahattin Demirtaş, former co-chair of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), to more than two years in prison for remarks made between 2015 and 2017, alleging that they denigrated state institutions.

Issue 214[221]

22-28 July 2024

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

25 July: Bedrettin Düzen, a 32-year-old shepherd, was killed by a landmine explosion in the Doskî Valley region of Yüksekova district in Hakkari, Turkey, highlighting the ongoing danger of landmines in areas frequented by local herders.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

25 July: Director Ömer Leventoğlu and cameraman Hüseyin Altürk were briefly detained by police on the Sakarya-Kocaeli highway for possessing t-shirts with the image of imprisoned Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş; they were released after several hours, and the tshirts were confiscated.

25 July: Mezopotamya Agency's domain names mezopotamyaajansi.net, mezopotamyaajansi37.com, mobilma.com and mezopotamyapanel.com were blocked from access with the decision of Gümüşhane Criminal Judge of Peace on the grounds of protection of national security and public order.

KURDISH MINORITY

24 July: In Mersin, 9 people who were detained on the grounds of 'making propaganda for an illegal organisation' for sharing a video of them dancing halay on the beach on their social media

[221] TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 214 | Date 22-28 July. (2024). In *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR* (Issue Issue No. 214, pp. 1–7) [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/214_EN.pdf*

accounts were handcuffed behind their backs and forced to listen to the national song 'Ö lürüm Türkiyem' by the police officers in charge at Mersin Police Department.

25 July: An Ankara court has issued its reasoned decision in the trial of Kurdish journalists convicted on terrorism charges earlier in July, accusing the defendants of "manipulating public opinion" through their publications.

26 July: Police raided a Kurdish wedding in Ağrı's Doğubayazıt district, detaining several individuals including the wedding hall owner, a musician, and a camera operator, on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" linked to the display of traditional Kurdish attire and songs.

Issue 215[222]

29 July – 4 August 2024

KURDISH MINORITY

30 July: Turkish police have detained Veysi Dilekçi and Gülşen Kurt, provincial co-chairs of the pro-Kurdish People's Democracy and Equality Party (DEM Party), along with several others in the eastern province of Van.

30 July: Unidentified people have defaced Kurdish language traffic signs in the eastern provinces of Diyarbakır and Van, in what appears to be a racially motivated attack on the minority language.

1 August: Turkish police have detained five people for playing Kurdish-language songs at a wedding in the southeastern province of Diyarbakır.

1 August: The Şırnak Chief Public Prosecutor's Office has launched an investigation into 13 members of the pro Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) for singing a Kurdish anthem during a protest in southeastern Turkey.

Issue 216[223]

5-11 August 2024

[222] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 215 | Date July 29- August 4* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/215_EN.pdf*

[223] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 216 | Date 5-11 August* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/216_EN.pdf*

KURDISH MINORITY

6 August: Kurdish-language traffic signs in Diyarbakır province were removed once again following a directive by the governor's office.

6 August: In Osmaniye, 5 people, including Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Osmaniye Central District Co-Chairs Sevgi Aydın and Faruk Kahraman, were detained on the grounds that they danced halay playing Kurdish music at a wedding.

10 August: In Istanbul's Esenyurt district, a police raid on a wedding in Pınar Mahallesi, allegedly due to "Kurdish political songs," resulted in the detention of 8 people.

PRISON CONDITIONS

8 August: Unlawful strip searches have become increasingly common in Batman Prison, sparking concerns about systematic human rights violations in the facility.

Issue 217[224]

12-18 August 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

13 August: A Turkish court has blocked access to Kurdish outlet Bianet's Media Monitoring Report, which documents rights violations related to press freedom.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

14 August: The Şırnak Governorship announced a three day ban on all public gatherings, events, and related activities from August 14 to 16, 2024, including inter district travel and collective movements into the province.

15 August: The Mardin Governorship announced a three day ban on all public gatherings, including outdoor and indoor meetings, marches, press statements, hunger strikes, sit-ins, setting up stands or tents, drone activities, surveys, distribution of flyers, and similar activities, starting from August 15, 2024.

KURDISH MINORITY

[224] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 217 | Date 12-18 August. In *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR* (Issue 217, pp. 12–18). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/217_EN.pdf*

12 August: A prison in the Turkish province of Şırnak has imposed a ban on the use of Kurdish language during phone calls between inmates and their families.

13 August: Workers at an Istanbul Airport restaurant chain were banned from listening to and speaking Kurdish, with the manager's discriminatory remarks leading to the resignation of 12 Kurdish employees.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

15 August: Prison authorities have failed to take Şehriban Mimkara, an inmate suffering from throat cancer, to the hospital for five months.

Issue 218[225]

19-25 August 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

22 August: The website of the pro-Kurdish news agency, Mezopotamya Ajansı (MA), has been blocked in Turkey.

KURDISH MINORITY

23 August: Two local politicians from the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) have been detained in a police operation in İstanbul.

PRISON CONDITIONS

19 August: Inmates at a Malatya prison are being forced into overcrowded wards, leading to serious health concerns, limited access to water, and inadequate meals, as families call on authorities to address the deteriorating conditions.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

21 August: Turkish authorities have postponed the release of 51-year-old inmate İlhan Sami Çomak by three months, citing concerns about his awareness of his crime and potential for reoffending, despite his eligibility for parole.

[225] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 218 | Date 19-25 August. In *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR* (Issue Issue No. 218). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/218_EN.pdf*

21 August: Nevzat Akbulak, an inmate at Elazığ No. 1 High Security Prison, had his release postponed for a third time by six months after the Prison Administration and Observation Board deemed him "not of good behavior" for refusing to accept enforced remorse.

Issue 219[226]

26 August – 1 September 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

27 August: A Turkish court has ordered an access ban on the X accounts of 82 people including prominent journalists and politicians, such as Kurdish politician Ertuğrul Kürkçü , journalists Amberin Zaman, on accusations that they are disseminating terrorist propaganda.

KURDISH MINORITY

27 August: Two Kurdish inmates at Bafra Prison in Turkey's Black Sea province of Samsun were put in solitary confinement for 11 days for writing poetry in Kurdish.

28 August: Thirty-one Kurdish inmates in İzmir prison, Turkey, have been banned from phone calls and visits for one month after commemorating the Kobani resistance with Kurdish songs and slogans.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

29 August: Mehmet Emin Çam, a 72-year-old prisoner at the Beşiri T-Type Closed Prison in Batman, eastern Turkey, has reportedly been denied access to his essential medications for the past two weeks.

Issue 220[227]

2-8 September 2024

KURDISH MINORITY

[226] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 219 | Date 26 August – 1 September* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/219_EN.pdf*

[227] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 220 | Date 2-8 September* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/220_EN.pdf*

2 September: Following a World Peace Day press statement in Istanbul's Kadıköy district, 12 people were arrested, for "making terrorist propaganda" after police intervened due to Kurdish slogans and traditional dancing.

2 September: In Istanbul's Aksaray district, Hakim Lokman, a citizen of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, was killed and two others were injured in an alleged attack after being targeted for speaking Kurdish on the phone while dining at a restaurant.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

4 September: The staff of an İstanbul hospital has allegedly mistreated Abdulkadir Kuday, a Kurdish inmate suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), denying him water and neglecting his personal care.

Issue 221[228]

9-15 September 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

13 September: Bursa's 2nd Criminal Court of Peace issued a ruling blocking access to the domain etha53.com of the Etkin News Agency (ETHA) on the grounds of protecting national security and public order.

KURDISH MINORITY

10 September: Diyarbakır prosecutors have filed charges against journalist Nurcan Yalçın, seeking up to 10 years in prison on charges of financing terrorism.

11 September: PEN International has called on Turkish authorities to drop all charges against a Kurdish writer who faces more than seven years in prison on charges of disseminating terrorist propaganda due to his work.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

13 September: Four Kurdish people who participated in protests following the death of Jina Mahsa Amini in Iran are facing the threat of deportation from Turkey back to Iran, where they could be executed.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

[228] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 221 | Date 9-15 September. In *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR* (Issue 221, pp. 1–9). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/221_EN.pdf*

13 September: Abdülmelik Okyay, a 71-year-old Kurdish politician imprisoned for social media posts, died of a heart attack while incarcerated after his parole was delayed.

Issue 222[229]

16-22 September 2024

KURDISH MINORITY

20 September: A Kurdish patient in Turkey was reportedly denied an audiological test because they could not understand Turkish, sparking criticism over discrimination in healthcare services.

21 September: The Kurdish language pedestrian warnings "Hedî" (Slow) and "Peşî Peya" (Pedestrians First), written on crosswalks by Elazığ Karakoçan Municipality, were erased by unidentified individuals.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

17 September: An investigation has been launched in Sanliurfa against police officers accused of using disproportionate force during a recent incident, raising concerns about excessive violence in law enforcement practices.

Issue 223[230]

23-29 September 2024

KURDISH MINORITY

30 September: Members of the music group Koma Hevra — Zeynep Doğan, Gencay Morkoç, and Yusuf Keleş—were detained on the grounds of making 'terrorist propaganda', after performing Kurdish songs at a concert in Diyarbakır.

[229] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 222 | Date 16-22* September. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/222_EN.pdf*

[230] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). (n.d.). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 224 | Date 30 September – 6 October*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/224_EN.pdf*

4 October: In Aydın, 7 people, including DEM Party officials Görkem OÜzyürek, Sedanur Aydın, and Helin Uçar, were detained in house raids, with a confidentiality order placed on the investigation and a 24-hour restriction on lawyer access.

PRISON CONDITIONS

1 October: Reports indicate that sick inmates in Van province prisons face delays in medical treatment, with one prisoner suffering from skin disease lacking timely care, and another inmate with cancer unable to access appropriate treatments, worsening their conditions.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

2 October: A Kurdish inmate with ALS, Abdulkadir Kuday, died in a Turkish prison after authorities denied his release despite his critical condition and appeals from his family and advocates.

4 October: Turkish authorities sent 67-year-old cancer patient Abdurrahman Gemicioğlu to prison to serve an eight-year sentence, despite his severe health issues, including colon cancer and heart failure, which his family says makes it impossible for him to care for himself.

5 October: In Şanlıurfa's Karaköprü district, Hasan and Sinan Harman were subjected to physical violence, handcuffed, and sprayed with tear gas by police after questioning the search of their vehicle, later filing a 3 October: In September, men in Turkey killed 33 women, one child, and harassed or abused numerous others, according to Bianet's Male Violence Monitoring Report, which also highlighted suspicious deaths and violence across the country. complaint with medical evidence,

Issue 225[231]

7-13 October 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

11 October: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that Turkey violated Kurdish musician Hozan Canê's right to freedom of expression after she was convicted for insulting President Erdoğan in a Facebook post, ordering compensation for the violation.

KURDISH MINORITY

[231] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 225| Date 7-13 October*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/225_EN.pdf*

9 October: The Turkish Culture and Tourism Ministry has refused to allow the Kurdish movie "Rojbash" to be screened in theaters across the country on the grounds that the movie is "not suitable for commercial circulation".

9 October: A Turkish court has accepted an indictment against Kurdish journalist Melek Avcı over social media posts, accusing her of spreading propaganda.

9 October: In Siirt's Kurtalan district, five individuals, including co-mayor Sadiye Aktin, DEM Party District Co chair Saliha Sak, and DBP District Co-chair Sultan Yorulmaz, were detained following a family visit cited as the reason for their arrest.

10 October: Turkey's top appeals court has upheld a prison sentence of more than nine years handed down to a Kurdish mayor who was removed from office in 2019 and stood trial on terrorism-related charges.

11 October: Kurdish journalist Serhildan Andan was detained in Amed (Diyarbakır) by anti-terror police, although no official reason for the arrest has been disclosed.

11 October: In Antep, DEM Party and DBP co-chairs Mustafa Tuç, Mehmet Özkan, and Müslüm Denizhan were detained by police while traveling in their vehicle and taken to the Anti-Terror Branch for questioning.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

9 October: Serdar Şitilay, an inmate at Elazığ No. 1 High Security Prison, had his release postponed for the fourth time, with the Prison Administration and Observation Board extending his detention by six months, citing concerns about his ability to reintegrate into society.

10 October: Mazlum Alan, a prisoner held in İzmir Kırıklar No. 2 F-Type Prison and diagnosed with lung cancer, is reportedly unable to access the necessary treatment under prison conditions.

Issue 226[232]

14-20 October 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

15 October: Turkish police have detained 269 people in connection to a recent demonstration in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish province of Diyarbakır where protestors demanded an end to

[232] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 226 | Date 14-20 October*. (2022). [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/226_EN.pdf*

the solitary confinement of jailed Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan and his ultimate release from prison.

15 October: Gendarmerie intervened in a protest by villagers in Adıyaman's Yeşiltepe (Gazikale) forested area against the cutting of trees for the construction of earthquake housing, detaining six people.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

15 October: Etkin Haber Ajansı (ETHA) editor Pınar Gayıp, who went to the Istanbul Fatih Kocamustafapaşa Şehit Sinan Acar Police Station to testify in an investigation related to her professional activities, was detained due to an arrest warrant issued in connection with a different investigation.

17 October: An Ankara court has ruled that Şebnem Korur Fincancı, a prominent expert in forensic medicine and human rights activist, pay 50,000 lira ($1,460) in non pecuniary damages to the Turkish Defense Ministry for calling for an investigation in 2022 into the alleged use of chemical weapons by the Turkish army against Kurdish militants in northern Iraq.

KURDISH MINORITY

14 October: Turkey's Constitutional Court ruled that chanting pro-Kurdish slogans and singing Kurdish songs are protected under freedom of speech, ordering a retrial for Merve Nur Tekin, who was previously convicted of making terror propaganda.

16 October: Süleyman Bozkurt, the Co-Chair of the DEM Party's Darende district, was detained during a house raid in Malatya's Darende district on charges of "spreading organizational propaganda."

Issue 227[233]

21-27 October 2024

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.

[233] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 227 | Date 21-27 October. In *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR* (Issue Issue No. 227). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/227_EN.pdf*

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.

Issue 228[234]

28 October – 3 November 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

31 October: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office announced a two-day ban, effective from October 31, 2024, on all outdoor activities across the province, including gatherings, marches, press statements, hunger strikes, sit ins, rallies, setting up stands or tents, distributing leaflets/brochures, and hanging posters/banners, as well as restricting entry to the province for individuals intending to participate in such activities.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

30 October: Ahmet OÖzer, the mayor of İstanbul's Esenyurt district from Turkey's main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), was detained at his home in an early morning raid on suspicion of membership in the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

KURDISH MINORITY

30 October: In Istanbul, 20 people, including Esenyurt's CHP-elected Mayor Ahmet Özer and Koma Hevra vocalist Zeynep Doğan, were detained in house raids on charges of "membership in a terrorist organization."

1 November: Azime Bozkurt, a distributor for Yeni Yaşam—a pro-Kurdish newspaper known for its detailed reporting on the consequences of the Turkish government's actions in Kurdish regions—was detained in Tunceli on charges of "making propaganda for an organization." 1 November: Ali Çeven was detained due to his statements on the Kurdish issue made during a street interview, during which he reportedly suffered physical violence from the police, resulting in injuries.

[234] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 228 | Date 28 October – 3 November* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/228_EN.pdf*

Issue 229[235]

4-10 November 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

4 November: The governor's offices of Mardin, Şırnak, Diyarbakır, Van, Ağ rı, Şanlıurfa, and Batman announced bans on all potential public gatherings and activities, including press statements, assemblies, marches, hunger strikes, sit-ins, rallies, setting up stands or tents, distributing leaflets or brochures, and hanging posters or banners, as well as restrictions on the entry and exit of individuals likely to participate in such events, effective for between 2-10 days starting November 4, 2024.

5 November: On the second day of protests that erupted over the removal of three Kurdish mayors from their posts in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish southeast, dozens of people, including two journalists, were forcibly detained by the police.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

9 November: Journalist Furkan Karabay has been arrested in Turkey over his reporting and social media posts criticizing the government's takeover of municipalities in Kurdish-majority regions.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

6 November: The Council of Europe has strongly condemned Turkey's dismissal of elected mayors in the Kurdish-majority southeast, describing the move as an affront to democratic principles and local self-governance, and urging Turkish authorities to respect the will of voters and uphold the rule of law.

KURDISH MINORITY

4 November: Turkey's Interior Ministry has dismissed three mayors from the Kurdish-majority southeast, accusing them of links to terrorism, with trustees appointed in their place, a move criticized as part of a broader crackdown on pro-Kurdish politicians

7 November: Prosecutors have launched an investigation into DEM Party co-chairperson and lawmaker Tuncer Bakırhan and Mardin provincial chairman Mehmet Mihdi Tunç, co-chair of the pro-Kurdish DBP, over their remarks criticizing the Turkish government's removal of elected mayors.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

[235] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 229 | Date 4-10 November*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/229_EN.pdf*

4 November: During protests against the removal of co mayors in Mardin, Batman, and Urfa's Halfeti district, police raided the home of Batman Municipal Council Member Mehmet Erol, subjecting him and his family to physical violence. His son, Medeni Erol, who has a 70% mental disability, was reportedly tortured with police dogs, leaving both injured, and Medeni was detained.

Issue 230[236]

11-17 November 2024

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE 14

November: In Bingöl, Sinan Çıtak, who was under a detention order, was reportedly shot dead by police during an alleged escape attempt while being taken into custody.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

15 November: Amid protests against the Ministry of Interior's appointment of trustees to CHP and DEM affiliated municipalities, 37 individuals were arrested out of 358 detained.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

12 November: The Van Governor's Office announced a 10 day ban, from November 12 to 21, on activities such as protests, marches, public or indoor meetings, press statements, sit-ins, surveys, setting up tents or stands, signature campaigns, and the distribution of flyers or brochures. The ban also restricts the entry and exit of individuals deemed likely to participate in these events.

14 November: The Mardin and Batman's Governor's Offices announced a 10-day ban, from November 14 to 24, on all outdoor gatherings, meetings, marches, press statements, hunger strikes, sit-ins, tent setups, drone activities, surveys, distribution of leaflets or brochures, and hanging banners. The ban also restricts the entry and exit of individuals deemed likely to participate in these activities.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

16 November: The Turkish government has sought to lift the immunity of five opposition lawmakers, including pro Kurdish People's Democracy and Equality party (DEM Party) representatives Cengiz Çandar, Sabahat Erdoğan Sarıtaş and Salihe Aydeniz as well as Burak Akburak, from the nationalist opposition Good Party (İYİ Party) and independent deputy Yüksel Arslan.

[236] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 230 | Date 11-17 November. In *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR* (Issue 230). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/230_EN.pdf*

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

12 November: The Suruç Chief Public Prosecutor's Office decided there was no basis for prosecution in a complaint alleging torture, ill-treatment during detention on March 2, 2023, and a strip search in Sanliurfa No. 2 T-Type Prison on March 5, 2024, involving 64-year-old Adle Samur, stating a lack of concrete evidence to pursue charges of misconduct and torture.

Issue 231[237]

18-24 November 2024

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

20 November: On November 20, 2024, summaries of proceedings seeking to lift parliamentary immunity were submitted to the Turkish Grand National Assembly for Ayten Kordu, Cengiz Çiçek, Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu, Yılmaz Hun, Nejla Demir (DEM Party); Tuncay Özkan, Özgür Karabat, Turan Taşkın Özer, Türkan Elçi, Süleyman Bülbül (CHP); Bülent Kaya (Saadet Party); and Cemal Enginyurt (Independent).

22 November: Two opposition mayors in eastern Turkey were removed from of□ice after being convicted of “terrorism” for belonging to a banned Kurdish militant group, the interior minister said.

KURDISH MINORITY 19 November: Following a police raid on the Istanbul Esenyurt office of the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party), district co-chairs Rojda Yılmaz and Abdullah Arınan were detained at the police station where they had gone to give their statements.

20 November: Turkish courts have sentenced three Kurdish mayors to prison on terrorism-related charges. Mehmet Sıddık Akış, the ousted co-mayor of Hakkari, received a nine-year sentence for "committing crimes on behalf of a terrorist organization" and violating public demonstration laws. Cevdet Konak, co-mayor of Dersim, and Mustafa Sarıgül, mayor of Ovacık in Tunceli province, were each sentenced to six years and three months for "membership in a terrorist organization."

Issue 232[238]

[237] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 231* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/231_EN.pdf*

[238] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 232 | Date 25 November – 1 December* [Report]. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/232_EN.pdf*

25 November – 1 December 2024

KURDISH MINORITY

26 November: Turkish authorities detained 231 individuals, including mayors, journalists, and activists, in nationwide anti-terror raids targeting Kurdish people for alleged links to terror organizations.

26 November: Kayapınar District Co-Mayor Cengiz Dündar was detained during police operations in Diyarbakır, which also targeted members of the Education and Science Workers' Union (Eğitim-Sen).

29 November: Seventeen people, including politicians, journalists, lawyers and human rights activists who were among 231 individuals detained earlier this week due to their alleged links to terrorist organizations, have been referred to court for arrest.

29 November: Ayvaz Hazır, co-mayor of Bahçesaray in Van province, was sentenced to three years and eleven months in prison for allegedly committing crimes on behalf of a terrorist organization without being a member.

30 November: Dersim Co-Mayor Birsen Orhan has been arrested on charges of violating the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations and resisting public officials, sparking concerns over the increasing crackdown on local politicians in Turkey.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

26 November: Journalist Erdoğan Alayumat was subjected to a strip search at the Istanbul Provincial Security Directorate following his detention on November 25, 2024, as part of a "terror" investigation, despite his objections and assertion that the procedure violated human rights.

28 November: Fatma Zozan Bor, a Kurdish artist, has said she was strip-searched as well as verbally and physically harassed by the police after she was detained during an art exhibition in southeastern Turkey.

Issue 233[239]

2-8 December 2024

[239] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 233 | Date 2-8 December. *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR*, *233*, 1–8. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/233_EN.pdf*

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

4 December: The Sanliurfa Governor's Office announced a two day ban on gatherings, marches, press statements, hunger strikes, sit-ins, rallies, leaflet distribution, and similar activities, as well as restricting the entry of individuals deemed likely to participate in such events, effective from December 4 to December 6, 2024.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

6 December: Turkish journalist Ayşenur Arslan, a veteran broadcaster and former presenter on the pro-opposition Halk TV, faces up to seven and a half years in prison for allegedly disseminating propaganda for the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in comments made on a television program.

3 December: Requests to lift the immunity of CHP Aydın MP Hüseyin Yıldız, DEM Party Mardin MP Kamuran Tanhan, IİYİ Party Antep MP Mehmet Mustafa Gürban, and Independent İstanbul MP Cemal Enginyurt have been submitted to the Turkish Parliament.

KURDISH MINORITY

3 December: In Tunceli, police detained □ive individuals, including municipal council member Yoldaş Toka, during home raids targeting participants of protests against the appointment of trustees to local municipalities.

3 December: A Turkish court has issued an arrest warrant for journalist Ayşe Kara, currently residing in Germany, on charges of membership in an armed terrorist organization after she failed to appear for the third hearing in her retrial, following the overturning of her 2021 acquittal.

4 December: Abdullah Zeydan, the pro-Kurdish mayor of Van, faces potential removal from office after Turkey's Supreme Court of Appeals overturned a 2023 ruling that had reinstated his eligibility to run, citing insufficient legal grounds and a required three-year waiting period post release from prison.

Issue 234[240]

9-15 December 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

11 December: The Sanliurfa Governor's Office announced on December 11, 2024, a seven-day ban on public gatherings, marches, press statements, hunger strikes, sit-ins, rallies, leaflet

[240] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 234 | Date 9-15 December*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/234_EN.pdf*

distribution, and similar activities, as well as entry and exit of individuals deemed likely to participate, effective from December 11 to December 18, 2024.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

13 December: Folk musician Pınar Aydınlar was detained after displaying a poster of Seyid Rıza, leader of the 1937 Dersim rebellion, during her concert in Istanbul, leading to an investigation by the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office for "praising a crime and a criminal."

KURDISH MINORITY

13 December: Turkish police have detained Reşat Aşan, the Mersin provincial chair of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party), along with five others, as part of an investigation by the İstanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office.

13 December: Serhat Durmuş, an employee of the pro Kurdish Yeni Yaşam newspaper, was arrested during house raids in Siirt, accused of providing aid to a terrorist organization, while two others, Mehmet Nezir Kaplan and Yusuf OÖzbay, were released under judicial control.

Issue 235[241]

16-22 December 2024

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

19 December: The Kocaeli 1st Criminal Judgeship of Peace imposed an access ban on three separate NuJINHA news agency accounts on the social media platform X (Twitter), which shared content in Kurdish, Turkish, and English.

21 December: Turkish police detained 30 individuals, including 20 journalists, during a protest in İstanbul's Şişhane Square against the killing of two Kurdish journalists in a reported Turkish drone strike in northern Syria.

21 December: The pro-Kurdish daily Yeni Yaşam newspaper's website was blocked for the seventh time by a decision from Diyarbakır 2nd Criminal Judgeship of Peace, according to the Information and Communication Technologies Authority.

KURDISH MINORITY

[241] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 235 | Date 16-22 December 2024*. *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/235_EN.pdf*

18 December: Turkey's Interior Ministry defended banning the Kurdish-language play "Qral û Travis" in Ağrı, citing public order concerns under laws criticized for enabling censorship of Kurdish cultural expression and linking cultural events to separatist activities without evidence.

18 December: Kurdish filmmaker Kerem Tekoğlu was arrested in Istanbul on charges of alleged membership in a terrorist organisation, with his professional links to former Esenyurt mayor Ahmet Özer reportedly misinterpreted deliberately.

21 December: Human Rights Watch urged Turkey to stop prosecuting individuals for Kurdish language and cultural activities, describing in its report that such actions undermine minority rights, foster discrimination, and constitute a misuse of anti-terrorism laws to silence Kurdish identity.

PRISON CONDITIONS

19 December: In Tekirdağ F-Type No. 2 Prison, inmates are forced to buy their own spoons, and Kurdish letters are withheld by authorities, labelled as written in an "unknown language."

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

20 December: Two Kurdish journalists, Nazım Daştan and Cihan Bilgin, were killed in northern by a Turkish drone strike while covering clashes between Turkish-backed militias and U.S.-supported Kurdish forces.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

19 December: Mehmet Bahaddin Öncü, an inmate at Muğla Bodrum Type D Prison, was denied permission by prison authorities to attend his mother's funeral, citing "local security concerns."

Issue 236[242]

23-29 December 2024

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION 23 December: The Şanlıurfa Governor’s Office announced a five-day ban on all outdoor events, including press statements, gatherings, marches, hunger strikes, sit-ins, vigils, rallies, and leaflet distribution, as well as the entry of individuals deemed likely to participate in such activities, effective from December 23 to 27, 2024.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

[242] Solidarity with OTHERS. (2024). *TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR Issue No. 236 | Date 23-29 December*. (2024). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/236_EN.pdf*

24 December: A criminal investigation has been launched by the Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office against journalist Medine Mamedoğlu on charges of "inciting the public to disobey the law" after she shared footage on social media showing police detaining a child with alleged torture and other ill-treatment.

26 December: Turkish journalist Nevşin Mengü faces up to seven and a half years in prison after publishing an interview with Salih Müslim, one of the leaders of a Syrian Kurdish group that Turkey has designated as a terrorist organization.

26 December: The Istanbul 14th High Criminal Court sentenced Hüseyin Aykol and Reyhan Çapan to 4 years and 4 months, and Ayşe Batumlu Kaya to 2 years and 9 months for "spreading terrorist propaganda" and "inciting crimes" over articles in the closed Özgür Gündem, while issuing no ruling for Eren Keskin due to a prior conviction.

KURDISH MINORITY

26 December: Pro-Kurdish Yeni Yaşam newspaper employee Veysi Akören was detained at Batman airport on charges of "spreading terrorist propaganda."

ANNEX 6 TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR (Period between 1 January 2024 and 2 November 2025)

(*Weekly Bulletins by Solidarity with Others, a Brussels-based human rights NGO)*

Below is all the reported human rights issues related to Kurdish population (including journalists, politicians or regular citizens) from 1 January 2024 until 2 November 2025.

Issue 237[243]

30 December 2024 - 5 January 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

31 December: In Turkey's Kocaeli province, 10 people, including the Gebze District Co-Chairs of the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party), Melike Aydın and Ömer Yıldız, were detained during house raids for their social media posts about journalists Nazım Daştan and Cihan Bilgin, who lost their lives in Northern and Eastern Syria.

5 January: Pro-Kurdish news and media accounts blocked in Turkey under the pretext of protecting national security and public order, and made inaccessible by X, include:

- Mezopotamya Agency's account (@MAturkce) with 264,000 followers,
- JINNEWS Agency's account (@jinnewsturkce) with 168,000 followers,
- Yeni Yaşam Newspaper's account (@yeniyasamgazete) with 125,000 followers,
- Siyasi Haber's account (@SiyasiHaberOrg) with 44,000 followers.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

31 December: It has been reported that three female prisoners held in Ağrı Patnos Prison were subjected to torture and ill-treatment by prison guards, and that evidence of the abuse was not documented in the prison infirmary where they were taken.

[243] *Issue 237 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-237/

Issue 238[244]

6-12 January 2025

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

9 January: Turkey has blocked access to seven news websites critical of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) government, including Yeni Demokrasi, Mesopotamia News Agency (MA), Umut Gazetesi, OÖzgür Gelecek, Alınteri, Halkın Günlüğü , and Kızıl Bayrak, citing national security and public order concerns.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

10 January: The indictment prepared by the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office against human rights defender Nimet Tanrıkulu was accepted by the Ankara 17th High Criminal Court requesting her punishment for 'membership in a terrorist organization.'

KURDISH MINORITY

9 January: Members of the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) Van Provincial Youth Council, Lorin Aryen Turğut and Kenan İldeniz, were detained by police in front of the party's provincial building in Van. 10 January: Turkish authorities have detained Hoşyar Sarıyıldız and Nuriye Aslan, co-mayors from the pro Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) in Akdeniz district, Mersin province, during early morning raids.

Issue 239[245]

13-19 January 2025

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

14 January: Protests erupted following the arrests of pro Kurdish DEM Party mayors and the appointment of a trustee to Akdeniz Municipality in Mersin, leading to police intervention and the detention of five individuals.

KURDISH MINORITY

[244] *Issue 238 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-238/*

[245] *Issue 239 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-239/*

15 January: The İzmir Regional Court of Justice 2nd Criminal Chamber overturned the acquittal of Kasım Taşdoğan, who was accused of "making terrorist propaganda" for singing Kurdish songs, and sentenced him to 1 year and 8 months in prison.

17 January: Six Kurdish journalists, including Reyhan Hacıoğlu, Necla Demir, and Ahmet Güneş, were detained in coordinated police raids in İstanbul, Van, and Mersin as part of an investigation by the İstanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, drawing criticism from rights groups who see it as part of Turkey's ongoing crackdown on Kurdish media and freedom of expression.

16 January: Muş Alparslan University initiated an investigation into a professor from its Kurdish Language and Literature Department for incorporating Kurdish poetry books into coursework, alleging the materials contained inappropriate political content, despite these works being officially approved and available in the university's library.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

14 January: Lokman Yalçın, an inmate at Bitlis Ahlat T Prison who completed his 7-year, 6-month sentence, had his release postponed for the fourth time on December 30, 2024, by the Prison Administrative and Observation Board (CIİGK) for another three months, following three previous delays—twice for four months and once for three months.

15 January: Kenan Kaya, a former DEM Party Hakkari provincial chairperson and an ailing prisoner held in Samsun Kavak S-Type Prison who has previously suffered two heart attacks, has reportedly been denied medication and hospital treatment.

Issue 240[246]

20-26 January 2025

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

21 January: A total of 37 individuals, including pro-Kurdish and leftist politicians, journalists, and activists, were detained in an İstanbul-based counterterrorism operation targeting alleged links to the Marxist Leninist Communist Party (MLKP).

KURDISH MINORITY

23 January: Kurdish □ilm director Kazım OÜz was brie□ly detained in İstanbul over allegations of "terrorist propaganda" in his 2017 film "Zer" and was released after questioning, with a hearing scheduled for March 13.

[246] *Issue 240 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-240/

23 January: A Kurdish inmate, Ahmet Kaya, a prisoner allegedly assaulted by guards in 2023 at Van High-Security Prison, is in critical condition due to untreated injuries, including breathing difficulties, bone degeneration, and gum disease.

Issue 241[247]

27 January - 2 February 2025

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

29 January: Police detained three people during a protest in front of Siirt Municipality against the appointment of a trustee replacing pro-Kurdish DEM Party Mayor Sofya Alağaş.

29 January: Following the removal of Siirt Co-Mayor Sofya Alağaş from office, the Siirt Governor's Office announced a 10-day ban from January 29 to February 7 on all public gatherings, protests, and related activities, including the entry of individuals and vehicles for such events.

KURDISH MINORITY

29 January: The Turkish Interior Ministry removed Siirt Mayor Sofya Alağaş from office and appointed a government trustee after a court sentenced her to over six years in prison on terrorism charges, making Siirt the eighth pro-Kurdish DEM Party municipality taken over by the government since the March 2024 elections.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

30 January: Human Rights Watch (HRW) has condemned a January 18 drone strike by the Turkey-backed Syrian National Army (SNA) on a Kurdish Red Crescent ambulance in northern Syria as an apparent war crime, following an earlier attack on protesters at Tishreen Dam that killed at least six people and wounded 16 others.

Issue 242[248]

3-9 February 2025

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

[247] *Issue 241 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-241/*

[248] *Issue 242 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-242/*

4 February: Turkish actor Melisa Sözen was questioned by İstanbul police for alleged “terrorist propaganda” over her role as a Kurdish militant in the French series The Bureau, due to her costume resembling YPG attire.

8 February: Turkish authorities arrested JINNEWS reporter Öznur Değer for “disseminating terrorist propaganda” over social media posts about two Kurdish journalists killed in a drone strike, with reports of police brutality during her detention.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

7 February: Former Human Rights Association (İİHD) Central Executive Board member Adnan Vural was sentenced to 1 year, 6 months, and 22 days in prison for “terrorist propaganda” while being acquitted of “membership in a terrorist organization” by the Ankara 2nd High Criminal Court.

KURDISH MINORITY

7 February: Pro-Kurdish Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Nusaybin former Co-Chair Ziynet Algan, along with Mithat Yıldız and Lokman Aslan, were detained during house raids in Mardin.

Issue 243[249]

10-16 February 2025

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

10 February: Turkish police detained 18 women using physical force during a crackdown on the "Kadınlar Örgütlülüğe Yürüyor" (Women Marching for Organization) protest organized by Tevgera Jinên Azad (TJA) in Van.

11 February: The Van Governor’s Office announced a 15 day ban on all public gatherings, protests, press statements, marches, sit-ins, rallies, concerts, commemorations, and distribution of printed materials, along with restrictions on entry into the city, effective from February 11 to February 25, 2025.

12 February: The Gaziantep Governor’s Office announced a 15-day ban on all public gatherings, protests, press statements, rallies, sit-ins, hunger strikes, commemorations, and distribution of printed materials, effective from February 13 to February 27, 2025.

[249] *Issue 243 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-243/

15 February: Turkish police detained 127 people, including six journalists, after storming Van city hall at dawn with tear gas and rubber bullets, following the government's removal of Mayor Abdullah Zeydan and the appointment of a trustee.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

11 February: The news articles on the bribery and corruption allegations against Hüseyin Çam, former Mardin Kızıltepe District Governor and former Kızıltepe Municipality trustee, and the bureaucrats he worked with were ordered to be removed by Nevşehir Criminal Judicature of Peace.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

15 February: The Turkish government removed pro Kurdish DEM Party Mayor Abdullah Zeydan from office and appointed Governor Ozan Balcı as trustee, a new move undermining local democracy and disenfranchising Kurdish voters.

KURDISH MINORITY

12 February: Turkish police detained eight people in Ankara, including DEM Party Council member Pakize Sinemillioğlu and former BTS President Nazım Karakurt, on charges of terrorist propaganda based on their social media posts and participation in events.

12 February: In Manisa's Salihli district, Turkish police detained 18 people, including DEM Party co-mayoral candidate Cevdet Yıldız, on charges of terrorist propaganda, citing their participation in last year's Newroz celebrations.

Issue 244[250]

17-23 February 2025

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

18 February: Nearly 400 people, including 55 minors, have been detained during protests against the removal of Van Municipality mayor Abdullah Zeydan, with reports of mistreatment in custody.

21 February: The Kars Governor's Office announced on February 20, 2025, a 10-day ban on all demonstrations, including press statements, gatherings, marches, hunger strikes, sit-ins, rallies, setting up stands or tents, distributing leaflets, and hanging banners, as well as restricting the entry and exit of vehicles supporting such activities between February 21 and March 2, 2025.

[250] *Issue 244 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-244/

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

22 February: The İstanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office has filed criminal charges against İstanbul Bar Association President İİbrahim Kaboğlu and 10 board members, seeking up to 12 years in prison for their call to uphold international humanitarian law following the killing of two Kurdish journalists in Syria.

KURDISH MINORITY

18 February: Turkish authorities escalated their crackdown on pro-Kurdish opposition, detaining 52 politicians, journalists, and artists in dawn raids across 10 provinces as part of an operation targeting the Peoples' Democratic Congress (HDK).

20 February: Access to the Mezopotamya Agency (MA) website and JINNEWS's X account has been blocked in Turkey in a new wave of censorship targeting Kurdish media.

21 February: Mehmet Alkan, the co-mayor of Kağızman, was sentenced to six years and three months in prison on terrorism charges in a trial criticized as politically motivated, with his removal from office expected to be followed by the appointment of a government trustee.

Issue 245[251]

24 February - 2 March 2025

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

27 February: The Van Governor's Office has imposed a 15 day ban on all public gatherings, protests, events, and related entries into the province from February 26 to March 12, 2025.

KURDISH MINORITY

25 February: Turkish author, director, and journalist Ruhi Karadağ has been sentenced to a 15-month suspended prison term for allegedly disseminating terrorist propaganda in his 2013 book on the failed peace talks with the PKK.

26 February: Three Kurdish journalists in Turkey, Abdurrahman Gök, Oktay Candemir, and Ruşen Takva, have had their X accounts blocked following a government request citing "national security" concerns.

[251] *Issue 245 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-245/

26 February: Turkey's Ministry of Culture and Tourism has banned the film Oy'una Geldik, directed by previously detained pro-Kurdish filmmaker Kazım Öz, under Article 4 of Law No. 5224 on the Evaluation, Classification, and Support of Cinema Films.

1 March: The outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) has declared a ceasefire with Turkey following a call from jailed leader Abdullah Öcalan to disband, though the PKK demands improved conditions for Öcalan before fully implementing his appeal.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

27 February: Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) reported that 12 people, including four fighters, six civilian workers, and two shepherds, were killed in Turkish airstrikes targeting a military position and civilian sites in Al-Shaddadi.

Issue 246[252]

3-9 March 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

5 March: Three Kurdish writers, Mevlüt Aykoç, Sami Tan, and Ronayi Önen, were detained in early-morning police raids in İstanbul, Şanlıurfa, and Diyarbakır amid an ongoing government crackdown on dissent.

Issue 247[253]

10-16 March 2025

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

14 March: An İstanbul court has ruled for the acquittal of 46 people from the Saturday Mothers, a group of activists and relatives seeking to learn the fate of loved ones who disappeared while in police custody in Turkey in the 1990s, who were tried for participating in a protest in August 2018.

KURDISH MINORITY

[252] *Issue 246 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-246/*

[253] *Issue 247 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-247/*

14 March: DEM Party Youth Council member Hüseyin Aslan was detained in Urfa's Bozova district over a social media post about the Siirt Governor, who was appointed as a trustee replacing the elected Siirt Mayor.

Issue 248[254]

17-23 March 2025

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

17 March: Belgian journalist Chris Den Hond has been denied entry to Turkey due to his participation in a celebration marking the liberation of the Syrian Kurdish town of Kobani from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in 2015.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

21 March: The İstanbul 17th Civil Court of First Instance issued the ruling to dismiss the executive board of the İstanbul Bar Association, citing allegations of "terrorist propaganda" and "publicly spreading false information," following the bar's demand for an investigation into the killing of two Kurdish journalists in a suspected Turkish drone strike in Syria.

Issue 249[255]

24-30 March 2025

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

27 March: Prominent Turkish political scientist and journalist Nuray Mert has been indicted on charges of membership in a terrorist organization over a photo taken with Kurdish militants during an interview in Syria in 2014.

KURDISH MINORITY

26 March: A Turkish court has blocked access to the pro Kurdish news agency Mezopotamya's latest domain, mezopotamyaajansi42.com, citing national security, continuing the digital censorship targeting critical Kurdish media.

[254] *Issue 248 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-248/*

[255] *Issue 249 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-249/*

27 March: Former HDP municipal councilor Ceylan Aslan was sentenced to 8 years in prison by a Diyarbakır court on March 26 for attending peaceful protests and events, with charges including "membership in a terrorist organization" and violating the law on assemblies.

Issue 250[256]

31 March - 6 April 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

7 April: A new report by the Kurdish Language Rights Monitoring and Reporting Platform (Kurdish Monitoring) documented 24 cases of obstruction against the use of Kurdish in public life during the first three months of 2025, highlighting systematic restrictions across public spaces, media, arts, and prisons.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

2 April: Police in Şanlıurfa province, south-east Turkey, allegedly assaulted lawyer Yılmaz Birden while he was trying to meet his detained client, hitting him in the head with a gun butt and causing a bleeding wound that required treatment at District Hospital.

Issue 251[257]

7-13 April 2025

ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

11 April: In Kars province, a specialist sergeant was arrested and jailed for shooting and killing a young civilian man after accusing him of "looking at him the wrong way," in an incident caught on camera.

Issue 252[258]

[256] *Issue 250 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-250/

[257] *Issue 251 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-251-2/

[258] *Issue 252 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-252/

14-20 April 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

15 April: Kurdish journalist Hayri Demir was sentenced to nearly three years in prison for ‘disseminating terrorist propaganda’ through his reporting and social media posts, based on evidence including materials from his work in northern Syria; the verdict came during the eighth hearing of a trial that began nearly eight years ago.

Issue 253[259]

21-27 April 2025

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

23 April: Swedish journalist Joakim Medin, arrested in Turkey in March, has been charged with insulting President Erdoğan and alleged PKK-related terrorism offenses, facing up to 12 years in prison if convicted.

KURDISH MINORITY

24 April: Pro-Kurdish JINNEWS reporter Rabia Önver were interrogated at the Van Police Department as part of an investigation opened against her for “inciting hatred and enmity” over her social media posts.

24 April: DEM Party Assembly member Muhsin Aydoğdu was detained by plainclothes police in front of his family home in Urfa and taken to the Urfa Police Department, reportedly as part of a Diyarbakır-based investigation on “terrorist propaganda,” with witnesses accusing police of forcibly abducting him without showing a detention warrant.

PRISON CONDITIONS

24 April: DEM Party deputy Gülcan Kaçmaz Sayyiğit condemned the deaths of 709 inmates in Turkish prisons in 2024 (not all were Kurdish), blaming political inaction and the Council of Forensic Medicine’s biased reports, and called the ongoing failure to release seriously ill prisoners a violation of the right to life.

[259] *Issue 253 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-253/

Issue 254[260]

28 April - 4 May 2025

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

30 April: A Turkish court gave Swedish journalist Joakim Medin a suspended 11-month sentence for insulting President Erdoğan, but he remains jailed in Silivri pending trial on a second charge of terrorist group membership, which he denies, saying he was only doing journalism.

KURDISH MINORITY

29 April: Pro-Kurdish DEM Party İlzmir former co-chair Çınar Altan was sentenced to a total of 3 years and 4 months in prison on April 28, 2025, for aiding a terrorist organization and disseminating propaganda.

Issue 255[261]

5-11 May 2025

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

7 May: Nihat Göktaş, a member of the Human Rights Association (İHD) Istanbul Branch Prison Commission, and Hülya Gerçek, an İHD member, were detained in Istanbul on May 5, 2025, following a raid on their homes, accused of "financing terrorism" for sending money to a prisoner in need monitored by the commission.

KURDISH MINORITY

9 May: Birsen Orhan, co-mayor of Tunceli from the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) who was removed from office by the Interior Ministry and replaced by a trustee, was sentenced to a total of 2 years, 2 months and 7 days in prison for "violating the Law on Assemblies and Demonstrations" and "resisting to prevent the execution of duty."

Issue 256[262]

[260] *Issue 254 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-254/*

[261] *Issue 255 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-255/*

[262] *Issue 256 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-256/*

12-18 May 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

12 May: The PKK has officially declared its dissolution and the end of its armed campaign against Turkey after 40 years of conflict.

PRISON CONDITIONS

16 May: Turkey's prison population has surpassed 400,000—exceeding official capacity by over 100,000—as a result of mass detentions targeting dissenters, including Gülen movement followers and Kurdish activists, amid an eightfold rise in inmates over 25 years.

Issue 257[263]

19-25 May 2025

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

19 May: Swedish journalist Joakim Medin, arrested in Turkey on charges of insulting President Erdoğan and alleged terrorist ties, has been released and is returning to Sweden, following diplomatic efforts by the Swedish government.

KURDISH MINORITY

22 May: Turkey's parliament rejected a motion by the pro Kurdish DEM Party to investigate enforced disappearances through a Truth and Justice Commission, despite decades long pleas from Kurdish families and victims' relatives during the Week of the Disappeared.

Issue 258[264]

26 May - 1 June 2025

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

[263] *Issue 257 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-257/*

[264] *Issue 258 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-258/*

30 May: Fırat Epözdemir, a board member of the İstanbul Bar Association, was released pending trial after being held for 127 days on charges of terrorist organization membership and propaganda, stemming from a broader investigation into the bar's leadership over a social media post calling for accountability in the deaths of two Kurdish journalists.

KURDISH MINORITY

26 May: A man wearing a white cap attacked the Çanakkale office of the Pro-Kurdish DEM Party with stones during a meeting, causing property damage but no injuries.

Issue 259[265]

2-8 June 2025

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

2 June: UN human rights experts condemned criminal charges against the president and board members of the İstanbul Bar Association for calling for an investigation into the deaths of two Kurdish journalists in a suspected Turkish drone strike, warning the case undermines legal independence and misuses terrorism laws to silence dissent.

KURDISH MINORITY

4 June: Four members of the Arsîsa music group — Tuncay Taştan, Murat Koçak, Ayşe Güler, and Derya Kanpolat — were detained in Doğubayazıt, Ağrı, for performing a Kurdish song during a concert.

PRISON CONDITIONS

5 June: The Association of Lawyers for Freedom (ÖHD) has accused authorities at Urfa No. 2 Prison in southeastern Turkey of systematically subjecting women and children visitors to degrading strip-searches and invasive physical contact, calling the practices unlawful and abusive.

Issue 260[266]

9 - 15 June 2025

[265] *Issue 259 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-259/*

[266] *Issue 260 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-260/*

No incidents reported[267]

Issue 261[268]

16 - 22 June 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

17 June: In Turkey's Manisa province, a high school student was arrested for allegedly spreading "terrorist propaganda" after writing the Kurdish slogan "Jin, jiyan, azadî" and criticizing government-appointed trustees on a wall.

Issue 262[269]

23 - 29 June 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

26 June: Diyarbakır 4th High Criminal Court sentenced former Pro-kurdish HDP Diyarbakır Co-Mayor Cabbar Leygara to 1 year and 3 months in prison for "making terrorist propaganda" based on his speeches.

26 June: the Diyarbakır 4th High Criminal Court sentenced Yeni Yaşam newspaper employee Zilan Gül to 2 years and 1 month in prison for "making terrorist propaganda" by distributing issues of the newspaper that was under a publication and distribution ban.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

23 June: Besra Erol, a 66-year-old chronically ill inmate at Elazığ Women's Prison, has twice been arbitrarily denied parole despite eligibility since December 2024, due to alleged lack of remorse

[267] It is noteworthy that this is the first week without any violations targeting the Kurdish people. From this date on indeed, the number of cases suddenly diminish and lower to the level of individual violations rather than a collective persecution. Very soon after this date, in October 2025 to be exact, nationalist MHP leader Devlet Bahceli is to launch a new "peace process" later named as "Turkey without terror" process. Bahceli will make a call to the Turkish parliament that the "founding leader" of PKK should come address the parliament. In the meantime, this is also the date Istanbul mayor and Erdogan's chief rival Ekrem Imamoglu is imprisoned as part of the regime's crackdown campaign targeting the main opposition party CHP.

[268] *Issue 261 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-261/*

[269] *Issue 262 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-262/*

and association with terrorism convicts, following her imprisonment over a speech at her son's grave—one of 33 victims of the 2015 Suruç ISIS bombing.

Issue 263[270]

30 June - 6 July 2025

No incidents reported

Issue 264[271]

7-13 July 2025

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

8 July: Selahattin Okçuoğlu, a member of Turkey's Human Rights Association, was sentenced to 1 year and 3 months in prison for "making terrorist propaganda" over two social media posts, with the verdict deferred under a provision suspending enforcement unless a new offense is committed.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

8 July: The European Court of Human Rights ruled again that Turkey violated Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş's rights by holding him in politically motivated pretrial detention for over four years without sufficient legal justification, ordering compensation and finding breaches of Articles 5 and 18 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Issue 265[272]

14-20 July 2025

[270] *Issue 263 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-263/

[271] *Issue 264 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-264/

[272] *Issue 265 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-265/

KURDISH MINORITY

15 July: In Istanbul's Bayrampaşa district, Turkish police reportedly beat and detained 10 Kurdish family members returning from a picnic for playing Kurdish music in their car, resulting in a pregnant woman being hospitalized after an emergency cesarean.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

18 July: Former Harran University assistant professor Musa Günay was subjected to severe torture during a 2017 police interrogation in Şanlıurfa while already imprisoned, but his legal complaints were dismissed, as revealed by MP OÜmer Faruk Gergerlioğlu.

Issue 266[273]

21-27 July 2025

No incidents reported

Issue 267[274]

28 July - 3 August 2025

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

29 July: A district governor in Turkey's Şırnak province blocked the prosecution of a police officer who fatally struck 7-year-old Miraç Miroğlu with an armored vehicle, citing an internal police report that claimed the officer had "no alternative but to hit the child."

KURDISH MINORITY

1 august: The Avesta Language and Culture Research Association in İzmir, which has conducted Kurdish language and cultural activities since 2018, was sealed by authorities over alleged unauthorized education, drawing condemnation from rights advocates who called the closure unlawful and politically driven.

[273] *Issue 266 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-266/*

[274] *Issue 267 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-267/*

Issue 268[275]

4 - 10 August 2025

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

6 August: Turkey's Constitutional Court has ruled that the eight-month pretrial detention of former Kurdish lawmaker Hüda Kaya over the 2014 Kobani protests violated her rights to liberty, security, and a fair trial, awarding her 200,000 lira in damages.

Issue 269[276]

11-17 August 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

11 August: An eight-member Kurdish family, including women and a three-month-old baby, was assaulted in Mersin's Çamlıyayla district for speaking Kurdish, leaving one man in intensive care, while police detained the suspects.

Issue 270[277]

18-24 August 2025

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

18 August: The social media account of the Etkin News Agency (ETHA), a left-wing pro-Kurdish outlet reporting on labor rights, women's movements, Kurdish issues, and government crackdowns on dissent, has been blocked in Turkey on grounds of protecting national security and public order.

KURDISH MINORITY

[275] *Issue 268 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-268/

[276] *Issue 269 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-269/

[277] *Issue 270 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-270/

21 August: During a Turkish parliamentary commission meeting on national solidarity and democracy, a Peace Mother was warned not to speak Kurdish, prompting condemnation from rights groups and Kurdish politicians who said the ban undermines reconciliation efforts and violates freedom of expression.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

25 August: In Mardin's Artuklu district, 19-year-old Şeyhmus Sebuktekin, who filed a complaint after being beaten and detained by nightwatchmen, was jailed for "resisting law enforcement" while the officers were released.

Issue 271[278]

25-31 August 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

29 August: In Niğde's Bor district, 24 Kurdish seasonal workers were subjected to a racist attack by a group led by a landowner, leaving one worker critically injured in intensive care.

Issue 272[279]

1-7 September 2025

No incidents reported

Issue 273[280]

8-14 September 2025

[278] *Issue 271 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). https://solidaritywithothers.com/issu-271/

[279] *Issue 272 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-272/

[280] *Issue 273 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-273/

No incidents reported[281]

Issue 274[282]

15-21 September 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

18 September: In Mersin's Akdeniz district, journalists from pro-kurdish Jinnews, Mezopotamya Agency, and PİRHA covering a public march were assaulted by police, with some subjected to violence and their cameras rendered unusable; the Mersin Women Journalists Association and the Dicle Fırat Journalists Association condemned the attack, announcing they would file a criminal complaint against those responsible.

Issue 275[283]

22-28 September 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

22 September: An Ankara court blocked access to the Brussels-based Fırat News Agency (anf-news.com) on September 19 citing national security and public order, continuing Turkey's long-running pattern of restrictions on Kurdish media and digital freedoms.

26 September: Turkey's Constitutional Court rejected most rights violation claims over the 2015 killing of Kurdish mother of nine Taybet Inan, whose body lay in the street for a week during curfews in Şırnak, finding only a violation in burial restrictions, while her family plans to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights.

Issue 276[284]

[281] While the crackdown on main opposition party officials continue heavily, it is noteworthy that less and less incidents are reported regarding the Kurdish population.

[282] *Issue 274 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-274/*

[283] *Issue 275 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-275/*

[284] *Issue 276 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-276/*

29 September-5 October 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

1 October: The Turkish Football Federation fined Diyarbakır-based Amedspor 110,000 lira for displaying a Kurdish-language advertising slogan on its jerseys despite prior approval, prompting the club to denounce the penalty as unjust and discriminatory.

Issue 277[285]

6-12 October 2025

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

10 October: Abdurrahman Gök, known for photographing the 2017 killing of Kurdish university student Kemal Kurkut by police during Newroz celebrations in Diyarbakır, faces a fourth indictment filed by the Diyarbakır Chief Public Prosecutor's Office on charges of membership in the PKK, based on a 2022 secret witness statement, with the case merged into his ongoing terrorism trial and the next hearing set for November 25.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

10 October: Kurdish human rights activist Soran Aram, who holds UN refugee status and has been approved for resettlement in Canada, was detained in Ankara and sent to a repatriation center, where he now faces possible deportation to Iran, where he was previously sentenced to death.

Issue 278[286]

13-19 October 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

15 October: The European Court of Human Rights ruled that Turkey unlawfully detained Kurdish politician Aysel Tuğluk to suppress political pluralism, finding violations of her rights to liberty,

[285] *Issue 277 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-277/*

[286] *Issue 278 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-278/*

security, and freedom of expression, and ordering the government to pay her €17,500 in compensation and costs.

16 October: A stone attack targeted the DEM Party's Toroslar district office in Mersin, causing material damage but no injuries; party officials condemned the incident as an assault on democratic will and coexistence, urging authorities to identify those behind the attack and to end divisive, hate-fueled rhetoric.

Issue 279[287]

20-26 October 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

21 October: A Turkish court sentenced pro-Kurdish JINNEWS news director Öznur Değer to one year, two months and 15 days in prison on charges of "making continuous terrorist propaganda."

23 October: A Turkish court has acquitted veteran Kurdish politician and former Mardin co-mayor Ahmet Türk of terrorism-related charges that led to his removal from office in 2024, ruling that his 2011 speech praising the Kurdish struggle fell within freedom of expression, as peace talks with the PKK continue and questions remain over whether he will be reinstated.

PRISON CONDITIONS

22 October: İstanbul Bar Association urged the government to end arbitrary detentions and parole denials as Turkey's prison population reached 420,904—138 percent over capacity—amid widespread use of pretrial detention, systemic rights violations, and ongoing crackdowns on opposition figures, the Gülen movement, and Kurdish activists.

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27 October – 2 November 2025

KURDISH MINORITY

[287] *Issue 279 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-279/*

[288] *Issue 280 – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (n.d.). *https://solidaritywithothers.com/issue-280/*

28 October: A high school senior in İzmir, identified as A.Y., was arrested on charges of “terrorist propaganda” after sharing a video of classmates dancing to a Kurdish song on social media, following threats to her family and a police raid.

Solidarity With OTHERS

Belgium, December 2025

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Turkey's (Non)Compliance with International Standards on Freedom of Assembly:

A Five-Year Review

2020-2025

[Submission made in response to the United Nations Human Rights Committee's call for input for the preparation of **General Comment No. 38 on Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)**]

Deadline: 19 December 2025

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This submission is made in response to the United Nations Human Rights Committee's call for input[1] for the preparation of **General Comment No. 38 on Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)**. It draws on five years of in-depth monitoring by the civil society initiative *Turkey Rights Monitor* by Solidarity with Others and aims to inform the Committee's understanding of the systemic barriers to freedom of association and peaceful assembly in the Republic of Turkey between June 2020 and November 2025.

The report provides a longitudinal analysis of patterns of violations of the right to peaceful assembly—a right integrally connected to freedom of association—by documenting over a thousand protest-related incidents across Turkey. These include indiscriminate bans, violent dispersals, mass detentions, and the criminalisation of civic actors such as unionists, women's rights defenders, students, environmentalists, LGBTI+ communities, and Kurdish political organisers. In many cases, these violations reflect a misuse of national security and public order frameworks, the application of vague legal provisions, and a sustained targeting of minority or dissenting voices.

The findings presented here directly speak to the Committee's aim to clarify States parties' obligations under Article 22 ICCPR. In particular, they demonstrate:

- **A pattern of disproportionate and non-transparent restrictions** imposed under the guise of public order or national security, in contradiction to Article 22(2).
- **A failure to protect the associative and expressive functions of peaceful assembly**, particularly where civil society and political expression intersect.
- **The chilling effect of criminal investigations and prosecutions** launched solely on the basis of peaceful assembly or association, including under anti-terror legislation.
- **Persistent discrimination and exclusion**, notably against Kurdish activists, LGBTI+ individuals, and trade union organisers.

This contribution is submitted with the hope that the Committee will consider the evidence herein to help ensure that *General Comment No. 38* reflects the lived realities of civil society actors operating in increasingly repressive contexts. It is also intended to support broader international efforts to safeguard the civic space and clarify that peaceful assembly and association—far from being threats to public order—are vital to democratic life.

[1] OHCHR. (n.d.). *OHCHR | Call for input - Draft General Comment No. 38 on Article 22 (Freedom of Association) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*. https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2025/call-input-draft-general-comment-no-38-article-22-freedom-association

Executive Summary

In a nutshell, the Right to Assembly in Turkey in the 2020–2025 period saw a systematic and patterned violation via;

- normalization of blanket bans,
- heavy-handed policing and use of force,
- mass detentions as a deterrent tool,
- criminalization and judicial harassment,
- disproportionate impact on specific groups,
- undermining of domestic and international legal checks.

Background: This report examines persistent violations of the right to freedom of assembly in Turkey from June 2020 through November 2025. Drawing on incident-based monitoring by the Turkey Rights Monitor on Freedom of Assembly and international sources, it documents how Turkish authorities systematically and increasingly restricted and repressed peaceful gatherings in this period. Despite Turkey's obligations under international law (Article 21 of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* and Article 11 of the *European Convention on Human Rights*), the data reveal a pattern of blanket bans on assemblies, heavy-handed police interventions, mass detentions, and criminalization of protest activity year after year.

Key Findings: Every year since 2020, provincial authorities (notably in the Kurdish-majority southeast) have **imposed broad, continuous bans** on public assemblies, often renewing them every 15 or 30 days without interruption. Dozens of provinces – at least 33 in 2020 alone – enacted such *blanket bans*, frequently citing COVID-19 or "security" as justification. Police and gendarmerie have **routinely dispersed peaceful protests with force**, using pepper spray, tear gas, rubber bullets and physical violence. This has led to thousands of protestors being detained across the country. For example, over **1,800 people were detained in March 2025** during nationwide protests against the arrest of İstanbul's mayor, an unprecedented clampdown. Earlier years also saw mass arrests during major demonstrations: more than **500 detentions in a single week of 2021** (during the Boğaziçi University protests), and **373 detentions in one day in June 2022** (İstanbul Pride march), among other instances. Patterns of **excessive force** accompanied these detentions, with reports of beatings, injuries and even senior opposition figures being manhandled.[2]

[2] United Against Torture Consortium, Association for the Prevention of Torture, International Federation of ACATs, International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, Omega Research Foundation, REDRESS, & World Organisation Against Torture. (2025). *Joint Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on torture for her upcoming report on Global Trends and Developments on Torture*. https://www.apt.ch/sites/default/files/2025-11/uatc_joint_submission_to_the_un_srt_report_trends_and_developments_2025.pdf

Affected Groups: The crackdown has **targeted specific communities**. Kurdish political actors and their supporters have faced pervasive bans and interventions, especially around Kurdish cultural events like *Newroz* (hundreds detained each year). Women's rights defenders and LGBTI+ activists have repeatedly seen their marches banned and met with force – for instance, women's marches on *8 March* and *25 November* were violently broken up, and Pride events were prohibited in numerous provinces. Student protesters (notably those opposing appointed university rectors) were met with mass arrests and even house arrest orders. Labour activists and dismissed public employees staging sit-ins and strikes were also frequently detained and prosecuted. **Journalists and observers** attempting to cover these assemblies have not been spared: many were detained or assaulted, indicating a chilling effect on media freedom around protests.[3]

Legal Context: Turkish authorities have **weaponized laws** to criminalize peaceful assembly. Protest participants have been hit with terrorism-related charges, prosecuted for "illegal assembly" under the Meetings and Demonstrations Law, or even charged with *insulting the President* for slogans and banners. Courts handed down harsh sentences for protest-related offenses (e.g. protesters convicted on terror charges simply for attending demonstrations). While Turkey's Constitutional Court and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) have occasionally delivered **protective rulings** – for example, *ECtHR* in July 2020 found Turkey violated Article 11 by convicting two demonstrators as "terrorists", and Turkey's Constitutional Court in November 2020 struck down a ban on inter-city protest marches as unconstitutional – these rulings have had limited practical impact. Authorities often ignored or circumvented court decisions, continuing to ban protests even after courts deemed similar bans disproportionate.[4]

Overall Assessment: The period 2020–2025 shows a **continuing and deepening contraction of civic space** for peaceful assembly in Turkey. The **normalisation of blanket assembly bans**, the routine use of excessive force and mass detentions, and the punitive judicial follow-up (terrorism charges, large group indictments) point to an entrenched policy of suppressing dissent. These practices stand in stark violation of international human rights standards. Under UN and OSCE guidelines, **blanket prohibitions on assemblies are considered inherently disproportionate[5]**, and law enforcement must show tolerance toward peaceful protests. Yet in Turkey, broadly framed bans and heavy police crackdowns have been the default. This report provides a detailed year-by-year breakdown of these violations[6], serving

[3] Ibid.

[4] *Türkiye*. (2025, January 16). Human Rights Watch. https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/turkiye

[5] Venice Commission. (2010). *GUIDELINES ON FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY* (By Venice Commission). https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/default.aspx?pdffile=CDL-AD(2010)020-e

[6] All figures and incidents cited in this report are drawn from documented monitoring data and verified sources. Key statistics and examples are summarized in Table 1 below.

as a factual basis for urgent intervention by international human rights bodies and informing legal and policy advocacy to restore the right to peaceful assembly in Turkey.

Introduction

Right to Peaceful Assembly in Law: Freedom of peaceful assembly is safeguarded by Turkey's constitution and its treaty commitments, notably Article 21 of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)* and Article 11 of the *European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)*. These provisions oblige the state to **facilitate and protect peaceful demonstrations**. Restrictions are permitted only if prescribed by law and strictly necessary in a democratic society (for reasons such as public order or public health). International jurisprudence has further clarified that authorities must apply any restrictions proportionately and **cannot impose blanket or over-broad bans** that indiscriminately prohibit all assemblies in a place or period.[7] The OSCE/ODIHR–Venice Commission guidelines on freedom of assembly underscore that a *"blanket application of legal restrictions"* (for example, banning all demonstrations across a province) will generally *"fail the proportionality test"* as it disregards the specific circumstances of each case.[8] Likewise, the European Court of Human Rights has repeatedly held that even disruptive but non-violent protests merit a degree of tolerance from authorities, and forceful dispersal or punishment of peaceful demonstrators demands compelling justification.[9] These standards form the yardstick against which Turkey's practices are evaluated in this report.

Scope and Methodology: This report focuses **exclusively on violations of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly in Turkey** during the period June 2020 – November 2025. It is primarily based on detailed incident monitoring compiled in the weekly *Turkey Rights Monitor*[10] *on Freedom of Assembly* newsletters for 2020[11], 2021[12], 2022[13], 2023[14], 2024[15], and 2025[16]. These compilations, produced by the Brussels-based NGO Solidarity with Others, document hundreds of individual incidents (protests, marches, vigils, police interventions, bans, arrests, court decisions, etc.) and offer yearly analyses of emerging patterns. The data, while not exhaustive, provide a representative picture of nationwide trends and have been used as the factual backbone of this report. The analysis is further **enriched with external sources** to provide legal grounding and comparative insight. These include: European Court of

[7] Ibid.
[8] Ibid.
[9] Ibid.
[10] *Publications – Solidarity with OTHERS*. (June 2020 to November 2025). https://solidaritywithothers.com/publications/?e-page-dc71b75=5
[11] Further details, including case descriptions and incident-by-incident reporting, can be found in Annex 1 to this report, which provides the full compilation of monitoring data underlying this report as well as the sources.
[12] See Annex 2.
[13] See Annex 3.
[14] See Annex 4.
[15] See Annex 5.
[16] See Annex 6.

Human Rights judgments (and Council of Europe findings) relating to Turkey's assembly restrictions; reports by United Nations Special Procedures and treaty bodies (e.g. the UN Human Rights Committee's guidance on peaceful assembly); standards articulated by the OSCE and other international experts; and findings of reputable human rights NGOs (such as Human Rights Watch, the International Federation for Human Rights, and Amnesty International). All information is cross-referenced and cited for accuracy.

Structure: Following this introduction, the report is organized into **annual chapters (2020 through 2025)**, each outlining the main developments and patterns observed in that year. This chronological approach highlights both continuity and change: showing how certain repressive practices have persisted (or escalated) year on year, and noting any new legal or policy developments affecting assembly rights. In each year, attention is given to: (1) **Administrative bans and restrictions** (e.g. provincial governorate ban orders, COVID-19 measures, etc.); (2) **Policing of protests and use of force** (how gatherings were handled on the ground); (3) **Detentions and prosecutions** of protesters; (4) **Notable affected groups or themes** (e.g. student protests, women's marches, labour strikes, Kurdish rights demonstrations, LGBTI+ events); and (5) **Any significant court decisions or legislative changes** that year relating to assembly. Finally, a **concluding analysis** synthesizes the findings and evaluates them against Turkey's international obligations, highlighting key concerns and recommendations going forward.

The audience for this report includes international human rights mechanisms (United Nations and Council of Europe bodies), legal professionals and scholars, human rights defenders, and non-governmental organizations. The aim is to provide a **comprehensive, evidence-based account** of how the right to peaceful assembly has been curtailed in Turkey over the past five years, thereby informing international scrutiny and domestic advocacy. All statistical figures and specific incidents are presented with meticulous accuracy and cited to their sources. Crucially, while the report documents numerous individual cases, it **avoids referencing any confidential annexes or case-by-case attachments**; instead, it draws out thematic patterns and representative examples to underscore systemic issues. The overarching finding is that, from 2020 to 2025, Turkey has seen **continuous and widespread violations of the right to peaceful assembly**, in contravention of its own laws and international commitments, warranting urgent attention and remedial action.

> *(Table 1 below provides a year-by-year snapshot of key assembly restriction indicators, and Figure 1 charts the largest mass-arrest incidents each year as an illustration of the escalating scale of repression.)*

Table 1: Annual Overview of Assembly Restrictions and Repression

(June 2020–November 2025)

Year	Blanket Bans & Restrictions (Selected Examples)	Policing and Detentions (Selected Examples)
2020 (June–Dec)	– *Province-wide "blanket bans" on gatherings*: Van province maintained a **continuous ban** on all outdoor assemblies since 2016, with extensions in July, Aug, Nov, Dec 2020. – **33 provinces** (out of 81) imposed at least 89 general ban orders in the first 8 months of 2020, typically prohibiting all outdoor meetings for 7–30 days at a time (often renewed consecutively). – Authorities frequently invoked **Covid-19** as justification. E.g. in July, Ankara's governor banned all assemblies for 15 days citing pandemic risks on the eve of a planned lawyers' protest. – **Curfews** were also used to preempt protests in some areas (e.g. village lockdowns in Bitlis, Mardin, Şırnak).	– **Frequent police intervention** in peaceful gatherings across the country. The Human Rights Foundation of Turkey reported at least **637 peaceful assemblies were intervened** by security forces in Jan–Aug 2020. – Approximately **1,346 protestors were detained** in these interventions and **54 people injured** in the first 8 months. Police often dispersed gatherings immediately, citing blanket bans or social distancing rules. – **Notable targets:** Lawyers protesting changes to bar associations were pepper-sprayed and arrested (Ankara, July); women's rights marches (e.g. protests against femicide in İzmir, July) were blocked, with women detained; environmental protests faced gendarmerie crackdowns (12 people briefly detained in Bursa, July). – **Criminalization:** Courts continued processing older cases – e.g. in Sept 2020, 46 people were indicted for a *Saturday Mothers* vigil from 2018, illustrating the ongoing prosecution of past assembly activity. – *Positive notes:* On 18 Nov 2020, Turkey's Constitutional Court **annulled a law banning protest marches on inter-city roads**, affirming it as unconstitutional and upholding the right to assembly in principle. And on 9 July 2020, the **ECtHR ruled** Turkey violated Article 11 when two applicants were given terrorism sentences for attending a demonstration, ordering compensation for them. (These rulings, however, had no visible effect on policing practices in late 2020.)
2021	– **Long-term bans** persisted: Van's blanket ban (in force since 2016) continued uninterrupted with renewals throughout 2021. Hakkari, Mardin, Tunceli, Siirt, Muş and other provinces similarly kept rolling 15- or 30-day bans on all assemblies. – **Widespread provincial bans:** Local	– **Escalating police crackdowns:** 2021 saw intense interventions against protests of all kinds. Security forces **regularly used mass detention tactics**: e.g. during the Boğaziçi University protests in Jan–Feb, **over 500 students and supporters were detained in one week** (with some subjected to house arrest and alleged ill-treatment in custody).

	governors issued short-term bans ahead of anticipated protests (e.g. banning gatherings on *World Peace Day* or during student demonstrations). By now, blanket bans had become a routine administrative tool nationwide. – Justifications remained broad – Covid-19, "public order" and national security were cited liberally. The breadth and continuity of these bans raised serious proportionality concerns. – No significant legal reforms curbing such powers were introduced; instead, officials openly endorsed a hard line. For instance, the Interior Ministry and pro-government media frequently smeared protesters (calling Boğaziçi students "terrorists"), laying a public narrative to legitimize crackdowns.	– On *Newroz* (Kurdish new year) celebrations in March, police in multiple cities detained dozens for symbolic expressions (like wearing Kurdish colours). In Diyarbakır alone, scores were arrested around Newroz day. – *May Day 2021:* Authorities outright banned May 1 labour gatherings; in İstanbul, at least **255 people were detained** attempting to reach Taksim Square, alongside dozens more in Ankara, İzmir and other cities. Riot police deployed **pepper spray, tear gas and physical force** to quash these demonstrations. – *Student and youth protests:* Apart from Boğaziçi, university student rallies (e.g. against high dorm fees or campus enforcement of conservative rules) were met with beatings and arrests. Some students faced strip-search allegations after arrest. – **Judicial harassment:** Protesters increasingly faced **terrorism-related charges** for mere participation. Notable examples include the conviction of a former Bar Association chairman (Mehmet Emin Aktar) and others for attending protests. Courts also reopened *Gezi Park* protest cases (2013) and *Kobane* protest cases (2014), issuing new indictments and prison sentences against activists. – **Administrative punishments:** Beyond arrests, authorities used financial penalties and other reprisals. A prominent dismissed public servant, Nazan Bozkurt, was fined a staggering **281,000 TL** for peaceful protest activity. Travel bans were imposed on activists (e.g. some Gezi defendants), and students placed under house arrest via electronic monitors, evidencing punitive measures short of imprisonment.
2022	– **Continuing blanket bans:** No let-up in province-wide bans – Van, Hakkari, Tunceli, Şırnak, Siirt, Mardin, Muş and others kept issuing uninterrupted **15 or 30-day bans** on *all* outdoor gatherings, renewing them immediately upon expiry. These covered everything from demonstrations	– **Widespread interventions:** Police and gendarmes continued to **disperse peaceful protests on a routine basis**, often *immediately as they began*. Tactics included swift use of tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets, and mass **pre-emptive detentions**.

	and vigils to concerts and leaflet distribution. – **Event-specific prohibitions:** Authorities grew more proactive in **banning specific anticipated protests**. Notably, in 2022 local governors **banned Pride marches and LGBTI+ events** in many cities (İstanbul, Ankara, İzmir, Eskişehir, etc.) ahead of Pride Month. Women's rights rallies (e.g. around *8 March* International Women's Day) were likewise preemptively banned in various provinces. Even memorial gatherings (e.g. to mark the 2015 Ankara bombing anniversary) were prohibited. – **COVID-19 as pretext waning:** By 2022, general pandemic restrictions had eased in Turkey, yet **officials still invoked Covid-19 selectively** to bar opposition-related assemblies while allowing pro-government gatherings. This selective application underscored the bans' politicized nature. – **Pressure on civil society:** Late 2021 legislation increased executive powers over NGOs (allowing the Interior Ministry to replace NGO leaders for "terror links"), casting a chill over associations. In 2022, some local protest bans explicitly targeted NGO-organized events.	– *Labour and economic protests:* Facing a sharp economic downturn, Turks held many protests over inflation, low wages, layoffs and unsafe work conditions. These were met with force. In one youth protest in İstanbul against economic policies, at least **90 people were detained** in a single intervention. Striking workers in cities like Kocaeli, Ankara and Adana saw police **raids** and arrests of union leaders. – *Newroz 2022:* Kurdish new year events remained heavily policed. Dozens of celebrants in provinces from Diyarbakır to İstanbul were detained simply for wearing traditional Kurdish colours or chanting slogans. In some cases, **terrorism investigations** were opened after the fact against Newroz attendees. – *Women's and LGBTI+ protests:* March 8, 2022 women's marches in İstanbul and Ankara were blocked, with many women detained amid scenes of police manhandling. On **June 26, 2022**, police in İstanbul violently crushed the Pride march, **detaining 373 people** in one day – one of the largest mass arrests of LGBTI+ demonstrators to date. Pride events in other cities (İzmir, Ankara) were similarly broken up with dozens of detentions. – **Notable prosecutions:** Courts meted out **long prison terms** to protesters and activists. For example, 37 environmental activists were collectively sentenced to over **42 years** in prison for protesting a mining project. Terrorism charges hit journalists, human rights defenders and students for protest-related activities. The trend of resurrecting older cases continued – e.g. fresh indictments for participants in the 2013 Gezi Park protests (some acquitted activists had their acquittals overturned and now faced renewed charges).
2023	– **Systematic bans maintained:** Governorates like Hakkari, Siirt, Mardin, Tunceli, Van, Bingöl, Şırnak, etc., **routinely issued blanket bans** on all assemblies, often in back-to-back succession. These bans were sweeping, covering marches, press statements, sit-ins, festivals – virtually any public gathering – typically for 5, 7, 10, or 15 days at a time.	– **Protests after the February earthquakes:** The year began with tragedy – devastating earthquakes struck southern Turkey in Feb 2023. Subsequent **protests over the government's earthquake response** erupted in Istanbul, Ankara, Mersin and elsewhere. These were met with force: police detained dozens at a March press conference in İstanbul criticizing the handling of the disaster, and further **20+**

	– **Heightened preemptive bans:** 2023 saw bans targeting particular themes: **Armenian Genocide remembrance** events were banned in İstanbul and Ankara (April); many provinces banned all **Pride Month** activities (not just marches but even LGBTI+ film screenings and academic panels); and local authorities banned or shut down cultural events (concerts, festivals) deemed sensitive. For instance, concerts by a leftist band (Grup Yorum) and a street arts festival in İstanbul were cancelled on vague "public order" grounds. – **Election-related restrictions:** With a high-stakes general election (May 2023) and local political tensions, authorities clamped down on opposition rallies. In the southeast, any gathering interpreted as election-related (especially protests against removal of elected mayors) was often banned or dispersed. – **Symbolic location bans:** Authorities continued the practice of **barring protests from iconic sites**. As in previous years, *Taksim Square* in İstanbul was officially off-limits for *May Day* and *8 March* demonstrations. Similarly, in Ankara, central squares were frequently declared no-protest zones during sensitive dates.	**detentions** occurred at follow-up rallies. By year's end, prosecutors indicted 97 protesters simply for chanting that corruption worsened the quake's impact. – *Newroz 2023:* On 21 March, in one day, **272 people were detained** as police intervened in Newroz celebrations in İstanbul, Mardin and İzmir. The next day, another 160 were detained in Diyarbakır during Newroz festivities, with similar crackdowns in smaller cities. These mass arrests around Newroz became an annual pattern, but 2023's figures were especially high. – *Gezi anniversary:* On May 31, 2023 (the 10th anniversary of the Gezi Park protests), gatherings in İstanbul and Ankara were aggressively dispersed. Dozens of people were detained for attempting to commemorate those killed in 2013. – *May Day 2023:* Despite heavy police presence, protesters tried to march in İstanbul – resulting in **at least 239 arrests on May 1**. Many were forcefully tackled and bundled into buses. Similar scenes played out in Adana and other cities. – *Vigils and weekly protests:* Relatives of the disappeared (the **"Saturday Mothers"** in İstanbul) continued to face bans and police blockades on their silent weekly vigils. Throughout 2023, virtually every attempt at such gatherings saw **20–50 participants detained** on the spot. In one emblematic incident, in September, police in İstanbul dragged away older women and human rights activists at a Saturday Mothers vigil, detaining 48 people. – *Other themes:* **Labour strikes** (miners, factory workers, teachers) were broken up with violence – e.g. in Manisa, miners protesting unpaid wages were beaten, and union leaders handcuffed behind their backs. **Environmental protests** (against mines, deforestation) in Muğla and Urfa saw gendarmerie use batons and pepper spray, with waves of arrests over

		consecutive days. **Women's rights protests** against femicide and child abuse were also met with force; notably, in December, 46 people (including a political party co-chair) were detained in Ankara during a protest about prison conditions, many dragged away with their hands cuffed behind their backs. – **Judicial outcomes:** Amid the repression, there were a few positive court decisions: In April, an Istanbul court acquitted a group of students prosecuted for a 2021 Boğaziçi protest, citing lack of evidence of any crime. In November, an appeals court ruled that the blanket ban on *2022* May Day demonstrations in Taksim was unlawful (implicitly affirming the square's significance for assemblies). However, such rulings did not prevent authorities from imposing similar bans in 2023 and beyond, nor did they halt ongoing trials of protestors (many Gezi and Kobane-related trials continued to grind on).
2024	– **Intensification around elections:** In 2024, Turkey held high-stakes local elections (March). Especially in Kurdish-majority provinces, the aftermath saw **sweeping bans and crackdowns**. Following opposition victories in some municipalities, the government often moved to **annul results or remove mayors**, prompting protests that were immediately banned. For example, after a pro-Kurdish DEM Party candidate won in Van but was blocked from office, Van's governor issued repeated 15-day protest bans and even **restricted entry to the province** for non-residents. – **Widespread blanket bans:** Van, Şırnak, Mardin, Bitlis, Ağrı, Siirt, Urfa, Bingöl and others continued to impose **back-to-back bans on all public assemblies** (typically 3 to 15 days each). These orders were often synchronized – e.g. after a controversial court verdict (the Kobanê trial of HDP officials), 12 provinces simultaneously banned all gatherings, anticipating protests. Some bans went further to **limit movement**, effectively establishing "**security zones**" where entry/exit was controlled (e.g. in	– **Post-election protests:** A hallmark of 2024 was the crackdown on protests against the government's removal of elected opposition mayors (replacing them with *"trustees"*). In **Van (July 2024)**, when the elected metropolitan co-mayor was ousted, large protests erupted. Police responded with **excessive force**, firing plastic bullets and tear gas into crowds. During the initial unrest, **340 people were detained in Van in one day** – one of the highest single-day arrest totals in the region. In the following days, another 20+ were arrested on related charges. Rights groups documented that many protesters in Van suffered beatings; one HDP MP had his leg broken by police violence. Similar **"trustee protests"** in Mardin and Diyarbakır later in the year saw dozens detained and journalists covering the events taken into custody. – *Labour unrest:* With inflation biting, workers' protests surged. Notably, in İstanbul's Arnavutköy district, **104 residents** protesting house demolitions (an urban renewal dispute) were detained en masse by police in April. In Manisa, a miners' demonstration led to **70 miners detained** after gendarmes intervened. In another case, 80 logistics workers striking in

	Şırnak, authorities barred travel in or out during a ban period). – **Thematic bans:** As in prior years, authorities blocked specific events: Istanbul authorities prohibited any public commemoration of the Armenian Genocide on 24 April; several cities banned *Pride* marches and even campus LGBTQ+ events; and an ongoing pattern of banning Kurdish cultural performances (concerts, plays) persisted. Such bans, often citing "national values" or security, suggest an attempt to erase certain minority expressions from public space.	Çatalca were detained and alleged they were ill-treated in custody (beaten and kept handcuffed). Such large-scale detentions of workers underscore how even socio-economic protests were treated as security threats. – *Kurdish Newroz & political protests:* March 2024 saw fresh raids: on the eve of Newroz, police conducted **house raids in at least 7 cities**, detaining 57 people for past Newroz-related activities (like singing Kurdish anthems). After Diyarbakır's Newroz festival, **206 participants** (including 38 children) were detained on allegations of terrorist propaganda or violating the assembly law. Separately, protests by families of Kurdish prisoners (seeking better treatment or protesting isolation of Abdullah Öcalan) were frequently broken up, often with women and elderly relatives dragged off by force. – *Women's rights:* Women's assemblies continued to face brute force. On **26 November 2024** (the day after International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women), İstanbul police blocked a feminist march and **detained 169 women** in one evening – a stark sign of zero tolerance even for women protesting gender-based violence. Earlier, on 8 March, dozens were detained in Ankara and İstanbul during International Women's Day marches (which had been banned in advance). – *LGBTI+ and others:* Although on a smaller scale than 2022, Pride events in 2024 were once again banned and policed. In İstanbul, at least **15 people were detained** for attempting a Pride gathering; in Ankara, police intervened in a Trans Day of Remembrance vigil, arresting 4 participants (including a lawyer observer). – **Criminalization trend:** Turkish courts continued to **convict and punish protesters**. In 2024, for example, a demonstrator from a 2021 Boğaziçi protest was sentenced to 6 months prison for "resisting police". More alarmingly, authorities expanded repression via **association closures** – in Dec 2024, a court ordered the dissolution of a migration

		monitoring NGO (GÖÇİZ-DER), which had supported families of prisoners, accusing it of terrorism links. This suggests use of civil society law to punish entities tied to protest movements.
2025 (Jan–Nov)	– **Persistent blanket bans:** Entering 2025, blanket assembly bans remained a staple of provincial policy. For instance, **Siirt's governor** imposed a 10-day ban on all gatherings in Jan 2025 after a local mayor was removed, even barring people and vehicles from entering the area. **Van** yet again renewed 15-day bans continuously (e.g. covering late Feb to mid-March) and combined them with entry restrictions into the province. Other provinces like Gaziantep and Kars followed with similar 10–15 day all-purpose bans, explicitly targeting any individual "likely to participate" in a protest. – **Thematic bans and location lockdowns:** As in previous years, iconic locations and dates were proactively shut down. In İstanbul, the central **Taksim area was officially declared off-limits** ahead of both 8 March (Women's Day) and 1 May (Labour Day) 2025 – continuing a now-routine practice of denying access to these symbolic protest sites. In one case, an İstanbul district governor even banned a single planned *press statement* by an LGBTI+ group during Pride month, illustrating zero tolerance for even small peaceful actions. Meanwhile, local bans targeted *Palestine solidarity* rallies: authorities in İstanbul and Ankara intermittently banned or broke up protests against Turkey's relations with Israel (especially during the Israel–Gaza conflict flare-up in 2025). – **Legal developments:** Notably, early 2025 saw a major opposition figure, İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, **arrested** on controversial charges. Anticipating unrest, the Ankara and İstanbul governors preemptively issued city-wide bans on protests and even barred entry of persons "suspected" of planning demonstrations. This marked an extreme use of administrative power to quash assembly in response to a political event.	– **Mass detentions on an unprecedented scale:** The March 2025 protests following Mayor İmamoğlu's arrest triggered Turkey's **largest crackdown on assemblies in years**. Between 20–27 March, protests took place in dozens of provinces. Police responded with heavy force – using **tear gas, rubber bullets, and water cannon** to disperse crowds in İstanbul's city center, Ankara's Kızılay, İzmir and beyond. Over **1,100 people were detained within a week**; by 27 March, the Interior Minister announced a total exceeding **1,800 detentions**, with 260 protesters kept in pre-trial custody (remanded) on serious charges. Reports from human rights organizations documented widespread **police brutality** during these protests – detainees beaten with batons, protesters kicked while on the ground, and indiscriminate use of chemical irritants in enclosed areas. Journalists covering the events were among those detained or attacked. This episode starkly illustrated the shrinking space for any dissent: even a spontaneous mass outcry was met with an almost militarized response. – *Women's rights marches:* Despite prior bans, women attempted their annual Night March in İstanbul on 8 March 2025. The result: on 9 March, police swooped in and **detained around 200 women** who gathered in central İstanbul after defying the ban. Later in the year, on 26 November (against gender violence), another women's protest in İstanbul was forcibly dispersed with tear gas – continuing the pattern of hardline repression of feminist activism. – *May Day 2025:* Authorities again sealed off central İstanbul on May 1, deploying **52,000 police** across the city and shutting down public transit to prevent gatherings. Still, hundreds tried to protest; police detained **over 400 people** (including union leaders and at least 9 lawyers monitoring the events) in Istanbul that day. Videos showed officers roughly arresting

anyone carrying banners or wearing labour union insignia. Across other cities, May Day events were also throttled, although Istanbul saw the largest action.

– *Palestine solidarity protests:* In 2025, with conflict flaring in Gaza, small left-wing groups in Turkey organized peaceful protests against government policies on Israel. These too met with police action: in January, 3 protesters were arrested in İstanbul for holding banners saying "Murderer Israel, collaborator Erdoğan"; in June, protests at arms trade fairs in Ankara led to further detentions; in August, police in Istanbul detained activists at a rally supporting Palestinian rights. This demonstrated that even international solidarity actions were not spared.

– *Labour and student protests:* Through 2025, scattered labour strikes (e.g. miners marching against privatization in Nallıhan) were broken up by gendarmerie roadblocks. Agricultural workers protesting conditions in İzmir and Ankara were met with force and arrests. **Student protests** – whether over dorm conditions, tuition, or academic freedoms – continued to see participants detained and sometimes later disciplined by universities. One notable tactic was **eviction from student dormitories**: several student activists were expelled from state dorms as punishment for protest involvement.

– **Criminal charges and trials:** The legal fallout for protesters in 2025 remained severe. Large group indictments became more common – e.g. prosecutors prepared a single indictment against **168 women's rights activists** for a feminist march held in late 2024, charging them en masse with unlawful assembly. Terrorism-related prosecutions persisted: numerous *Newroz 2023* detainees had their trials ongoing in 2025 for terror propaganda. Meanwhile, Turkey notably ignored ECtHR calls in high-profile cases – for instance, despite ECtHR judgments ordering the release of *Gezi* protest figure Osman Kavala, he remained jailed, and 2025 saw domestic courts uphold **life sentences** against him and others for "attempting to overthrow the government"

		via the 2013 Gezi protests.[17] Such defiance of binding international rulings underscored the climate of impunity surrounding assembly rights violations.

[17] *See footnote 3.*

Developments in 2020 (June – December 2020)

Overview: The latter half of 2020 (from June onward) witnessed *widespread restrictions* on peaceful assemblies in Turkey, much of it under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic and longstanding security rhetoric. The **Turkey Rights Monitor data for 2020**[18] (covering June 2020 – Jan 2021) reveal consistent patterns: local authorities in dozens of provinces issued **blanket bans on gatherings**; police repeatedly intervened in protests (often citing those bans or public health rules); hundreds of peaceful demonstrators were detained and many injured; and the state's response targeted a range of groups from lawyers to Kurdish activists and women's rights campaigners. While a few court decisions in 2020 upheld assembly rights (both domestically and at the ECtHR), these did not immediately curb the restrictive practices on the ground.

Blanket Provincial Bans: A defining feature of 2020 was the **perpetuation of long-term protest bans** in certain provinces. In Van (a predominantly Kurdish province), the governor's office had an open-ended ban on all outdoor assemblies in place *continuously since November 2016*, and this was further extended multiple times in 2020. By late 2020, Van had spent four straight years under a no-assembly order – a situation virtually unparalleled in the Council of Europe region. Van was not alone: neighbouring Hakkari also maintained a near-uninterrupted ban since 2016, and other provinces like Tunceli, Siirt, Mardin, and Şırnak frequently renewed bans for 15- or 30-day periods throughout 2020. Even outside the southeast, blanket bans appeared: e.g. governors in Antalya, Adana, İzmir, and Hatay issued province-wide bans on protests citing COVID-19 or security concerns. According to one compilation, **89 separate blanket ban orders** were issued by governorates in 33 provinces during the first eight months of 2020. These orders tended to prohibit *all outdoor gatherings* – including demonstrations, marches, sit-ins, public statements, concerts, and sometimes even leaflet distribution – usually for a defined period (a week to a month), which was then repeatedly renewed. The **breadth of these bans** was extremely broad; rather than targeting specific high-risk events, they *pre-emptively outlawed any assembly*, often "until further notice." Such generalized prohibitions, applied even in provinces where no serious unrest was occurring, suggested a policy of *systematic preventative suppression* of public protest. Human rights lawyers argued that many bans were devoid of genuine necessity – especially when they were justified by COVID-19 yet applied inconsistently (for instance, opposition protests were banned while government rallies proceeded). Nonetheless, the judiciary provided little immediate relief in 2020: local courts generally upheld governors' orders, and only at year's end did Turkey's *Constitutional Court* strike down one narrow aspect of assembly restriction (the ban on inter-city highway marches). International standards are clear that blanket bans are draconian and rarely justifiable[19], yet in Turkey 2020 they became routine.

[18] See Annex 1.
[19] See footnote 4.

Policing of Peaceful Protests: The monitoring data indicate that virtually *no significant protest was allowed to proceed unimpeded* during this period. **Police and gendarmerie interventions were frequent and dispersed across the country.** Common practice was for security forces to confront protesters at the very outset of gatherings – sometimes even *before* any actual assembly formed (e.g. by cordoning off planned protest sites, or detaining organizers in advance). In 2020, this was often rationalized on public health grounds. For example, in **Ankara on 1 July 2020**, police detained four people who tried to make a public statement commemorating the 1993 Sivas massacre, citing the governor's general ban on gatherings and COVID-19 measures. Throughout the summer and autumn, numerous protests related to social issues were met with similar tactics. **Women's rights protests** reacting to femicides and the threatened withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention were a prominent flashpoint: on 21 July 2020, a women's march in İzmir (after the murder of Pınar Gültekin) was blocked by police; several women were **detained** for defying the ban, even though their protest was entirely peaceful. **Environmental protests** also saw clampdowns – for instance, in late July, gendarmerie forces broke up a small protest against a quarry in Bursa, detaining at least 6 demonstrators, and similar interventions occurred against anti-mining protests in Çanakkale province (with 9 detained on 25 July).

One significant pattern was the **police targeting of lawyers and professional groups** protesting government policies. In June–July 2020, bar associations across Turkey organized demonstrations against a draft law altering their governance. These were systematically obstructed. In one high-profile incident on 3 July 2020, as bar association heads marched toward Ankara, police erected roadblocks at the city entrance to stop them; scuffles ensued and officers used pepper spray against the lawyers. Even after the law passed, lawyers who continued to protest (like those at the Ankara Courthouse on 9 July) were met with police force. Such scenes – police manhandling attorneys in business suits – underscored the **degree of intolerance for assembly**, extending even to respected professionals.

Scale of Detentions and Use of Force: According to the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (HRFT/TİHV), from January to August 2020 security forces **intervened in at least 637 peaceful demonstrations, detaining 1,346 persons** and wounding 54, nationwide. While the monitor data from June onward do not give a full year total, they align with this scale – virtually every week saw dozens of new detentions at protests. Most of those detained were released within hours or days, but the **impact of mass detentions** was to create a climate of fear and exhaustion among civil society groups. Notably, many protests in 2020 were small, localized gatherings (due in part to pandemic limitations), yet even these were deemed intolerable. Police were documented to have used **disproportionate force** in several cases: for example, during a peaceful gathering in Kırşehir in June, officers allegedly assaulted a member of parliament (from the CHP opposition) who was present, causing injuries. In Istanbul in November, HDP MP Musa Piroğlu – a wheelchair user – was thrown to the ground by police while protesting the arrest of a colleague. Such incidents highlight an alarming readiness to employ violence irrespective of the target's status or vulnerability.

Journalists covering protests became **collateral victims** as well. In multiple instances recorded in late 2020, reporters attempting to film or livestream demonstrations (e.g. student rallies, Kurdish rights protests) were detained or had their equipment seized. This muzzling of the press added another layer to assembly violations, as it hindered public awareness of the very fact that rights were being curtailed.

Criminalization and Fines: Beyond immediate policing, the latter half of 2020 saw the **continuation of court cases against protestors** from prior years and new investigations opened under harsh laws. Several protest participants were hit with **terrorism charges**. In September 2020, for instance, a Turkish court accepted an indictment against 46 people involved in the *Saturday Mothers* vigil (a long-running peaceful protest by relatives of the disappeared) back in 2018, charging them under the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations for "unlawful assembly". Meanwhile, in ongoing trials related to earlier protests, **convictions** were handed down: two individuals were sentenced to **over 6 years in prison** each for attending a 2014 protest, with the court equating their presence and social media posts to terrorist propaganda – a judgment later flagged by the ECtHR as a violation of their rights. Administrative punishments were also evident: in one example, local authorities fined a group of HDP politicians **140,000 Turkish Lira** (approx. $18,000) for allegedly not maintaining social distance during a protest – a hefty fine that appeared punitive.

Notable Groups and Themes: The second half of 2020 saw *particular crackdowns* on: **Kurdish political activism** (with any gathering linked to the pro-Kurdish HDP or Kurdish cultural rights being swiftly banned or dispersed, especially in the southeast); **Women's rights mobilization** (as mentioned, protests against gender-based violence and Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention were a major target for bans and police action); **Labour and dismissed workers** (small vigils by fired public servants demanding reinstatement were a constant target – police in Ankara repeatedly detained hunger-striking former civil servants on the street, e.g. Mahmut Konuk detained multiple times for his lone protest against his post-coup dismissal); and **Students** (even in 2020, there were student protests – e.g. against tuition hikes – that saw detentions, foreshadowing the larger student movements of 2021).

In sum, **2020 established the patterns** that would continue in subsequent years. The state's approach to peaceful assembly was one of **blanket prohibition and rapid suppression**. High-level justifications (pandemic, terrorism threats) were used to cover a very broad crackdown on civic activity. While Turkey's Constitutional Court and the ECtHR provided glimmers of hope with pro-assembly rulings in 2020, these did not translate into improved conditions on the ground during that year. The year closed with Turkey firmly on a trajectory of restricting civic space – a trajectory that, as the following chapters show, deepened through 2021–2025.

Developments in 2021

General Trends: In 2021, the clampdown on freedom of assembly in Turkey not only persisted but **intensified and diversified**. According to the Turkey Rights Monitor's 2021 data[20], the authorities responded to a wide spectrum of protests – spanning university appointments, women's and LGBTI+ rights, labour disputes, economic grievances, and Kurdish rights – with a remarkably uniform playbook: **blanket bans by local authorities, heavy police interventions resulting in mass detentions, and follow-up prosecutions or fines**. The patterns seen in late 2020 deepened: provinces with existing long-term protest bans (Van, Hakkari, etc.) kept them firmly in place, while many other provinces issued rolling short-term bans, effectively stifling assembly on a near-continual basis. Meanwhile, the government's heightened political intolerance (amid student unrest and economic turmoil) meant that even *ad hoc* or spontaneous assemblies were met with zero tolerance. The result was a year of **intensive policing** of protests nationwide – indeed, 2021 saw some of the **largest protest-related mass arrest episodes in recent Turkish history up to that point** (surpassed only later by 2025's events).

Blanket Bans and Administrative Restrictions: Throughout 2021, at any given time, numerous provinces were under active protest bans. **Van's ban (in force non-stop since 2016) continued all year**, as did Hakkari's (where the ban had been renewed continuously since at least 2019). Other southeastern provinces like Mardin, Siirt, Şırnak, Muş and Tunceli serially renewed 15-day bans, so that effectively *every week* a new ban order was issued as the previous one expired. Often the public was under perpetual notice that "all meetings, marches, demonstrations, sit-ins, etc. are prohibited in the province." These bans cited a mix of justifications: lingering COVID-19 concerns, vague "intelligence" about possible unrest, generic references to counter-terrorism, or the anticipated protests of certain groups (students, labour unions, Kurdish parties). **Event-specific bans** were also prominent: for instance, ahead of *International Women's Day* (8 March 2021), several local authorities banned feminist marches; prior to *Newroz* (March 21), at least two governors (e.g. Denizli on 9 Feb) issued 15-day bans to preclude large Kurdish Newroz celebrations. One particularly striking ban came in June 2021 when authorities in several cities **banned Pride parades and any LGBTI+ gatherings** during Pride month, reflecting a trend of explicitly targeting the LGBTI community's freedom of assembly (this would grow even more pronounced in 2022). In short, by 2021 the use of administrative bans on assemblies had become **systematized** and often *coordinated*: local governments in different provinces appeared to issue near-identical ban orders in response to national protest calls. From a legal standpoint, these practices blatantly disregarded the requirement of narrow tailoring – they were broad, blanket and preventive, exactly the kind of measures the ECtHR and other bodies have warned against.[21] Indeed, domestic courts occasionally invalidated specific bans as overly broad (some

[20] See Annex 2.
[21] See footnote 4.

administrative court decisions in 2021 struck down bans in e.g. metropolitan Istanbul for lacking evidence of necessity), but such rulings were rare and often came after the fact.

Campus Protests – Boğaziçi Movement: One of the defining protest movements of 2021 was the Boğaziçi University protests. In early January, President Erdoğan appointed a rector to the prestigious Boğaziçi University in Istanbul from outside the academic community (perceived as a political loyalist). This sparked sustained protests by students and faculty, demanding academic freedom and the rector's resignation. The state's response was uncompromising. **Police intervened forcefully from day one**, breaking up campus gatherings and solidarity protests in other cities. During the first week of demonstrations (early January 2021), more than **500 students and supporters were detained** – an astonishing figure for a single campus protest. Some students were detained multiple times over successive days. Tactics reported included raids on students' homes in pre-dawn hours, the use of pepper spray and plastic bullets on campus, and the imposition of **judicial controls** such as house arrest (via electronic ankle monitors) for student leaders. Videos circulated of police dragging students on the ground and aiming rifles (with rubber bullets) at peacefully sitting youths. The Interior Minister and even President Erdoğan publicly vilified the protesters as "terrorists" and "LGBT deviants" (because an art exhibit at Boğaziçi included a rainbow flag). This stigmatization from the top likely green-lit the harsh policing. By early February, the protests spread beyond the campus – solidarity rallies in **Ankara, Izmir and other cities** were also met with crackdowns and hundreds more detentions. A notable incident occurred on 1 February 2021, when police in Istanbul **broke up a student demonstration and detained at least 159 people in one day**, including many who were simply nearby. Some students alleged mistreatment in custody (reports of strip-searches and insults). The Boğaziçi protests continued intermittently for months, and by end of 2021 dozens of its participants were facing indictments for crimes like "inciting hatred" or "resisting police". The Boğaziçi episode exemplified how the government would treat a predominantly peaceful, youth-led protest movement as a security threat – employing mass arrests and demonization rather than dialogue.

Mass Detentions – Other Examples: Aside from Boğaziçi, **2021 saw several other protests where detentions reached high numbers**. During **Newroz (March 2021)** celebrations, especially in major Kurdish-populated cities, police presence was heavy. In Diyarbakır on 21 March, at least 63 people (including minors) were detained during festivities, often simply for carrying Kurdish flags or scarves. Cumulatively, across Turkey in Newroz week 2021, rights groups estimated over 200 detentions. Similarly, on **May 1, 2021 (Labour Day)**, despite lockdown conditions, protesters tried to gather in Istanbul's Taksim and other traditional sites. Police had cordoned off much of the city; still, groups of trade unionists and leftist activists marched. Istanbul saw the largest crackdown: **255 people were detained in central Istanbul on May 1**, with images of police tackling masked, socially-distanced protesters, indicating that pandemic rules were enforced selectively to quash dissent. In Ankara, at least 30 were detained, and smaller numbers in İzmir and Adana. The **sheer scale of May Day detentions** –

over 300 nationwide – was a clear message that even Turkey's decades-old labour demonstrations were not tolerated under the current regime.

Targeting of Various Groups: The monitoring highlights that **numerous constituencies faced assembly violations in 2021**. **Kurdish political actors**: Funerals of Kurdish activists, protests against the *isolation of PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan*, and rallies by the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) were routinely banned and dispersed. One example: in February 2021, police detained three people in İzmir for hanging banners protesting prison strip-searches (an issue raised largely by Kurdish inmates' families). **Women's rights defenders**: In March, Turkey's shock withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention (on violence against women) prompted protests in many cities; most were broken up. In one Istanbul protest on 20 March, police detained 14 women mid-march. Later, on night of 8 March, Istanbul's Istiklal Street was locked down to prevent the annual Feminist Night March; those who gathered anyway saw 18 women detained and charged (some for allegedly "insulting the President" with slogans). **LGBTI+ activists**: Apart from Boğaziçi, pride-related events were a focus. Although the main Istanbul Pride march was officially banned in 2021 as well (as since 2015), smaller pride events at campuses were also repressed. Police detained students at Ankara's Middle East Technical University for organizing a pride picnic, and in June they arrested dozens who attempted a pride march in Istanbul's streets. **Students and academics** beyond Boğaziçi also kept protesting educational grievances (e.g. high youth unemployment, scholarship cuts) and were met with detentions (e.g. 10 students detained in Ankara on 2 April for protesting joblessness). **Labour/union protests**: As the economy struggled, laid-off workers and unions held frequent demos in 2021 – e.g. fired municipality workers in Aliağa, Izmir staged sit-ins; these were often dispersed by police with detentions of lead organizers, sometimes repetitively (the same workers detained week after week). **Relatives of victims and dissidents**: Notably, the *Saturday Mothers* (relatives of 1980s-90s disappearance victims) were again prevented from holding their peaceful sit-in in Galatasaray Square, Istanbul. Even though Turkey's Constitutional Court in 2019 had said blocking their 700th vigil was unlawful, in 2021 authorities still did not allow gatherings; when they tried, **police detained many elderly participants and rights advocates** on at least several occasions, underscoring the continuous nature of this violation.

Use of Force and Injuries: 2021's protest policing was marked by **increased use of crowd-control weapons** and physical violence. For example, during student protests in Ankara in February, police not only detained dozens but allegedly used plastic bullets at close range, causing injuries (some students showed bruises and one was hospitalized). At the Newroz rally in Istanbul, video evidence showed police kicking protesters on the ground. In another instance, on 1 May in Istanbul, officers were filmed kneeling on a protester's neck – a dangerous restraint – drawing condemnation from activists. The Turkish Medical Association reported that during 2021 protests they treated multiple cases of head trauma from police batons and canisters. The *Turkey Human Rights Foundation (TIHV)* documented that **at least**

45 protesters were injured by police nationwide in 2021[22] (this is likely an undercount, capturing only the more serious or reported injuries). High-profile victims of force included opposition MPs: in November, during a protest in Şırnak against villagers' killings, HDP MP Habip Eksik had his leg broken by police and another MP suffered a broken nose.

Legal Repercussions: The year 2021 saw a continuation of **protest-related trials**. A worrying development was the **mass trial of 108 HDP politicians and activists in the so-called "Kobani case"** – accusing them of instigating violence during 2014 protests. That trial began in April 2021 and included assembly-related charges; it signalled that participation in protests years ago could lead to terrorism prosecutions now. Separately, courts delivered **verdicts aiming to deter protest**: e.g. in June, a court in Şanlıurfa convicted 19 people for attending a 2018 protest, giving each 5 months prison (the charge was obstructing police). Administrative bodies also punished protest activity – as noted earlier, some student protesters were expelled from their universities or dormitories by administrative order. Additionally, the government used its executive powers to quash labour strikes in 2021 (viewing strikes as a form of assembly): on several occasions, President Erdoğan issued decrees "postponing" strikes in industries like metal and glass on national security grounds (effectively banning the strikes), which unions decried as violating workers' assembly/association rights.

International and Domestic Reactions: By 2021, Turkey's crackdown on assembly was drawing more scrutiny. The *UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Association and Assembly* expressed concern, in a May 2021 statement, about the excessive force used against Boğaziçi students and the general trend of banning protests – though the government dismissed these concerns. Domestically, opposition MPs like Sezgin Tanrıkulu (CHP) compiled monthly reports, highlighting for instance that **at least 722 people were detained in February 2021 alone for attending protests, press statements or distributing leaflets**. These statistics were used in Parliament to question the Interior Minister, but the official stance remained that such actions were necessary for security or pandemic control. Courts gave some victories: in December 2021, Turkey's Council of State (top administrative court) ruled that the blanket ban in Adana province was unlawful due to lack of specific threat – a decision that, while positive, applied only to that case and came well after the ban's period.

In conclusion, **2021 was characterized by pervasive repression of assemblies** at a level higher than 2020. The combination of continuous blanket bans and large-scale police operations (with hundreds arrested in single protests) showed a further closing of space. As the year ended, the trends showed no sign of reversal – indeed, 2022 would see these patterns continue, with some protests (like Pride) facing even larger crackdowns.

[22] Türkiye İnsan Hakları Vakfı. (2021, December 9). *Verilerle 2021 yılında Türkiye'de İnsan Hakları İhlalleri - TİHV - Türkiye İnsan Hakları Vakfı*. TİHV - Türkiye İnsan Hakları Vakfı. https://tihv.org.tr/ozel-raporlar-ve-degerlendirmeler/verilerle-2021-yilinda-turkiyede-insan-haklari-ihlalleri/

Developments in 2022

General Situation: In 2022, Turkey's restrictions on peaceful assembly remained firmly in place and, in certain respects, **grew even more entrenched**. The year was marked by deepening economic hardship and political tensions in Turkey, which in turn gave rise to numerous protests – by workers, opposition groups, students, women, environmentalists, and ethnic minorities. The authorities answered these civic expressions with the by-now familiar array of **blanket bans, forceful dispersals, and judicial harassment**. According to the Turkey Rights Monitor's analysis for 2022[23], there was *"no structural amelioration"* in the space for peaceful assembly; rather, the practices from prior years **continued or even consolidated**, with the state showing a consistent pattern of **pre-emptive prohibition and heavy-handed policing**.

Persistent Blanket Bans: By 2022, the concept of an indefinite protest ban in some provinces had become normalized. **Van province** remained under an uninterrupted assembly ban for the sixth year running (renewed like clockwork every 15 days). Hakkari, Şırnak, Muş, Siirt, Tunceli, Mardin – all predominantly Kurdish-populated – similarly had virtually unbroken bans, usually renewed on a fortnightly or monthly basis. These provinces effectively had no legal avenue for any public protest; even outdoor press statements by MPs were technically forbidden under the blanket orders. Local civil society noted that some ban proclamations were copy-pastes from one period to the next, with identical wording about "terror threats" or "COVID-19 spread" used continuously, undermining their credibility. Additionally, **district governors** (sub-provincial authorities) started issuing micro-level bans in anticipation of specific events: for example, ahead of planned protests by students over dorm fees or by miners marching for unpaid wages, *district governorships* in places like Zonguldak or Bartın banned gatherings just in those districts for a short window. This indicated a more fine-grained use of administrative power to thwart assemblies at the local level, complementing the broader provincial bans.

Thematic and Pre-emptive Bans: 2022 saw an uptick in bans targeting certain **themes or communities**. One of the most significant was the crackdown on LGBTI+ assemblies: during Pride Month (June 2022), *at least eight provinces* – including major cities like İstanbul, Ankara, İzmir, as well as Eskişehir, Muğla, Aydın, Antalya, Adana – issued explicit bans on **all Pride-related events**. These bans covered not just marches but even film screenings, panel discussions, and indoor activities organised by LGBTI+ groups, representing a broad attempt to erase queer visibility in public fora. Similarly, **women's rights gatherings** were proactively banned: e.g., several localities forbade any assembly around 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women), anticipating protests about Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention and ongoing femicides. Another theme

[23] See Annex 3.

was **commemorations and anniversaries**: authorities remained extremely sensitive to dates like the Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day (24 April) – in 2022, for the second year in a row, Istanbul's governor banned memorial events by civil society, and police blocked people who tried to gather in remembrance. Also, events planned to commemorate the October 2015 Ankara bombing (an ISIS attack on a peace rally) were shut down by bans in Ankara, reflecting an unwillingness to allow assemblies that could be implicitly critical of state security lapses.

Notably, officials continued to invoke **COVID-19** to justify bans even when pandemic conditions had eased. By early 2022, Turkey had lifted most general COVID restrictions (schools, businesses reopened, mass events like football matches were held with crowds). Yet, when it came to opposition protests, some ban orders still cited "public health" as a reason. For example, a January 2022 ban in Diyarbakır mentioned COVID-19 even though large government rallies were occurring unimpeded. This selective invocation did not go unnoticed: activists accused authorities of using COVID-19 as a *pretext* rather than a genuine rationale. Indeed, by mid-2022, the more forthright ban orders dropped pandemic excuses and leaned entirely on "security" grounds, especially linking to terrorism concerns if Kurdish groups or leftists were involved.

State of Emergency Legacy: It's worth noting that all these banning practices have their roots in the state-of-emergency regime that followed the 2016 coup attempt. Although the state of emergency ended in 2018, many emergency-style powers (like governors' expanded authority to ban gatherings) were codified into law. 2022 exemplified how those powers had become **permanent fixtures**, used routinely to suppress civil activism. There were no legislative reforms in 2022 to scale back governors' powers under the Provincial Administration Law or Meetings and Demonstrations Law – on the contrary, the government introduced and passed new legislation constraining civil society (for instance, a disinformation law targeting social media protests, and laws enabling shutting down associations for alleged extremist links). All these set a **constrained environment for assemblies**.

Policing of Assemblies: On the ground, 2022's policing was highly proactive and often severe. Security forces (police in urban centres, gendarmerie in rural areas) were **deployed in anticipation** of protests and intervened at the earliest opportunity. A hallmark was the use of **"zero tolerance" tactics** – i.e., not allowing even small groups to gather before breaking them up. The data show that many interventions happened *before* any march or rally actually commenced. For instance, on **1 May 2022**, Istanbul police didn't wait for a crowd to march; they stopped individuals on side streets heading toward Taksim and detained them – ultimately **164 people were detained in Istanbul on May Day 2022** in this pre-emptive manner. Similarly, for planned protests against economic policies, often the organizers were detained at their meeting point (like a park or union office) prior to marching.

Labour and Economic Protests: 2022's dire economic inflation (which at one point officially hit 80% year-on-year) triggered many local protests: farmers protesting high fuel prices, students holding sit-ins over housing and dorm costs, shopkeepers demonstrating against electricity bill hikes, etc. The state's response remained heavy-handed across these socioeconomic protests. The report notes that **labour protests multiplied** and were systematically met with interventions. For example, workers from a tire factory in İzmir held a peaceful march for unpaid wages – police declared it unlawful and detained 30 workers. In another case, in **Mersin**, a youth group protesting high rents and cost of living was confronted by riot police; at least 90 people were detained in one day during a protest in January 2022 over soaring inflation, as mentioned earlier. The consistency of response suggests a policy of **preventing any protest that could amplify criticism of the government's economic management**. It wasn't just public sector or traditionally politicized unions; even spontaneous gatherings of citizens complaining about prices were shut down. This represents an expansion of assembly repression into the economic realm, not just sensitive identity or political issues.

Newroz and Kurdish Assemblies: As always, March was a critical time due to Newroz (celebrated by Kurds and others). 2022 saw **intensive policing of Newroz events**. In Diyarbakır, tens of thousands attended the official Newroz festival; while that event itself proceeded with permission, in its aftermath police monitored and later detained many attendees. The monitor records that in April 2022, police **detained 66 individuals on terrorism charges for their attendance at the Diyarbakır Newroz** celebrations in March. The evidence cited was things like slogans or songs at the event. Also on Newroz day, outside the permitted venues, any impromptu street celebrations were broken up – e.g. in Istanbul's low-income districts, young Kurds dancing Newroz *halay* were detained by patrols. Additionally, any protests around Kurdish political issues (like military operations in Syria or the prison conditions of PKK leader Öcalan) were swiftly quashed. In October 2022, for instance, when Kurdish groups tried to protest Turkish airstrikes in northern Iraq/Syria, police in multiple cities arrested organizers and banned gatherings under blanket "anti-terror" justifications.

Women's and LGBTI+ Protests: Turkey's official withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention became effective in 2021, and by 2022 women's groups were still protesting this decision and the broader issue of femicides. The authorities continued to apply a heavy hand. On **8 March 2022**, the annual Women's Day night march in Istanbul was banned for the second year in a row; police closed off streets, yet hundreds of women marched regardless. They were met with pepper gas and at least **78 people were detained** that night. Similar detentions occurred in Ankara and Izmir. In November (25 Nov 2022), protests against gender-based violence were also suppressed, with dozens detained (this set the stage for the mass detentions of 169 women on 26 Nov 2024 mentioned earlier). For **LGBTI+ communities**, 2022 was one of the worst years: not only was Istanbul Pride violently crushed with 373 detentions, but smaller pride events throughout June were targeted. In Ankara, police pre-emptively sealed off the METU campus on the day of a planned pride march and arrested those who gathered regardless. The **use of strip searches** and rough treatment of LGBTI+ detainees was reported;

some students detained at pride protests alleged humiliation in custody (echoing patterns from Boğaziçi). The ferocity of the 2022 pride crackdown drew condemnation from the EU and international human rights groups, but domestically, authorities justified it by framing Pride events as provocations contrary to "Turkish values." As the monitor noted, *Covid-19 continued to be invoked selectively to prohibit opposition-led gatherings, while pro-government activities were permitted* – Pride being a clear example of selective prohibition under dubious reasoning.

Environmental Protests: Throughout 2022, local environmental campaigns (against quarries, deforestation, mining, pollution) persisted and often met official resistance. In the Black Sea region, villagers protesting gold mining or stone quarries (Artvin, Rize provinces) found their protests being broken up by gendarmerie squads. In one notable case in İkizdere (Rize), villagers (mostly women) blocking a road to prevent a quarry's construction were dispersed with pepper spray in spring 2022, leading to a number of injuries and detentions. The monitor also highlights an incident in western Turkey: *37 environmental activists were collectively sentenced to over 42 years in prison* – this references a trial concluding in 2022 where activists protesting a geothermal power plant in Aydın were convicted of various offenses (like resisting police). Such harsh sentencing is intended to deter future environmental protests. By punishing not just immediate protest actions but also pursuing long-term legal consequences, the authorities signalled that environmental dissent too would be dealt with severely.

Judicial and Administrative Harassment: The year saw **numerous prosecutions and convictions** that exemplify the criminalization trend. A key example: groups of journalists and NGO workers in the southeast were convicted of "membership of an armed group" largely due to their attendance at rallies or affiliation with protest-organizing groups. The justice system also kept alive older protest cases: *Gezi Park* protest retrials culminated in April 2022 with the shocking conviction of Osman Kavala (to life imprisonment) and several co-defendants (to 18 years) for allegedly organizing the 2013 protests – despite an earlier acquittal and an ECtHR ruling for Kavala's release.[24] This sent a chilling message that the highest level of punishment could await those deemed protest "ringleaders." In 2022, Turkey ignored the Council of Europe's moves to sanction it over the Kavala case, pressing ahead with these convictions, which entwine freedom of assembly with broader repression of dissent.

On the **administrative side**, authorities increasingly used **financial and regulatory punishments**. The report notes at least one former public servant (Acun Karadağ) being hit with substantial fines and even property confiscation for continuing to protest his dismissal. Additionally, banned protests often led to people receiving administrative fines for violating ban orders or pandemic rules – adding an economic penalty to the risk of protesting.

[24] *See footnote 3.*

In summary, **2022 was a year of continuity in assembly restrictions**, with a few areas of escalation (particularly LGBT and women's protests, and harsh sentencing of protest figures). The combination of economic crisis and approaching elections (due 2023) perhaps made the government even more determined to squash any sign of organized dissent, fearing that protests could coalesce into a larger movement. As the next section shows, 2023 – an election year with major events – continued this pattern, with new contexts like earthquake-related protests adding to the assembly rights challenge.

Developments in 2023

Context: The year 2023 was exceptionally eventful in Turkey, featuring **major political and social developments** that had a direct bearing on the freedom of assembly. Two key context points stand out: first, the catastrophic **February 2023 earthquakes** in southern Turkey, which led to significant public criticism of the state's response; and second, the **general elections in May 2023**, which were fiercely contested and saw President Erdoğan secure another term amidst opposition allegations of unfair conditions. Both these factors precipitated waves of protests – the former out of anger and grief, the latter out of political contention – and in both cases, authorities responded as they had in prior years: with bans, heavy policing, and arrests. Additionally, Turkey's economic malaise persisted, fueling labour and cost-of-living protests, and long-running issues like Kurdish rights and women's rights remained flashpoints. According to the monitoring data for 2023[25], the patterns of previous years *"further consolidated"* – meaning the repressive measures became, if anything, more entrenched. There were, however, a few notable **jurisprudential developments**: courts sometimes issued protective rulings (e.g. acquitting protesters or deeming certain bans unlawful), but these positive moves were limited and often came after long delays.

Continuation of Blanket Bans: In 2023, **blanket bans by governorates** were as prevalent as ever. Hakkari, Siirt, Mardin, Tunceli, Van, Şırnak, and Bingöl were among those frequently mentioned for repeatedly prohibiting all public assemblies for successive periods. These bans were often worded in an extremely broad manner – by end of the year, for instance, **Şırnak and Urfa issued sweeping orders** barring virtually *any form of protest activity*, explicitly listing even passive actions like opening stands, setting up tents, or hunger strikes as forbidden. The normalization of such bans meant that in large parts of the country, peaceful assembly could only take place covertly or in defiance of the law. It's also worth noting that, in 2023, some bans started to incorporate **movement restrictions**: e.g., not just banning gatherings, but also **banning certain people from entering a province or district** during the ban (language like "persons who are presumed to come to our province to participate in unlawful protests are barred from entry" became more common). This effectively gave local officials the power to

[25] See Annex 4.

set up ad-hoc internal border controls, an extraordinary measure more reminiscent of emergency rule.

Pre-emptive and Thematic Bans: Authorities continued to **ban specific anticipated protests**. In April 2023, for example, ahead of the annual Armenian Genocide memorial date, the governors of İstanbul and Ankara both prohibited any public remembrance events by civil society. During Pride month (June 2023), as noted, multiple cities banned pride-related gatherings (even film screenings). And ahead of likely Kurdish protests (e.g. anniversaries of Öcalan's capture, or days of solidarity with hunger strikers), local bans popped up. One particularly striking instance was ahead of the **election night and aftermath**: anticipating that either outcome could lead to street demonstrations (either in celebration or protest of results), authorities in big cities prepared with restrictive orders and heavy police deployments. For instance, a few days before the May 14 general election, the Ankara governor banned any public gatherings "that could disrupt election security," clearly signalling that post-election protests would not be allowed.

Earthquake-Related Protests: The tragic earthquakes of February 6, 2023 (centred in Kahramanmaraş) killed tens of thousands and left millions homeless. In the quake's aftermath, there was widespread public solidarity but also **public fury** at alleged government mismanagement, corruption in building codes, and the slow rescue response. By late February, small protests and press conferences by opposition parties and citizen groups started occurring. The government's reaction was to clamp down, likely fearful that anger could spiral. For instance, on **February 15, 2023**, a left-wing party attempted a press conference in Istanbul about earthquake negligence; police intervened and detained around 30 people, including survivors and activists, using force. Subsequently, in March, larger demonstrations took place in Istanbul's Kadıköy (a traditional protest district) where protesters chanted against corrupt contractors and officials. These too were met with a crackdown: on February 12, police detained about **40 people** at one quake protest in Istanbul, and on April 4 detained another **20** at a related gathering. By the end of March, the authorities escalated further – as noted in the Monitor, **97 protesters** who had demonstrated shortly after the quakes were indicted on serious charges (like inciting hatred) on the theory that their slogan "corruption kills" was a criminal accusation against the state. This kind of prosecutorial overreach shows the determination to *criminalize dissent even in the context of disaster grievances*. The harsh approach likely tamped down further quake protests; nonetheless, the episode stands as evidence that not even in the face of national tragedy would authorities tolerate spontaneous public assembly critical of the government.

Elections and Political Protests: The run-up to the May 2023 general elections and their aftermath saw numerous assembly rights issues. During the campaign, opposition parties complained that police and local officials frequently **banned their rallies or interfered** with their campaign events under various pretexts (security, permit issues, etc.). Post-election, the

opposition's allegations of irregularities led to calls for protests. However, mindful of past crackdowns (and explicit warnings – for instance, the Interior Minister had warned that any post-election "disturbances" would be crushed), large protests didn't materialize in Ankara or Istanbul. Smaller gatherings that did occur were swiftly dispersed. On May 25 (the day of the presidential run-off), for example, some disappointed youth in Ankara gathered near the Supreme Electoral Board building; police declared the assembly unlawful and chased them off within minutes, detaining a few who resisted. Essentially, 2023's election period did *not* witness a repeat of something like the 2013 Gezi protests, in part because the state's pre-emptive bans and deterrence were effective at scaring people off mass protests.

Major Protest Flashpoints: Despite the caution around elections, **certain dates remained flashpoints** where people did mobilize and faced repression:

- **Newroz 2023:** As detailed earlier, this was one of the largest mass detention events of the year. On March 21, Newroz celebrations in Istanbul (Kazlıçeşme) drew a big crowd. When some attendees attempted to continue festivities in the streets afterward, police cracked down hard. Istanbul and several other cities saw a combined **272 detentions in one day** related to Newroz. Then in Diyarbakır on 22 March, authorities – armed with a list of "wanted" protest participants – detained **160 people** who had been at the official Newroz gathering the day before. Many of those detained were accused of chanting prohibited slogans or displaying symbols like the PKK flag. This showed a pattern of *post-facto* crackdown: allowing the cultural event under permit but then arresting people afterward based on surveillance of their behaviour at the event. Disturbingly, some detainees were minors and there were reports of rough treatment during these arrests.

- **May Day 2023:** Labour Day again saw a heavy response. The Istanbul governor had basically locked down the city centre: public transport was partially shut, thousands of police were deployed. Still, some labour unions and leftist groups attempted to march. Police reportedly detained at least **239 individuals in Istanbul** on May 1 – the highest such figure for May Day in several years. In Ankara and Izmir, smaller numbers (dozens) were detained. The fact that Taksim Square remained barred to workers (with courts later ruling that ban unlawful) underscores the symbolic battle over public space.

- **Saturday Mothers Vigils:** The Saturday Mothers – who meet weekly in Istanbul to demand justice for victims of enforced disappearance – continued to face an official ban on their traditional gathering place (Galatasaray Square) since 2018. They attempted to assemble in 2023 at other locations or in defiance of the ban, usually resulting in detentions. For example, on the 700+ week of their vigil (August 2023), police detained about 20 of them and rights defenders. This pattern recurred often: the monitor notes 20–50 activists detained at a time in Istanbul or Adana at these vigils. In March 2023, encouragingly, an Istanbul court acquitted 46 Saturday Mothers who had been on trial for attending the banned 2018 vigil, affirming that their assembly was peaceful and lawful. However, despite this legal victory, the police did

not cease blocking the vigils in 2023, illustrating the gap between court decisions and police practice.

- **Gezi Park Commemoration:** May-June 2023 marked 10 years since the Gezi Park protests of 2013. The government was keen to prevent any significant remembrance. When small crowds tried to gather in Gezi Park (Istanbul) and Kuğulu Park (Ankara) on May 31, holding photos of those killed in 2013, police swiftly moved in. In Istanbul, dozens were detained and loaded onto buses. Among them were family members of the deceased protesters, highlighting the cruelty of denying even commemorative assemblies. This hardline stance showed the state's enduring sensitivity about Gezi's legacy.
- **Enforced Disappearances Protests:** 2023 saw a revival of protests by families of people allegedly abducted by the state (or its proxies). For example, relatives of a disappeared Kurdish activist protested outside a government office in February 2023; police not only broke it up but **briefly detained a father and his two young children** who were protesting (this happened in Malatya around Newroz, per news reports). Such incidents, though small-scale, further demonstrate the indiscriminate nature of assembly repression (detaining children at a protest indicates extreme measures).

Jurisprudential Developments: On the legal front in 2023, **two positive court decisions** are highlighted by the monitor: the acquittal of Saturday Mothers activists in March, and an appeals court ruling in August that the **2024** ban on May Day in Taksim was unlawful. The latter is interesting: an appeals court in Istanbul essentially said that the government's blanket prohibition on the 2024 May Day demonstration in Taksim (enforced that year) violated the freedom of assembly due to Taksim's historical importance. This suggests some parts of the judiciary acknowledging that such blanket location bans are disproportionate. However, this decision came after May Day 2024 had already been suppressed, and it's unclear if it will prevent future bans – given that in 2025, authorities still pre-emptively banned 1 May gatherings in Taksim, the appeals court ruling notwithstanding. So judicial oversight has been inconsistent: a few courts make rights-affirming rulings, but others continue to authorize crackdowns (or issues don't reach courts in time).

Overall: 2023 continued the **contraction of civic space**. Heavy-handed measures that had become routine since 2016 remained in full effect. There was arguably an *escalation* in one sense: the **mass arrests in 2023 (Newroz, May Day)** were larger than in 2020-2022 (except Pride 2022). But this was soon overshadowed by 2025's even larger mass arrests. The conclusion from 2023 is that the state had by then developed a finely tuned system to deter and suppress any assembly: legally via bans, physically via overwhelming force, and punitively via prosecutions. Thus, even as opposition politics remained alive (the CHP did win some key mayoralties in 2023 local elections later that year, for instance), opposition *street protest* was largely kept in check through intimidation and direct repression.

The final chapter, 2024–2025, shows this system reaching an apex – especially with the massive clampdown in 2025 around the mayor's arrest, which the monitor data calls a further narrowing of civic space.

Developments in 2024

General Trends: In 2024, Turkey's trajectory of assembly rights violations persisted unabated, with some indications of **escalation in response to specific political triggers**. The year was marked by intense political developments, including the March 2024 **local elections** (which led to contested outcomes in some municipalities) and ongoing security operations in the Kurdish southeast. These, alongside the ever-present economic grievances and social issues, kept the protest environment active – and the state's repressive apparatus busy. The Turkey Rights Monitor's chapter for 2024[26] notes a "continuation—and in some areas, escalation—of practices documented in previous years," highlighting that **blanket bans remained extensive, police interventions often turned violent, and criminalization of protesters continued**. Moreover, by 2024 authorities were not only reacting to protests but also **pre-emptively coordinating repression** (e.g. simultaneous multi-province bans, joint security operations across provinces), reflecting a perhaps more centralized approach to quashing dissent.

Blanket Bans and Movement Restrictions: Throughout 2024, **governors in numerous provinces kept imposing sweeping bans** on assemblies. The list was familiar – Van, Şırnak, Mardin, Bitlis, Ağrı, Siirt, Bingöl, Şanlıurfa, etc., all had broad prohibitions in place repeatedly. These bans tended to cover "virtually all forms of public assembly" including not just protests and marches but also press statements, vigils, cultural events, even setting up tents or stands. An added dimension in 2024 was that some bans came with **internal travel restrictions**: for example, after contentious local election incidents, **Şanlıurfa and Şırnak's governors imposed entry/exit restrictions** along with protest bans, effectively sealing off certain districts for the ban's duration. Such measures essentially create "**security zones**" reminiscent of emergency rule. One cited instance: in late 2024, after unrest related to a local political trial (the Kobanê trial verdict), 12 provinces at once banned protests and some (like Şırnak) barred non-residents from entering towns during that period. This coordination suggests direction from central authorities to act in unison.

Event-Specific Prohibitions: Authorities continued to target certain kinds of events disproportionately. In April 2024, as in prior years, Armenian Genocide **remembrance ceremonies** in İstanbul were banned – police prevented even a small memorial gathering in Taksim organized by human rights NGOs, citing the governor's ban. **Newroz 2024** was heavily policed (the lead-up saw house raids and preventive detentions, as mentioned under 2023).

[26] See Annex 5.

Also, **election-related gatherings** became a new category: After the March 2024 local elections, protests erupted in places where winning opposition candidates (especially from the pro-Kurdish DEM Party and the secular CHP in a few cases) were not allowed to assume office. The government in several Kurdish-majority cities voided election results or removed newly elected mayors by citing pending investigations. This triggered protests by locals chanting "Respect our vote." The state's response was swift bans on any such demonstrations and tough policing (more below). **LGBTI+ events** again faced bans: e.g., various Pride month events (like university Pride marches, queer film festivals) were prohibited by district governorships or university administrations – part of the ongoing trend of stifling LGBTI+ visibility. **Kurdish cultural events** such as concerts in Kurdish language were often banned or shut down, reflecting that even non-political cultural expression by Kurds was targeted as potentially "provocative."

Election-Related Protests – Van and Others: A standout development in 2024 was the **wave of protests following the local elections**, particularly in the southeast. In the city of **Van**, the pro-Kurdish DEM Party won the mayoralty, but the central government refused to let the winning candidate (who was formerly an HDP politician) take office, citing a prior statutory decree that barred him (related to the post-2016 purge). Instead, the Interior Ministry appointed a *trustee* (government administrator) to run the municipality – effectively overruling the voters. This sparked outrage in Van. In July 2024, thousands gathered in Van city centre to protest the appointment of a trustee and demand the elected mayor be instated. The authorities had, unsurprisingly, **banned all assemblies** in Van at that time, but protesters defied it. The result was one of the **most violent crackdowns of the year**: police and armoured gendarmerie units confronted protesters with **tear gas, water cannons, and plastic bullets**, causing numerous injuries, and **detained some 340 people in Van in one day**. Over the following week, raids continued and about 23 more people were formally arrested (remanded) on charges like disrupting public order and resisting police. NGOs (like the Human Rights Association) later documented that many detainees in Van alleged **excessive force**: at least 20 had serious injuries (fractures, etc.), consistent with plastic bullets fired at close range. Among those hurt were journalists – at least 6 journalists covering the Van protests were detained and some beaten (cameras confiscated). Van wasn't alone: similar **"trustee protests"** occurred in places like **Siirt** and **Mardin** when their DEM Party mayors were removed and replaced with state appointees. In Siirt, for example, a protest in April led to about 50 detentions and reports of heavy-handed police actions. The coordinated use of **multi-province bans** after the Kobanê verdict (where a Turkish court sentenced dozens of HDP politicians to long sentences on terrorism charges in April 2024) also triggered protests which were quickly suppressed.

These incidents illustrate how the assembly right was squashed specifically to prevent any challenge to the government's political control, even at the expense of overriding democratic election outcomes. **Heavy-handed policing around election issues** became a hallmark of 2024.

Labour and Union Protests: The economic situation (high inflation, etc.) ensured that workers continued to agitate for better conditions. 2024 saw several large-scale labour demonstrations met with tough responses:

- In **İstanbul (Arnavutköy)**, residents protested the demolition of their homes for an urban redevelopment project. This local protest escalated when demolition teams came with police escorts, and residents resisted. Police detained **104 people** in one day during these confrontations, an unusually high number for a housing protest. Many of those detained were women and children of the neighborhood, highlighting that entire communities were criminalized for protesting losing their homes.
- In **Manisa (Soma region)**, coal miners who attempted to march to Ankara to demand unpaid compensations were blocked by gendarmerie, and about **70 miners were detained** during various sit-in protests in April 2024. Additionally, in Manisa's Akhisar, protests against the closure of a mine saw mass detentions and allegations of beatings in custody.
- In **Çatalca (Istanbul outskirts)**, around **80 construction and logistics workers** striking over working conditions were detained in June 2024. Workers reported that after being taken into custody, they were subjected to *reverse handcuffing* (hands cuffed behind back for hours) and some were beaten – an abuse specifically flagged by the UN Committee Against Torture in 2024 as needing to end.[27] The fact that such treatment persisted shows the lack of accountability for police misconduct.
- Teachers and public sector workers also held protests (for example, temporary contract teachers demanding permanent jobs). These were usually small rallies in front of Ministry buildings – in Ankara, Istanbul – and often broken up with a few detentions each time. The cumulative effect, however, is that any collective bargaining or demonstration by workers was systematically stifled.

Kurdish Political and Prisoner Protests: Aside from the mayoral issues, Kurds continued to protest prison conditions (especially the isolation of Abdullah Öcalan, who has been held incommunicado). Throughout 2024, **families of prisoners** and activists attempted marches or vigils to highlight the issue of seriously ill prisoners and isolation. These were usually banned and dispersed. For example, in Diyarbakır, groups gathering to demand communication with Öcalan were arrested; in one such protest in Oct 2024, about 30 were detained, including some HDP provincial leaders. Additionally, the year saw **house raids against people for slogans or social media posts about Kurdish rights** – these are more in the realm of expression, but it bleeds into assembly as these often targeted folks who participated in rallies.

[27] See footnote 3.

Women's Rights Protests: As noted, the **detentions of 169 women in Istanbul on 26 Nov 2024** was a major incident. This was one day after a global day highlighting violence against women. Women's organizations had tried to march on Istiklal Street; the Istanbul governor had banned any such event in advance (as had become routine since withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention). When a large group defied the ban, riot police responded with tear gas and mass arrests. 169 is a very large number for a women's protest, indicating how widespread and determined the participation was, but also how sweeping the police operation was. Many of those women were released next day, but some faced charges of violating the meetings law and insulting officers, etc.

Earlier in 2024, on **8 March (Women's Day)**, protests in multiple cities were again violently broken up. In Istanbul, police pre-emptively closed metro stations and streets to prevent the night march; still hundreds gathered and at least dozens were detained. Similarly, in Ankara's Çankaya, riot police encircled women's rights protesters and detained around 20. The consistency of this suppression – year after year – shows that authorities treat feminist mobilization as on par with other "threats" requiring force, a stark contrast to Turkey's earlier years where Women's Day marches were often allowed.

LGBTI+ Assemblies: Compared to 2022, 2024 Pride events were smaller (many people were deterred given what happened in 2022). However, any attempt at public Pride was met with the same resolve. In Istanbul, a short-lived Pride gathering in June 2024 led to **15 detentions** – tiny compared to 2022, but reflecting that those who still dared were immediately arrested. A notable case was in Ankara in Nov 2024: a small group held a Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil; police intervened and **detained 4 individuals including a monitoring lawyer**. This suggests that even very modest, symbolic assemblies of LGBTI+ persons (with no march, just a vigil) were not tolerated.

Legal Prosecutions and Sanctions: The criminalization of protestors continued through 2024. Two trends were evident:

- **Terrorism charges**: Following mass detentions like the Van protests, many individuals were charged under Anti-Terror Law or penal code provisions like "membership of an armed organization" simply for participating in a protest that authorities linked to the PKK. For example, after the **Newroz 2024** events, the monitoring notes *206 people, including 38 children, were detained* and likely many of them charged under terror or unlawful assembly laws. Similarly, dozens from the Van trustee protests were charged with "propaganda for a terrorist group" on the accusation that they chanted pro-HDP or pro-Kurdish slogans.
- **Continued prosecutions for older protests**: The judicial system persisted in prosecuting historic protest cases. In 2024, for instance, courts delivered verdicts in cases from the 2014 Kobani protests (the mega trial convicting 108 HDP figures) and

even cases from the 2013 Gezi protests (e.g. upholding or increasing sentences against already jailed activists like Osman Kavala, who remains imprisoned against ECtHR orders[28]). Also, new indictments came out for participants in the 2021 Boğaziçi protests, demonstrating how authorities don't forget and keep litigation alive to punish dissent.

- **Association closures and deportations**: A notable occurrence in late 2024 was the forced **dissolution of the Migration Monitoring Association (GÖÇİZ-DER)**. This NGO was known to support families of prisoners and document rights abuses; it got dissolved by court order for alleged terrorism ties. This is part of a pattern of targeting civil society organizations that are in some way connected to protest movements (for instance, earlier the We Will Stop Femicide Platform was also threatened with closure). Also, an emerging tactic was to threaten foreign nationals who joined protests (e.g. some Syrian or Iranian refugees who protested for rights were told they could be deported – though these were relatively isolated cases).

Outlook by end of 2024: By the close of 2024, the monitoring report states that the practices reflect a "consolidation of restrictive tendencies observed since 2016, with no structural improvement". Essentially, 2024 made clear that the repression of assembly had become a stable norm in Turkey. The idea of spontaneously gathering to protest any issue had become fraught with danger across the political spectrum (whether you're a worker, a student, a Kurdish activist, a woman, or LGBT). The final straw came in early 2025 with the İmamoğlu protests, where the scale of crackdown surpassed even Van 2024 or Pride 2022.

Developments in 2025 (January – November 2025)

General Trends: In the first 11 months of 2025, the **freedom of peaceful assembly in Turkey remained severely curtailed**, continuing the trajectory of prior years and even intensifying in some respects. The Turkey Rights Monitor data for 2025[29] (up to November) indicate that all the familiar tools of repression – blanket bans, militarized policing, mass detentions, prosecutorial overreach – were still firmly in use. Indeed, 2025 saw one of the **largest nationwide crackdowns** on protesters in recent memory (the response to the arrest of İstanbul's mayor in March). Political tensions were high: the year began with the controversial **arrest of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu** (a leading opposition figure), and saw continued government actions against elected Kurdish mayors (*five* more were removed by November 2025).[30] Additionally, the Israel-Gaza war in late 2025 spurred protests in Turkey, testing the state's tolerance for international solidarity demonstrations. All these factors contributed to a situation where, as the Monitor puts it, **practices from earlier years not only continued but in some aspects escalated, further narrowing civic space**.

[28] Ibid.
[29] See Annex 6.
[30] See footnote 3.

Blanket Bans and "Security Zones": By 2025, **blanket bans on assemblies** had become almost a reflex for local authorities whenever any hint of protest emerged. For instance, immediately after Mayor İmamoğlu's detention in late January 2025, the governor of **Siirt** (a city where related protests were expected because a pro-Kurdish mayor had also been removed) issued a **10-day blanket ban** on all gatherings and even forbade people and vehicles from entering certain areas. Likewise, in **Van**, as protests brewed over its removed mayor, the governor imposed successive **15-day bans** in February–March 2025, including restrictions on entering the province for "likely participants". It's clear these measures aimed to make it physically impossible for people to congregate. **Gaziantep and Kars** also had 10–15 day bans in 2025 with movement limitations. Later in the year, smaller scale bans popped up: e.g., **Tokat** (a Black Sea province with some student unrest) announced a 3-day total ban in October; **Çanakkale** banned all LGBTI+ related events for 2 days in October (during a Pride-linked film screening).

The language of the bans often now explicitly mentioned **"security zones"** and "temporary special security measures," revealing how emergency-style restrictions are embedded in normal governance. Essentially, authorities normalised the idea that whenever an assembly is anticipated, an area can be put off-limits, almost like a curfew or martial law in miniature. This is far beyond what Article 11 ECHR would permit under proportionality, highlighting Turkey's deep non-compliance.

Taksim and Symbolic Location Bans: As in previous years – but worth noting as a continued policy – the iconic **Taksim Square in Istanbul** remained off-limits by official decree for major protest dates. In 2025, both the run-up to **8 March Women's Day** and **1 May Labour Day** saw Taksim (and surrounding central districts) formally declared **protest-free zones** by local authorities. This has been the practice for nearly a decade now for 1 May, but codifying it each year demonstrates the entrenchment of this denial of a historically significant public forum. In 2025, it went so far that even a planned **one-day LGBTI+ press statement** (not even a march) by an NGO in Taksim was banned pre-emptively by the Beyoğlu district governor. This underscores that absolutely any assembly in these central areas, no matter how small or orderly, was being proscribed. The **normalisation of exceptional measures** – as the Monitor calls it – means that what should be extraordinary (barring public from assembling in the heart of a city) has become routine in Turkey.

Major Crackdown: Protests over Mayoral Removals (March 2025): The single most significant series of events for assembly rights in 2025 was the crackdown surrounding the removal and arrest of opposition mayors. It began in late January: the co-mayor of **Van**, Abdullah Zeydan (DEM Party), was removed and arrested on alleged terror charges, and a state trustee appointed in his stead. This triggered large protests in Van (as covered under 2024) with 127

detained in the initial incident and nearly 400 detained in total over subsequent days. Then came the bigger shock on **March 20, 2025** – İstanbul's popular mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu (CHP) was arrested (linked to an earlier conviction for "insulting public officials"). This unprecedented move against the highest-profile opposition politician led to **spontaneous protests in dozens of provinces** that evening and the following days. The government clearly anticipated backlash: on March 20 itself, as crowds gathered near Istanbul City Hall, riot police moved in with **rubber bullets and tear gas** to disperse thousands of protesters. Over that night, around **40 people** were detained in Istanbul (initially). But the protests grew – by March 21-22, demonstrations had erupted in **over 50 provinces** across Turkey in solidarity with İmamoğlu. This was likely the widest geographic spread of protests since the Gezi Park uprising of 2013.

The state responded with what can only be described as **mass repression on a national scale**. Interior Minister figures (mentioned in the Monitor) show that by 27 March, more than **1,800 people had been detained** in connection with these protests and **260 remained in pre-trial detention** (remanded). Those numbers are staggering, recalling the nationwide purges after the 2016 coup attempt. Cities like Ankara, İzmir, Adana, Antalya, Diyarbakır all saw dozens of detentions; in Istanbul alone, day after day of protests (despite ban orders) led to cumulatively around 500-600 arrests over the week. **Police brutality** was widely reported: protesters being beaten with batons (with some suffering broken bones), use of **"KIPs"** (kinetic impact projectiles, i.e. rubber bullets) at dangerously close range causing serious injuries, and heavy use of **tear gas including in confined spaces**. Rights groups and opposition media documented instances of protesters being kicked and punched after being subdued. Videos circulated of a line of detainees in Van being forced to kneel with hands behind heads (an abuse reminiscent of conflict zones). Meanwhile, **journalists** covering the protests were deliberately targeted: at least 6 journalists were detained in Van, and in Istanbul multiple press members were hit by police (some later said they were beaten despite showing press cards).

The government also used **administrative measures**: as noted, in Istanbul, Ankara, and İzmir, the governors issued **city-wide protest bans** and even blocked travel into those cities for persons "suspected" of intending to protest. Essentially, checkpoints were set up on highways to turn away busloads of people coming to join demonstrations. This kind of total lockdown approach is something typically seen under states of emergency or martial law, underscoring how extreme the response was.

The **Imamoğlu protest crackdown** thus stands as a grim milestone: it demonstrated that the state was willing to deploy all its coercive might to suppress a nationwide, largely peaceful protest movement, treating it almost as an insurrection. It also showed the broadening of targets: whereas earlier massive crackdowns (like those on Kurdish Newroz or Pride) targeted specific groups, this one targeted a more general pro-democracy protest wave that cut across

ethnic and ideological lines (CHP supporters, Kurds, liberals, etc., all protesting the jailing of an elected mayor).

Women's Rights and May Day 2025: Despite the Imamoğlu events, other familiar flashpoints remained on the calendar and were handled similarly:

- **Women's Day 2025:** As usual, authorities banned the 8 March Istanbul Feminist Night March for the 5th year in a row. On March 8-9, hundreds of women nonetheless gathered around Taksim and nearby streets. Police used **tear gas** and **detained around 200 women** on March 9. This was a larger number than in 2024 (when 78 were detained) and signals that perhaps more women defied the ban in 2025, only to face a harsher crackdown. Many of these women were released by next day but will likely face charges (in prior years, women detainees got charged with minor offenses or released on probation).
- **May Day 2025:** The approach was extremely heavy: the government deployed **52,000 police in Istanbul** (a number reported by the Interior Ministry) and effectively occupied the city to prevent any mass labour rally. Public transport was largely shut down to Taksim. Still, small groups tried to protest in various districts. Police detained **over 400 people in Istanbul** on May 1, 2025 – which is an even higher number than 2023. Among them were at least 9 volunteer lawyers from bar associations who were observing police conduct (they too were taken in, reflecting disregard for legal monitors). This was one of the biggest May Day crackdowns in recent times, indicating no relaxation of stance even after "winning" the general and local elections.
- **Palestine/Israel Protests 2025:** Unlike previous years, 2025 had the Israel-Gaza war context. Turkey's government under Erdoğan positioned itself as pro-Palestinian, yet interestingly, protests by left-wing and Islamist groups in Turkey criticizing specific aspects (like Turkey's trade with Israel or insufficient support for Gaza) were still policed. In January 2025, as noted, **3 protesters** in Istanbul were detained for displaying banners against trading with Israel. In June, protests at an arms expo suspected of Israeli participation led to detentions in Istanbul/Ankara. And after the Gaza war escalated in October 2025, some small spontaneous protests occurred; some were allowed if overtly pro-Palestine (since that aligns with gov stance), but if protesters combined it with anti-Erdoğan slogans (as some leftists did, calling Erdoğan a collaborator), those individuals were arrested and in one case a protester remained jailed for slogans like "Murderer Israel, collaborator Erdoğan". This shows that even foreign policy-related protests are fine line – supporting Palestinians was okay so long as it didn't criticize Turkey's government.

Students and Academics: In 2025, *student protests* continued, albeit on a smaller scale post-Boğaziçi era. Nevertheless, issues like high dorm fees, cafeteria prices, or academic freedoms

spurred campus demonstrations. Many of these were contained internally by campus security, but occasionally police were called in, resulting in detentions and *disciplinary actions* by universities. The Monitor highlights that students faced not just arrests but **evictions from dormitories** and threats to scholarships for protest involvement. This is a different lever of repression: administrative punishments in the educational sphere to deter activism.

Targeted Groups and Indictments: By late 2025, the profile of those facing prosecution for protest-related activities included a broad swath of civil society:

- **Kurdish community members**: Many are on trial in group indictments for Newroz events, 2014 protests, etc.
- **Women's rights defenders**: A major development was a *large-scale indictment of 168 women's rights activists* for a 2024 demonstration (likely the 25 Nov 2024 protest). Charging 168 women together indicates a strategy of mass trial to intimidate the entire movement.
- **LGBTI+ persons**: While many Pride detainees were released without charges, the government in 2025 was considering new legislation against what it terms "LGBT propaganda," threatening to further curtail assembly by that community.
- **Human rights defenders and lawyers**: People like Osman Kavala remained imprisoned. Also in 2025, one of the *Saturday Mothers* trials (for the 2018 vigil) was still ongoing until acquittal in March. Lawyers who protest in courthouses (e.g. against their colleagues' arrest) have been detained too, showing no one is off-limits.

Judicial Oversight (or lack thereof): The 2025 data do mention some positive developments: e.g., in March an İstanbul court acquitted the Saturday Mothers, and in August an appeals court said the 2024 May Day Taksim ban was unlawful. But they coexist with continuing prosecutions and new restrictive judgments (like convicting protestors of "obstructing an officer" for minor scuffles, as seen in an Ankara case from Feb 2021 protest resulting in conviction in Dec 2024). The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe was by 2025 proceeding with infringement against Turkey over ignoring ECtHR in Kavala and Demirtaş cases – a reflection that Turkey's repression of dissent (which includes assembly rights) had led it into unprecedented non-compliance territory within Europe.[31]

In conclusion, **January–November 2025 saw the culmination of Turkey's restrictive regime on peaceful assembly**. The space for protest was virtually non-existent without risking immediate police action and legal consequences. The authorities' willingness to undertake mass arbitrary detentions (as in March 2025) showed a complete disregard for international norms. Turkey's actions drew condemnation – the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

[31] Ibid.

in mid-2025 decried the mass detention and police brutality against protesters in Turkey in the context of a general report on protest repression globally. Domestically, however, with most independent media silenced or intimidated and many activists either jailed or cautious, the ability to even mount protests had been profoundly chilled.

Thus, by late 2025, the **right to freedom of peaceful assembly in Turkey was in a state of deep crisis** – effectively a right that existed more on paper than in reality for many segments of society. This sets the stage for the final concluding analysis, which will synthesize these findings and relate them to Turkey's legal obligations and broader human rights implications.

Concluding Analysis

Over the period June 2020 to November 2025, the Turkish authorities have engaged in a **systematic and patterned violation** of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. The evidence compiled in this report – spanning hundreds of incidents – demonstrates that what should be isolated or exceptional measures (like banning a protest or using force to disperse a gathering) have instead become **routine, generalized practices**. The persistence of these practices across six years suggests that they stem from deliberate policy, not ad hoc responses. In summary, the key characteristics of Turkey's assembly rights clampdown are:

- **Normalization of Blanket Bans:** Blanket, province-wide bans on all assemblies have been **normalized as a governance tool** in Turkey's provinces, especially those with opposition-leaning or Kurdish-majority populations. These bans, often continuously renewed over years, blatantly defy the principle of proportionality required by international law, which demands that any restriction on assembly be narrowly tailored to a specific threat. Instead, Turkish authorities have flouted even domestic court rulings that struck down such broad bans as disproportionate, and continued to impose them as a form of collective punishment or preemptive repression. The practice of coupling assembly bans with *de facto* curfews or internal travel restrictions (creating "security zones") further underscores how peacetime administrative measures have taken on a quasi-martial character. The **European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)** has a rich jurisprudence (including against Turkey) finding that blanket assembly prohibitions violate Article 11 ECHR. For example, in the *Oya Ataman* group of cases, the ECtHR criticized Turkey's tendency to disperse peaceful gatherings without tolerance. Yet, Turkey has largely ignored these standards – something reflected in the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers' ongoing supervision of Turkish cases on freedom of assembly, where little progress is reported.[32]
- **Heavy-Handed Policing and Use of Force:** Turkish law enforcement's approach to assemblies in this period can be characterized as **immediate, overwhelming force deployment**, often without gradation or negotiation. Security forces routinely

[32] *Oya Ataman v. Turkey*. (n.d.). https://hudoc.exec.coe.int/#{%22execidentifier%22:[%22004-37415%22]}

intervened in protests at their earliest stages, employing tactics such as kettling, batoning, use of pepper spray and tear gas, and mass detention of participants. The evidence shows numerous instances of **excessive force**: beating of peaceful demonstrators (including the elderly and disabled), use of rubber bullets at close range, and indiscriminate firing of tear gas into crowds. Such conduct frequently resulted in injuries – broken bones, head wounds, and other harm – which is indicative of disproportionate force. International standards (UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force, OSCE Guidelines) dictate that force in managing assemblies should be a last resort and strictly necessary and proportionate to the threat posed. However, Turkish policing has exhibited a pattern of **zero-tolerance** that tolerates little to no disruption from assemblies, contrary to ECtHR guidance that authorities must show a certain degree of tolerance towards peaceful gatherings. The UN Committee against Torture in 2024 specifically called out Turkey for allegations of ill-treatment "in a generalized manner" during protests and urged ending practices like **reverse handcuffing** and excessive force by police. This indicates that Turkey's protest policing methods have reached a level of severity that raises concerns under the prohibition of ill-treatment (let alone the right to assembly).

- **Mass Detentions as a Deterrent Tool:** Across 2020–2025, Turkish authorities repeatedly resorted to **mass, pre-emptive detentions** of protestors, often holding them briefly and releasing them without charge, but in numbers clearly aimed at deterrence. As documented, certain events saw detention figures in the high hundreds or even over a thousand (e.g. ~1,800 detentions in March 2025 protests, 373 detentions at 2022 Pride, ~340 in Van in 2024, ~255 on May Day 2021, etc.). These sweeping arrests, typically on suspicion of participating in "unlawful assembly" or violating ban orders, make a mockery of the principle that restrictions must target **individual wrongdoing** and not punish assembly *per se*. The **Human Rights Watch World Report 2025** notes that Turkish provincial authorities "regularly ban protests…and [that] police violently detain demonstrators" – often in defiance of courts that found such bans disproportionate. The scale and frequency of detentions reflect a policy of **criminalizing assembly attendance** itself, generating a chilling effect that dissuades many from exercising their rights.

- **Criminalization and Judicial Harassment:** The period in question saw an entrenched pattern of **criminalizing protest through prosecutions** and punitive legal measures. Protesters were commonly charged with terrorism-related offenses (Penal Code Articles 314, 220, Anti-Terror Law etc.) for acts as benign as attending a rally, carrying a banner, or chanting slogans. Lengthy **pretrial detentions** and trials have been used as a sword of Damocles over activists – for instance, the **Kobani trial** targeting 108 opposition figures for 2014 protests, or the trial of 16 civil society leaders over the 2013 Gezi Park protests (which in 2022 resulted in severe sentences despite ECtHR rulings). Additionally, large group indictments (168 women charged together for a single women's march; 206 Newroz celebrants indicted en masse) demonstrate a justice system geared towards intimidation rather than individualized accountability. The **European Court's Demirtaş (No.2) judgment of 2020** (Grand Chamber) expressly

found that Turkey's prolonged detention of a Kurdish opposition leader for his political speeches and role in protests pursued an "ulterior purpose" to stifle pluralism, thus violating Article 18 in conjunction with Article 5 of the ECHR. [33] [34] This reasoning resonates broadly: the misuse of terrorism charges against peaceful protesters suggests an ulterior aim to silence government critics and deter collective action. Turkey's failure to implement such ECtHR judgments – indeed continuing to convict people like Demirtaş or Kavala on similar grounds – underscores a persistent **impunity and defiance** of international law.

- **Disproportionate Impact on Specific Groups:** The brunt of assembly restrictions has fallen on certain communities, reflecting a pattern of **discriminatory or targeted enforcement**. Kurdish citizens and their political representatives have arguably suffered the most: virtually every expression of Kurdish identity or political dissent (Newroz celebrations, HDP rallies, protests against trustee appointments) has been met with bans and force. Over the review period, dozens of elected Kurdish mayors were removed and protests against these removals crushed – a situation denounced by European bodies as undermining democratic governance and minority rights. **Women's rights activists** and **LGBTI+ persons** have also been specifically targeted: women's marches and feminist rallies were systematically banned and dispersed (even though Turkey cites public order, the pattern shows a **gender-based suppression** of feminist voices), and Pride events have been banned in their entirety countrywide since 2015, with 2021–2025 bringing some of the harshest anti-LGBTI crackdowns on record. As Amnesty International observed, Turkish authorities increasingly deploy morality and security rhetoric to justify blocking LGBTI+ and women's rights assemblies, in violation of these groups' fundamental freedoms.[35] **Students, environmentalists, labour unions, and families of victims** similarly faced targeted crackdowns, as documented. This indicates that the restriction of assembly is *not* applied even-handedly, but rather focuses on those who challenge the government's policies or ideology – raising concerns under the principle of non-discrimination and equal protection of the law.

- **Undermining of Domestic and International Legal Checks:** Throughout this period, what limited judicial checks existed were often overridden or ignored by the executive. Domestic courts did occasionally rule in favour of protesters (e.g. acquitting participants, annulling certain ban orders, or the Constitutional Court finding some violations). However, these decisions were sporadic and their enforcement uneven. There is evidence that local authorities simply re-issued similar bans immediately after

[33] IPU. Decision adopted by consensus by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025). https://www.ipu.org/sites/default/files/documents/turkiye_-_e_0.pdf#:~:text=On%2022%20December%202020%2C%20the,T%C3%BCrkiye%20%28No

[34] Strasbourg Observers. (2025, August 27). *The ECtHR Judgment in Selahattin Demirtaş v. Türkiye (No. 4): A Landmark Case on Political Repression and Human Rights - Strasbourg Observers*. Strasbourg Observers. https://strasbourgobservers.com/2025/08/20/the-ecthr-judgment-in-selahattin-demirtas-v-turkiye-no-4-a-landmark-case-on-political-repression-and-human-rights/

[35] *Turkey (Türkiye) - United States Department of State*. (2025, January 3). United States Department of State. https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/turkey/

courts struck them down, or police continued practices that courts had deemed unlawful (such as preventing Saturday Mothers' vigils despite an acquittal ruling). On the international stage, Turkey's **non-compliance with ECtHR judgments** regarding assembly-related cases (notably *Kavala v. Turkey* and *Demirtaş v. Turkey (No. 2)*) led to rare infringement proceedings at the Council of Europe. The **United Nations Special Rapporteurs** and treaty bodies repeatedly raised alarms – for example, multiple UN Special Procedures communications in 2022-2025 criticized Turkey's suppression of women's protests and persecution of human rights defenders, and the **UN Human Rights Committee**, in General Comment No. 37 (2020), reminded states that blanket restrictions and fear of criticism are no excuse to violate Article 21 ICCPR. Turkey's trajectory from 2020 to 2025, however, shows increasing divergence from these norms, pointing to a deliberate policy choice to subordinate fundamental freedoms to asserted security and political interests.

Conclusion: In light of the above, it is evident that Turkey, in the 2020–2025 period, gravely breached its obligations to respect and ensure the right of peaceful assembly. The **overall picture is one of a continuing and deepening contraction of civic space**. Peaceful assembly – a right that enables individuals to express collective opinions and hold authorities accountable – has been treated as a threat to be neutralized. The Turkish authorities' approach, as documented, has been characterized by **preemptive suppression, excessive coercion, and punitive follow-up**, which together amount to a policy of silencing dissenting voices. This stands in stark contrast to the requirements of a democratic society governed by the rule of law. Both **Article 11 ECHR** and **Article 21 ICCPR** guarantee the right to peaceful assembly and allow restrictions only under narrow conditions. Turkey's blanket bans and mass crackdowns **fail the necessity and proportionality tests** that those treaties demand. Moreover, the apparently **politically motivated nature** of many interventions (e.g. cracking down on opposition-held areas or on protests embarrassing to the government) raises concern that repression of assembly is being used as a tool to entrench the ruling party's power – something fundamentally at odds with democratic principles.

The findings of this report call for urgent attention from international human rights bodies and the Turkish authorities themselves. Immediate steps should be taken to:

- **Lift undue blanket bans** and restore a case-by-case, proportionate approach to managing assemblies (as the ECtHR and OSCE recommend).
- **Revise legislation** (such as the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations) to prevent abuse of vague provisions (e.g. "endangering public order") for arbitrary bans, and bring them into line with OSCE/ODIHR guidelines.
- **Ensure accountability** for law enforcement: allegations of excessive force, torture or ill-treatment of protesters must be impartially investigated and those responsible held accountable – to date, impunity has prevailed.

- **Cease criminalizing peaceful protest**: drop charges and release individuals prosecuted solely for peaceful assembly involvement, and stop using anti-terrorism laws to persecute protesters. As the ECtHR noted in *İmret v. Turkey*[36] *(No. 2)*, attending a protest where some violence occurs does not automatically make one a terrorist – Turkey's courts need to internalize this principle.
- **Protect targeted groups**: Affirm that women's rights defenders, LGBTI+ activists, minority rights campaigners, students and labour unions have equal right to assemble, and stop the discriminatory banning of their events. The government should heed calls by UN experts who expressed concerns over the suppression of women's marches in Turkey and ensure a safe environment for all voices.
- **Engage with international mechanisms**: Implement ECtHR judgments related to freedom of assembly (thus far ignored), and invite the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Assembly and Association for a country visit to assist with reforms.

Without such changes, Turkey will remain in breach of its international commitments, and its slide away from democratic norms will continue. This report, by documenting the violations in meticulous detail, aims to support accountability efforts and encourage both domestic and international stakeholders to press for a reversal of these repressive trends. The right to peaceful assembly is a cornerstone of democratic society – its restoration in Turkey is essential for the country's return to a rights-respecting order where citizens can freely express their views, advocate for change, and hold their government to account without fear of violence or reprisal.

Solidarity With OTHERS

Belgium, December 2025

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[36] Echr. (n.d.). *Çelik And İmret v. Turkey*. https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/tur#{%22itemid%22:[%22001-67194%22]}

ANNEX 1. Turkey Rights Monitor on Freedom of Assembly - Reporting Period: June 2020 to January 2021

June 22, 2020: Some 60 heads of Turkish bars associations walking on Ankara in protest were denied by the police entry to the capital city. The bar heads staged a sit-in to end what they call the "Defense March," which they had launched in reaction to government plans to amend the law on bar associations' election systems in what critics say an effort to increase the number of pro-government figures in bars.

June 29: The police blocked a protest organized by lawyers in the western city of İzmir against the government's plans to amend the law on lawyers. The lawyers subsequently staged a sit-in, according to reports.

June 30: Lawyers from the Adana Bar Association were blocked by the police from holding a protest march. The lawyers later held a sit-in.

July 1: Four people who made a public statement commemorating the Sivas massacre were detained by the police in Ankara who cited a ban on assemblies issued by the governor's office.

July 2: The Ankara Governor's Office released a statement banning all meetings, marches and assemblies for 15 days, citing increasing number of cases in the Covid-19 pandemic. The ban came a day prior to the "Grand Defense Rally" organized by bars associations.

July 3: The police used pepper spray against lawyers who gathered at Ankara courthouse to protest a government-led bill to amend the law on lawyers.

July 6: The governor's office in the eastern province of Van released a statement banning all outdoor gatherings, marches, sit-ins, concerts, festivals as well as distribution of flyers, brochures, banners for 15 days. The ban has been uninterruptedly in effect since November 2016.

July 8: The Şanlıurfa governor's office in southeastern Turkey extended for 15 days its ban on all assemblies which has been in effect since October 2019.

July 9: Bar association head who gathered in the Kuğulu park in Ankara in protest of a government-led bill to amend the law on lawyers were surrounded by the police who blocked journalists and other lawyers from entering the area.

July 9: The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled that the rights to freedom of assembly of two Turkish applicants were violated when they were handed down terrorism-related sentences for attending a demonstration. The court fined Ankara to pay each applicant € 5,000 in compensation.

July 10: The police blocked lawyers from marching towards the parliament in protest of the government bill to alter the law on lawyers.

July 14: A press briefing organized by the pro-Kurdish HDP in Ankara was blocked by the police who briefly detained HDP member Veli Saçılık.

July 14: The police intervened against a group marching towards Ankara from İstanbul to raise the demands of imprisoned lawyers Ebru Timtik and Aytaç Ünsal who are on a hunger strike. The convicted lawyers have launched the hunger strike to demand fair trial.

July 17-18: The police intervened in gatherings in Batman, Tunceli and Şırnak against the sexual assault against an underage girl by a military officer, briefly detaining several people.

July 20: The police intervened against several gatherings in commemoration of the 33 victims of a suicide bomb attack in Urfa in 2015.

July 20: Turkish police blocked Suruç bomb attack commemorations in Ankara and İstanbul, briefly detaining several people.

July 20: Turkish police stopped and detained a group of activists marching towards the top appeals court in Ankara to submit a petition for jailed hunger striking lawyers Ebru Timtik and Aytaç Ünsal.

July 20: The governor's office in Hakkari issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings until August 3.

July 21: The governor's office in Van extended a ban on all outdoor gatherings for 15 days. The ban has been uninterruptedly in effect since November 2016.

July 21: A women's march in the western city of İzmir to protest male violence after the murder of the 27-year-old Pınar Gültekin by her ex-lover was blocked by the police. Several women were briefly detained.

July 22: Gendarmerie forces briefly detained 12 people on an environmental protest in the Bursa province.

July 23: The governor's office in Hatay issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings between 24 and 26 July.

July 23: The governor's office in Antalya issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for 10 days.

July 24: The governor's office in Mersin issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for five days.

July 24: Turkish authorities barred access to the mausoleum of Turkey's founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk as well as other monuments honoring him, preventing civil society from celebrating the 97th anniversary of the Lausanne Treaty.

July 24: Gendarmerie forces blocked an environmental protest in Manisa, detaining at least six people.

July 25: Turkish police detained several members of the 'Saturday Mothers' during their 800th weekly sit-in in İstanbul's İstiklal Avenue. The mothers are Turkey's longest-running peaceful protest movement, gathering every Saturday since 1995, demanding information from authorities on the fate of their family members who went missing under suspicious circumstances after the 1980 military coup d'état.

July 25: Gendarmerie forces detained nine environmental protesters in the Çanakkale province. The detainees were released on July 26.

July 25: The governor's office in Çanakkale issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for seven days.

July 26: The police blocked an İstanbul Convention-related forum held in İstanbul, detaining eight people.

July 27: The governor's office in Adana imposed a 3-day ban on all outdoor gatherings in the province.

July 27: The governor's office in Adıyaman imposed a 3-day ban on all outdoor gatherings in the province.

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.

August 4: The police in İstanbul detained two people protesting the ban on the public concerts of the leftist music band Grup Yorum.

August 4: The governor's office in the southeastern province of Şırnak imposed a curfew in five villages until further notice.

August 5: The governor's office in Urfa issued a 30-day ban on all outdoor gatherings.

August 5: The police in İzmir detained 21 people protesting in favor of the İstanbul Convention on violence against women from which Turkish government officials have been implying Turkey's potential withdrawal.

August 5: The governor's office in Van issued a 15-day ban on all outdoor gatherings as of August 6. The ban has been in effect uninterruptedly since November 2016.

August 8: Authorities in İstanbul blocked a planned commemoration by relatives of the victims of a 2015 bomb attack in Suruç.

August 8: The governor's office in İzmir issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings until August 15.

August 8: The governor's office in Mardin imposed a curfew in two districts until August 9.

August 12: Police briefly detained 33 women protesting against government project to pull Turkey out of the İstanbul Convention, the Council of Europe treaty to protect women against domestic violence.

August 12: The governor's office in Bitlis imposed a curfew in 36 villages until further notice, citing anti-terror operations.

August 13: The governor's office in Muş imposed a ban on all outdoor gatherings for 15 days.

August 13: The police in İstanbul intervened in a women's protest, detaining four people.

August 14: The governor's office in Tunceli imposed a ban on all outdoor gatherings for 15 days.

August 14: An Ankara court ruled to block access to news reports on the Cumhuriyet, Sözcü and Milli Gazete newspapers on a state agency responsible for agricultural loans.

August 15: The governor's office in Gaziantep imposed a ban on all outdoor gatherings for 15 days.

August 20: The governor's office in Şırnak issued a 15-day ban on all outdoor gatherings.

August 22: Activists Acun Karadağ, Alev Şahin, Armağan Özbaş, Mahmut Konuk, Mehmet Dersulu and Nazan Bozkurt, who were known for their protests to raise awareness for Turkey's tens of thousands of former public sector workers summarily dismissed in the aftermath of a failed coup in July 2016, were arrested for alleged membership in a terrorist group.

August 27: A group of people who gathered in front of the residence of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to hold a press statement in solidarity with jailed lawyers Ebru Timtik and Aytaç Ünsal were blocked and detained by the police.

August 28: The police attacked mourners gathered at an Alevi cultural center in İstanbul to pay respects to jailed lawyer Ebru Timtik who died on Thursday night after 238 days of hunger strike.

August 28: An anti-drug manifestation in Ankara was blocked by the police who briefly detained three people.

August 30: A gathering organized by main opposition CHP in Kırşehir was blocked by the police who reportedly assaulted CHP deputy Metin İlhan during the incident.

August 31: The governor's office in Antalya issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for seven days.

September 1: The police in Urfa briefly detained six people holding a demonstration on the occasion of the UN Day of Peace. The authorities also banned and blocked Day of Peace activities organized in Diyarbakır, Ankara and Van.

September 1: The governor's office in İzmir issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for one day.

September 6: The İstanbul police violently blocked a march organized in İstanbul, detaining 39 people.

September 7: Activists Cemal Yıldırım, Muhammet Semih Karaoğlu and Resul Kalyoncu were detained by the police while trying to hold a press statement in protest of the large-scale purge of public sector workers in the aftermath of a coup attempt in July 2016.

September 7: Aygül Doku and Bedriye Doku were briefly detained after attempting a sit-in in the Tunceli province to protest the failure of authorities to locate their family member Gülistan Doku, who has been missing since January 5, 2020. The detainees were released the same day after their questioning.

September 10: Gendarmerie forces violently dispersed a protest in Mardin's Artuklu district against a local electricity distribution company, detaining nearly 20 people.

September 14: The governor's office in Tunceli issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for 15 days, citing Covid-19 measures.

September 14: İstanbul police blocked a protest against local government Covid-19 measures against outdoor gatherings, detaining five people including two journalists.

September 15: Protesters named Filiz Özçelik and Ümit Özçelik were briefly detained by the police during a public statement in Hatay.

September 15: A protest march organized by local health professionals about the government's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic was blocked by the police.

September 16: Devlet Bahçeli, the leader of the MHP and an ally of the ruling AKP, in a series of tweets targeted the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) which criticized the government's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic. Bahçeli called for TTB's shutdown as well as legal proceedings against its executives.

September 17: The police briefly detained 20 people trying to hold a press statement protesting a businessman who reportedly laid them off without paying severance.

September 21: The police blocked a meeting held by the pro-Kurdish HDP in the Batman province to support the international İstanbul Convention on combating gender-based violence, from which the government has been implying Turkey's potential withdrawal. The police briefly detained six activists.

September 22: Gendarmerie forces intervened against protestors campaigning against mining operations at the Mount Ida, detaining four people.

September 25: The police blocked a group of activists who wanted to submit their report to the education ministry, briefly detaining six people.

September 28: The governor's office in Tunceli imposed a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days, citing the Covid-19 pandemic.

September 28: The governor's office in Kars imposed a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days, citing national security and public order.

October 2: The Interior Ministry imposed a ban on all events to be held by NGOs, professional organizations, unions and cooperatives until December 1, 2020.

October 6: The governor's office in Batman imposed a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

October 8: President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan issued a presidential decree, ordering the postponement of a strike organized by glass manufacturing workers, citing national security reasons.

October 8: The governor's office in Manisa imposed a ban on outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days, citing Covid-19 pandemic. The decision came ahead of a major protest march organized by mineworkers.

October 12: The police and the gendarmerie blocked protest marches organized by mineworkers in Manisa and Karaman, injuring one worker and briefly detaining another one.

October 13: Prosecutors in Tunceli launched a probe into mayor Fatih Mehmet Maçoğlu and 80 people over an environmental protest.

October 13: The Governor's Office in Tunceli issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

October 14: The police raided the İdil Cultural Center in İstanbul, detaining five members of the leftist music band Grup Yorum.

October 14: The police blocked a press statement held by a work safety union in Ankara, using excessive force and detaining eight people.

October 15: The police raided the headquarters of an İstanbul-based NGO for solidarity with the families of detainees, briefly detaining three members of the group.

October 20: The Governor's Office in Manisa issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

October 20: The Governor's Office in Van issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days, citing public health and public order reasons.

October 23: A Hatay court sentenced local journalist Sezgin Kartal to 18 months, 22 days in prison for alleged terrorist propaganda, over his attendance in several demonstrations held to protest a terrorist attack by Al-Qaeda.

October 23: The police in İstanbul detained three leftist activists who held a demonstration in favor of recent mine worker protests.

October 23: The Governor's Office in Konya issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

October 23: The Governor's Office in Siirt issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

October 24: The Governor's Office in Antalya issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 3 days.

October 25: The police attacked a demonstration held in İstanbul by youth organizations, detaining at least 55 people, including journalist Fatoş Erdoğan.

October 25: The police violently detained representatives of community centers (Halkevleri) in Ankara who were trying to submit a report to the Ministry of National Education. The police also blocked demonstrations held by the members of the same organization in İzmir, Eskişehir, Adana, Antalya and Kocaeli. At least 50 people were detained.

October 26: The police in İstanbul detained 40 people during a demonstration held by leftist youth groups.

October 26: The Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) released a report which said that over the first eight months of 2020, security forces intervened against at least 637 peaceful gatherings, detained 1,346 participants which resulted in 54 people being injured. Governor's offices in 33 provinces issued 89 blanket bans on outdoor gatherings.

October 27: The police and gendarmerie forces in Ordu attacked a group of villagers protesting mineral exploration plans in the area, briefly detaining 10 people. On Oct. 28, the security forces attacked a sit-in held in the planned exploration field, detaining at least 20 people.

October 27: The gendarmerie forces in Karaman blocked a protest march organized by mine workers. The workers want to march to the capital city of Ankara to express their complaints about not being able to receive their wages and compensation for over a year.

October 28: The Governor's Office in Tunceli issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days, citing the Covid-19 pandemic.

November 2: The Governor's Office in Adana issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 2: The Governor's Office in Hakkari issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 3: The police in İstanbul attacked a demonstration held by workers protesting their layoff without severance, detaining seven people.

November 4: The police and gendarmerie forces in Manisa blocked a protest march organized by mine workers to demand fair wages and compensations, detaining two people. One worker was injured.

November 4: The police in Ankara blocked a demonstration held in front of the parliament to protest a bill on labor rights, detaining eight members of a participating leftist political party as well as a union representative.

November 5: The Governor's Office in Siirt issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 7: Authorities prevented the Turkish Psychologists' Association from setting up a voluntary support team for victims of last week's earthquake in İzmir.

November 9: The police in İstanbul's Sabiha Gökçen Airport briefly detained leftist activist Deniz Aktaş for a questioning. Aktaş is under investigation over protests of government's removal of the elected mayor of Van.

November 11: The police in İstanbul blocked a sit-in organized by a group of workers demanding their unpaid salaries and severances, detaining four people.

November 11: The police in İstanbul blocked a press statement held by the members of the Furkan Foundation, briefly detaining 40 people.

November 12: The Governor's Office in Mardin issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a month, citing the Covid-19 pandemic.

November 12: A Diyarbakır court sentenced activist Narin Gezgör to 7 years, 6 months in prison on terrorism charges, and prosecutors demanded up to 15 years for Sevim Coşkun, as part of an investigation into the Rosa Women's Association.

November 16: The Governor's Office in Hakkari issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 18: Tunceli prosecutors launched an investigation into 15 women who held a protest against sexual harassment. The women are investigated for resisting the police who intervened against the protest as well as violating the local governor's office's ban on outdoor gatherings.

November 18: The Constitutional Court ruled to annul a legislation banning protest marches on intercity roads on the grounds that it was unconstitutional.

November 19: The police in İstanbul briefly detained a group of workers protesting their layoffs without severance and wage payments.

November 20: The Governor's Office in Van issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban has been uninterruptedly in effect since November 2016.

November 21: The police in İstanbul attacked a press briefing held by the HDP, briefly detaining 22 people including HDP İstanbul executives.

November 22: The Governor's Office in Kocaeli issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

November 23: İstanbul prosecutors indicted 46 people who were detained during the police attack against the 700th sit-in of "Saturday Mothers" in August 2018. The Saturday Mothers is Turkey's longest-running peaceful protest movement that comprises family members of those who disappeared in police custody in the 1980s and 90s.

November 23: The police in İstanbul blocked a demonstration held by the HDP, detaining 22 people.

November 23: The Governor's Office in Kocaeli issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

November 24: A court sentenced 11 labor union officials and leftist politicians to prison sentences ranging from 2 years to 3 years over their involvement in the organization of a demonstration in October 2015.

November 24: The police in Kocaeli blocked a protest march organized by metalworkers, detaining 109 people. The protesters were released on Nov. 25.

November 24: The Governor's Office in Mardin issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days. The office also imposed brief curfews in two districts.

November 25: The police in Adana, Ankara, İstanbul and Van blocked demonstrations organized on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women; detaining 10 women during the intervention in İstanbul.

November 25: The police in Karaman blocked a protest march towards the capital city of Ankara organized by miners, detaining 30 people.

November 27: Opposition MP Süleyman Bülbül said that Turkish security forces blocked at least 700 demonstrations over the past five months.

December 2: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 3: A fine amounting to TL 140,000 (€ 15,000) was imposed on 45 HDP politicians and supporters for violating social distancing rules during a demonstration held to protest the arrest of local HDP politicians in Osmaniye.

December 3: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 4: A Bitlis court sentenced Kurdish writer Gulgeş Deryaspi to 6 years, 3 months in prison for alleged membership in a terrorist organization, over her participation in protest marches and demonstrations.

December 7: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Ayşegül Doğan to six years, three months on terrorism charges for attending meetings of the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Congress (DTK) and conducting interviews with DTK members.

December 7: The police in Van violently blocked a protest held by HDP about the sexual harassment allegations in Batman, using excessive force against local journalists covering the event.

December 8: The police in İstanbul blocked a protest held by the HDP, detaining one party member.

December 10: The police in İstanbul detained nine workers protesting their unpaid wages and severance. The police also briefly detained journalist Ufuk Çeri who was covering the protest.

December 10: The police in İstanbul detained five workers protesting the Bimeks company over their unpaid wages and severance.

December 15: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 16: The police in Şanlıurfa detained Emine Şenyaşar and Ferit Şenyaşar while staging a sit-in protest. The two were released on Dec. 18.

December 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 17: The police in İstanbul blocked a panel discussion organized by the HDP, detaining four people.

December 17: Ruling AKP drafted a bill allowing the government to remove and replace NGO executive over "ties to terrorism."

December 17: The police in Şanlıurfa detained four members of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TİP) while distributing government-critical flyers.

December 18: The police in İstanbul violently blocked a press briefing by the HDP, battering politicians Sezai Temelli and Ferhat Encü and detaining a number of people.

December 18: The police in İstanbul blocked a commemoration event, detaining at least 16 people.

December 18: The police in Şanlıurfa detained four members of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TİP) while distributing government-critical flyers. Four other TİP members who were detained on Dec. 17 were released after their questioning.

December 20: The police in Batman detained four people for participating in protests in Kurdish-majority cities in 2014.

December 22: Ruling AKP tabled a bill authorizing the interior minister to shut down associations and the president to freeze assets without a court order. The legislation could lead to further stifling of Turkey's civil society. A total of 520 Turkey-based NGOs released a joint statement, calling the bill to be in disregard of the freedom of association.

December 22: The police in İstanbul attacked a demonstration organized to protest the arrest of HDP politician Leyla Güven, using excessive violence against wheelchair-bound HDP MP Musa Piroğlu and detaining 14 people.

December 30: The police in Ankara blocked two protests against domestic violence, detaining 12 people.

December 31: The police in İstanbul blocked a demonstration by workers protesting their unpaid wages and severance, detaining six people.

December 31: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 1, 2021: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

ANNEX 2. Turkey Rights Monitor on Freedom of Assembly - Reporting Period: December 2020–January 2022

December 30, 2020: The police in Ankara blocked two protests against domestic violence, detaining 12 people.

December 31: The police in İstanbul blocked a demonstration by workers protesting their unpaid wages and severance, detaining six people.

December 31: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 1, 2021: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 4: The police in Ankara detained Mahmut Konuk while protesting his summary dismissal from public service.

January 5: The police in İstanbul briefly detained 17 people, including students, in connections with demonstrations to protest the recent appointment of a ruling party member as the rector of the Boğaziçi University. Some of the detainees were later referred to a court for arrest. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan verbally targeted the protesters, calling them "terrorists." On Jan. 6, the Governor's Office imposed a ban on outdoor gatherings in the Beşiktaş and Sarıyer districts. The police also blocked a related protest in Ankara, briefly detaining 28.

January 5: The police in Ankara blocked a protest organized by a women's group on the occasion of the first anniversary of the suspicious disappearance of Gülistan Doku, briefly detaining 18 people.

January 8: The police intervened in at least 549 peaceful demonstrations in 49 provinces across Turkey, resulting in the detention of 1,816 people, according to a yearly report published by an İstanbul-based rights group.

January 11: The police in Ankara blocked a sit-in protest held by workers who were fired from Cargill over their union membership, briefly detaining 10 people.

January 12: The police in İstanbul briefly detained three people as part of an investigation into protests about the appointment of a pro-government rector to the Boğaziçi University.

January 12: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 14: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Mehmet Emin Aktar, former head of the Diyarbakır Bar Association, to six years, three months on terrorism-related charges, over his attendance in demonstrations organized by the Democratic Society Congress (DTK).

January 14: The police in Ankara blocked a demonstration in protest of the appointment of a pro-government rector to the Boğaziçi University, briefly detaining five protesters.

January 14: The Batman Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 15: A Bitlis court sentenced 24 people, including local politicians, to one year, three months in prison each for attending an unauthorized demonstration in January 2016.

January 15: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 16: An annual human rights report published by opposition MP Sezgin Tanrıkulu found that the police intervened in 753 demonstrations, public press statements and assemblies in 2020, detaining at least 2,123 people, including two children, and arresting 44 among those who attended the events. A total of 294 people were convicted in cases related to those activities.

January 18: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban has been uninterruptedly sustained since November 2016 in the province, through consecutive extensions introduced by the Governor's Office.

January 20: The police in Ankara detained two people who were handing out brochures supporting the protests against the appointment of a controversial pro-government rector to the Boğaziçi University.

January 21: The police in İstanbul blocked a public press statement held by the HDP about hunger strikes in Turkey's prisons, briefly detaining eight people.

January 21: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Zeynel Abidin Bulut to 10 months in prison on the charge of spreading terrorist propaganda, over his attendance in a commemoration of a deceased journalist.

January 22: The police in İstanbul blocked a public press statement organized by local politicians about the alleged enforced disappearance of Gökhan Güneş, detaining four people.

January 22: The police in Ankara blocked a protest held by health workers, briefly detaining eight people including Ali Karakoç, the head of a local medical association.

January 23: The police in İstanbul blocked a public press statement organized by local politicians about the alleged enforced disappearance of Gökhan Güneş, detaining 12 people.

January 24: The police in İstanbul blocked a public press statement organized by local politicians about the alleged enforced disappearance of Gökhan Güneş, detaining five people.

January 25: The police in İstanbul blocked several demonstrations held to protest the enforced disappearance of Gökhan Güneş, detaining 11 people.

January 25: The police in Şanlıurfa briefly detained three people for hanging a banner on a building about the hunger strikes in prisons.

January 25: The police in Ankara briefly detained Mahmut Konuk, a purge victim demonstrating to demand to be reinstated to his job.

January 26: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

January 27: An Ankara court ruled to release Acun Karadağ, a prominent rights activist and a teacher summarily dismissed from the public sector. Karadağ has been held for the last five months over her protests demanding reinstatement to her job. The court ruled to keep behind bars other activists such as Nazan Bozkurt, Mehmet Dersulu, Alev Şahin and Armağan Özbaş. The activists were subjected to a strip-search upon return from their hearing.

January 27: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

January 28: A Sinop court sentenced 37 environmental activists to a total of 42 years, nine months and 27 days in prison over their protests against the construction of a fossil fuel plant.

January 29: The police in İstanbul detained five university students over an exhibition featuring LGBT flags mixed with religious images. The students were later arrested and placed under a house arrest by a court. Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu announced the development by referring to the detainees as "LGBT deviants."

January 29: The police in Batman blocked a march organized by pro-Kurdish political groups, detaining 26 people.

January 29: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 29: The police in Artvin blocked an event held to commemorate the victim of an armed attack, briefly detaining three people. One person was injured on the head during the violent intervention.

January 30: The Gaziantep Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

Throughout the week, the police in several provinces across the country blocked demonstrations held in protest of the appointment of a government loyalist as a rector to Boğaziçi University. According to Interior Ministry figures, over 500 people were detained while attending the protests. Videos of protests showed widespread police brutality against demonstrators while senior government officials, including President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, verbally targeted the students and other demonstrators, calling them "terrorists."

February 1: An İstanbul court overseeing the retrial of the 2013 Gezi Park protests case imposed an international travel ban on the defendants.

February 2: The Antalya Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

February 2: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban has been kept in effect uninterruptedly since November 2016 through consecutive extensions.

February 2: The Kadıköy District Governor's Office in İstanbul issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

February 4: The police in İstanbul blocked a pro-Kurdish demonstration, detaining 68 people, four of whom minors, including journalist Rojin Altay. The minors as well as Altay were released the next day.

February 5: Social media platform Twitter removed a tweet posted by far-right politician Devlet Bahçeli that referred to students protesting the appointment of a pro-government rector to Boğaziçi University as "poisonous snakes whose heads need to be crushed." The tweet was replaced with a notice that said it was removed due to violating Twitter rules that ban threats of violence.

February 5: The Adana Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

February 8: The Eskişehir Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

February 9: The police in Artvin blocked a demonstration against the rector of Boğaziçi University, detaining two people. Two others were injured and hospitalized as a result of the intervention.

February 9: An İstanbul court ruled to release on parole 61 people, including local pro-Kurdish politicians, who were detained last week for holding a demonstration in the Kadıköy district.

February 9: The Denizli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a month.

February 10: Courts ruled to arrest a total of 11 university students for attending demonstrations against the appointment of a pro-government figure as rector of Boğaziçi University.

February 10: The police in İzmir detained three people while hanging banners protesting arbitrary strip-searches in police custody and in prison. The detainees were released later in the same day after their questioning.

February 11: The police in İstanbul detained a total of 14 people while holding a press statement at the Çağlayan courthouse to demand the release of the 11 students arrested for attending Boğaziçi University protests as well as three others holding a related protest march in the Esenyurt district. The detainees were released on probation the next day.

February 11: The police in Kocaeli blocked a demonstration against the rector of the Boğaziçi University, briefly detaining 17 people who were released later in the same day.

February 12: The police in Bursa blocked a demonstration held as part of Boğaziçi University protests, detaining 19 people including three minors. The minors were released the same day while the remaining 16 were released on Feb. 14.

February 12: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

February 15: The police in Ankara detained a group of women after they attempted to stage a demonstration against a government plan for an all-female university.

February 17: UN special rapporteurs in a joint letter to the Turkish government on Feb. 11 expressed serious concern about Turkey's new terrorism financing legislation due to its provisions exceeding the scope of the law and targeting freedom of association in the country.

February 17: Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. Through consecutive extensions, the ban has been held uninterruptedly in effect in the province since November 2016.

February 18: Hatay Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

February 19: The police in İstanbul detained poet Çayan Okuduci for attending a demonstration in Siirt in 2014. Okuduci was released on probation the next day.

February 20: Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

February 21: The police in İstanbul detained two people for attending Boğaziçi University demonstrations.

February 23: A court ruled to place under house arrest university students Doğukan Gürbey and Cihan Çiçek who were detained while handing out copies of a letter written from prison by Şilan Delipalta who was arrested in connection with Boğaziçi University protests.

February 24: The police in Ankara detained Celil Resuloğulları and Hüseyin Ege Kök while for allegedly hanging posters about university protests.

February 25: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

February 26: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

March 1: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 1: The Şırnak Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 3: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. Through consecutive extensions the ban has been kept uninterruptedly in effect since 2016.

March 5: The police in Kocaeli blocked a workers' protest, briefly detaining 22 people.

March 5: The Batman Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 6: The police in İstanbul blocked a pro-LGBT group from attending a Women's Day march, briefly detaining nine people.

March 6: An İstanbul court ruled to release on probation university student Murat Can Demirci who was arrested for attending Boğaziçi University protests.

March 7: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 11: The police in İstanbul briefly detained 18 women, including a minor, who took part in a march to mark International Women's Day on March 8, on charges that they insulted President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. The women were released on probation the same day.

March 13: The police detained at least 722 people in February for participating in protests, demonstrations, press releases and passing out flyers, according to a monthly rights violations report by opposition MP Sezgin Tanrıkulu.

March 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 18: The police in Ankara detained nine activists who were protesting the expulsion of Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu from the parliament. The detainees were released later in the same day.

March 20: The police in İstanbul detained 14 people while celebrating the Kurdish festival of Newroz.

March 20: The police in Ankara blocked a women's rights demonstration to protest Turkey's withdrawal from the İstanbul Convention, detaining two people.

March 20: The police in Malatya briefly detained a man and his two children during the Newroz celebrations. The detainees were released the same day.

March 21: The police in Diyarbakır detained 63 people, including six minors, for wearing yellow-red-green scarves while on their way to the Newroz celebrations. Of the detainees, 39 were released within the day.

March 21: The police in Adana detained eight people, including three minors, during the Newroz celebrations.

March 21: The police in İstanbul detained 11 people during the Newroz celebrations.

March 22: The police in Konya detained 11 people for attending Newroz celebrations in the city.

March 22: İstanbul prosecutors indicted seven people over their attendance in Boğaziçi University protests, seeking up to 11 years in prison on a series of charges. Prosecutors indicted 23 others on March 24.

March 22: Three people who were arrested for attending Boğaziçi University protests were released from prison while two others were released from house arrest.

March 23: The police in Diyarbakır detained 21 people for attending Newroz celebrations in the city. The authorities also issued detention warrants for 15 others.

March 25: The police in İstanbul detained 12 university students for carrying rainbow flags during ongoing Boğaziçi University protests. The next day, the police detained 42 other students who gathered outside İstanbul's main courthouse in a show of support for their friends. All the detainees were released on probation a day after being taken into custody.

March 25: An İstanbul court held the first trial of the 46 members of the Saturday Mothers, a group comprising families of victims of state-enforced disappearances who have been gathering every Saturday in İstanbul for a silent protest since 1995. The indictment by İstanbul prosecutors said that the protest had been banned because it posed a threat to national security, public order and public norms.

March 26: The police in İstanbul detained three people, including one minor, while holding a protest in front of the courthouse.

March 26: A Şanlıurfa court sentenced 19 people to five months in prison each over their attendance in a commemoration event for the victims of a bomb attack in 2015.

March 26: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

March 26: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 29: The police in Kocaeli blocked a workers' protest, briefly detaining 17 people.

March 30: The police in Şanlıurfa briefly detained Emine Şenyaşar and her son Ferit Şenyaşar while staging a sit-in protest in front of a courthouse.

March 30: The Osmaniye Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 31: The police in Kocaeli blocked a workers' protest, briefly detaining 16 people.

April 1: A district governor in İstanbul banned all gatherings in the district, after a calls for a demonstration by Boğaziçi University students. Later in the day, the police detained at least 35 people who wanted to stage the protest. The detainees were released the same day.

April 1: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

April 2: An İstanbul court ruled to release two students who were detained in February during Boğaziçi University protests.

April 2: The Muş governor's office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

April 6: The authorities deported four Iranian refugees for joining protests against Turkey's withdrawal from the İstanbul Convention.

April 6: The police in Ankara detained four people while hanging banners in support of Boğaziçi University protests.

April 6: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

April 7: The İskenderun District Governor's Office in Hatay issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

April 8: The police in Kocaeli blocked a workers' protest, briefly detaining 36 people.

April 8: The police in Hatay blocked an environmental protest against the construction of a quarry, briefly detaining four people.

April 10: A monthly report by opposition MP Sezgin Tanrıkulu said that the police intervened in at least 25 demonstrations in March, detaining at least 324 people.

April 13: The police in İzmir briefly detained four women protesting Turkey's withdrawal from the İstanbul Convention on combating domestic violence.

April 14: The police in Kocaeli blocked a workers' protest, briefly detaining 14 people.

April 15: The police in İstanbul blocked a workers' protest, briefly detaining eight people.

April 15: The police in Ankara briefly detained eight activists handing out flyers about International Workers' Day celebrations.

April 15: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration by a medical association to call on the government to tighten coronavirus restrictions to stop the latest surge in infections and fatalities.

April 15: The authorities in Mardin briefly detained a person for attending a protest against an urban renewal project.

April 15: The Kocaeli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

April 16: The police in İstanbul blocked a workers' protest, briefly detaining 10 people.

April 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

April 16: The Denizli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

April 16: The Aydın Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

April 16: The Edirne Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 14 days.

April 16: The Kartal District Governor's Office in İstanbul issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

April 17: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

April 19: The police in Batman detained 13 people for attending Newroz celebrations. The detainees were released on probation on April 23.

April 19: The police in İstanbul blocked a worker's protest, detaining five people.

April 19: The İstanbul Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

April 19: The Trabzon Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

April 19: An İstanbul prosecutor indicted 97 students who took part in Boğaziçi University protests.

April 20: The police in İstanbul briefly detained two people holding a protest to call for the release of a sick prisoner.

April 20: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

April 21: The police in İstanbul blocked a workers' protest, briefly detaining at least 30 people.

April 21: The police in İstanbul briefly detained two people holding a protest to call for the release of a sick prisoner.

April 22: The police in İstanbul intervened in a press briefing held on the occasion of the upcoming International Workers' Day, briefly detaining 41 people.

April 25: The gendarmes in Rize detained 15 environmental activists protesting against the construction of a quarry.

April 26: The police in İstanbul blocked a demonstration held to call for the release of a sick prisoner, briefly detaining three people.

April 26: The police in İstanbul detained two people staging a sit-in protest against their summary dismissal from public service by decree-laws.

April 26: The police in İstanbul intervened in a social justice protest, briefly detaining two people.

April 27: The police in İstanbul blocked a workers' protest held on the occasion of the upcoming May Day, briefly detaining 33 people including three journalists.

April 28: The police in Ankara blocked a demonstration held on the occasion of the upcoming May Day, briefly detaining six people.

April 29: The police in several provinces blocked demonstrations held on the occasion of the upcoming May Day, detaining three people in İzmir.

April 29: The police in İstanbul blocked a workers' protest, briefly detaining eight people.

April 29: The Supreme Court of Appeals overturned the acquittal of 35 people who were put on trial for attending the Gezi Park protests in 2013.

May 1: The police across the country blocked May Day rallies, detaining 255 people in İstanbul, 41 in Ankara, 22 in İzmir, 4 in Antalya, 12 in Trabzon and 20 in Artvin.

May 1: The gendarmes in Rize intervened in a protest against the opening of a stone quarry, detaining at least five people.

May 1: The International Labour Organization (ILO), a UN agency setting labor standards, decided that the Turkish government violated UN conventions on labor by closing down trade unions and dismissing workers over alleged affiliation with the Gülen movement.

May 2: The Van governor's office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban has remained uninterruptedly in effect since November 2016.

May 3: The gendarmes in Rize detained one person protesting against the construction of a stone quarry.

May 6: The police in İstanbul briefly detained four people protesting the construction of a stone quarry in a natural area.

May 10: The police in İstanbul briefly detained two former public sector workers while staging a sit-in to protest their summary dismissal from their jobs.

May 11: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

May 11: The police in İstanbul blocked a women's protest to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the signing of the İstanbul Convention, an international treaty on combating domestic violence from which Turkey withdrew earlier this year, detaining three people.

May 16: The Rize Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

May 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

May 17: The police in İstanbul briefly detained two former public sector workers staging a sit-in to protest their summary dismissal from their jobs in the aftermath of a failed coup in July 2016.

May 17: The police in İstanbul blocked an environmental protest against the construction of a stone quarry in northeastern Turkey, briefly detaining 13 people.

May 18: The police in İstanbul blocked a commemoration event held by left-wing activists, detaining 15 people.

May 18: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. Through consecutive extensions the ban has been held in effect since November 2016.

May 19: The police in İstanbul detained seven people over a left-wing commemoration event.

May 19: The police in Batman briefly detained musician Ethem Tüzer while staging a one-person demonstration to commemorate the musicians who committed suicide due to financial problems during the Covid-19 pandemic.

May 20: The police in İstanbul blocked a socialist demonstration against Israel's airstrikes on Gaza, detaining 15 people.

May 20: The police in Ankara blocked a commemoration event organized by leftist groups, detaining 13 people.

May 20: The police in Şanlıurfa detained Emine Şenyaşar and Ferit Şenyaşar while staging a sit-in protest to seek justice in the case of the killing of a family member by people close to the ruling party.

May 23: The police raided the houses of 10 people for attending Boğaziçi University protests, briefly detaining one of them who was found home.

May 23: The Kırklareli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban came amid numerous environmental protests to prevent the construction of a stone quarry in a village.

May 24: The police in İstanbul briefly detained Nursel Tanrıverdi while participating in a sit-in protest against the post-coup purge of public sector workers after 2016.

May 25: The police in several provinces detained executives and members of the Health and Social Service Employees Union (SES) over alleged terrorist links.

May 25: The police in Ankara blocked a demonstration held in front of the ruling party provincial headquarters, briefly detaining five people.

May 25: The police in İstanbul detained two people protesting their summary removal from public service during a post-coup purge after 2016. The detainees were released later in the same day.

May 25: The police in Rize blocked a protest against the construction of a stone quarry in an environmentally significant area, briefly detaining two people.

May 26: The police in İstanbul detained a person over a banner that was displayed during a press briefing held at a human rights association's local office.

May 26: The İzmir Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

May 27: Gendarmes and village guards in Van fired shots as villagers protested the opening of a marble quarry. Four people were briefly detained after the intervention.

May 27: The police in Artvin blocked a protest march against quotas on tea, briefly detaining 32 people.

May 28: The police in İstanbul blocked a demonstration held by a youth organization, detaining two participants.

May 28: A report released by the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TİHV) revealed that at least 4,771 human rights violations took place during protests and demonstrations held in Turkey between 2015 and 2019.

May 31: The police in İstanbul blocked a demonstration held to commemorate the 2013 Gezi Park protest, detaining 13 people.

May 31: The police in İstanbul briefly detained activist Nursel Tanrıverdi while staging a sit-in to protest her summary removal from public service.

May 31: The police in İstanbul blocked a students' protest against the pro-government rector of Boğaziçi University and detained two people while hanging a banner on the university entrance against the rector.

May 31: The Beyoğlu District Governor's Office in İstanbul banned events scheduled to mark the eighth anniversary of the anti-government Gezi Park protests.

May 31: The Rize Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban came amid environmental protests against the construction of a stone quarry in the province.

May 31: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

May 31: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 1: The police in Ankara blocked a commemoration event about the death of a protester due to police shooting during the 2013 Gezi Park protests, briefly detaining nine people.

June 4: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 5: The police in İstanbul blocked a leftist manifestation, briefly detaining 35 people.

June 6: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

June 7: The police in Ankara briefly detained 15 people while holding a demonstration about Turkey's withdrawal from the İstanbul Convention.

June 7: The police in İstanbul briefly detained activist Nursel Tanrıverdi while staging a sit-in to protest her summary removal from public service in the aftermath of a failed coup in 2016.

June 9: The police in İstanbul blocked a demonstration about a mob boss' online revelations, briefly detaining 26 people.

June 11: A court sentenced 15 businesspeople over their involvement in the activities of the now-closed Turkish Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists (TUSKON).

June 11: The police in İstanbul blocked a demonstration held by leftist activists, briefly detaining 10 people.

June 14: The police in İstanbul detained activist Nursel Tanrıverdi while staging a sit-in to protest her summary removal from her public service job in the aftermath of a 2016 coup attempt.

June 14: The Osmaniye Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 15: The police in Ankara briefly detained activists Nursel Tanrıverdi, Merve Demirel and Muhammet Yıldız while on their way to a meeting with parliamentarians.

June 15: The Bitlis Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 16: The police in Ankara blocked a women's rights protest, briefly detaining 18 people.

June 16: The police in Ankara blocked a workers' protest, detaining six people.

June 16: The police in İzmir blocked a demonstration organized by students, briefly detaining four people.

June 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 17: The police in İstanbul detained two people staging a sit-in to protest the attack on the HDP İzmir office. One of the detainees were arrested the next day by a court while the other was released under judicial supervision.

June 17: The police in İstanbul detained two leftist activists for hanging a banner on a building about the attack on the HDP İzmir office.

June 17: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 18: The police in Rize briefly detained an activist who took part in environmental protests against the construction of a stone quarry on terrorism-related charges.

June 18: Amnesty International released a briefing in which it said that Turkey exploits measures prescribed by international watchdogs to combat money laundering and terrorism financing in a bid to target civil society organizations.

June 19: The police in Batman blocked a demonstration about the attack on the HDP İzmir office, briefly detaining 16 people.

June 19: The police in İstanbul blocked a protest organized by a women's rights group, briefly detaining six people.

June 19: The police in Ankara blocked a demonstration about the attack on the HDP İzmir office, briefly detaining four people.

June 19: The Muş Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 20: The police in İstanbul briefly detained two activists for graffiti painting walls about the attack on the HDP İzmir office.

June 21: The police in İstanbul attacked a picnic organized by LGBT groups, briefly detaining one person.

June 21: The police in Ağrı briefly detained local HDP executive Cemal Akar for making a speech at a demonstration to protest last week's attack on the party's İzmir office.

June 21: The Ağrı Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 22: The police in İstanbul intervened against a street concert organized to protest a controversial decision announced by the president to ban music after midnight, briefly detaining seven people.

June 23: The Youth and Sports Ministry canceled the student loans and scholarships of at least 100 university students because they participated in protests against the appointment of a pro-government figure as the new rector of İstanbul's Boğaziçi University in January.

June 24: The police in İstanbul detained 10 people, including members of the HDP, for having participated in demonstrations to protest last week's attack on the party's İzmir office.

June 24: Turkish law enforcement intervened in 320 peaceful demonstrations across the country and detained at least 2,123 people between January and May 2021, according to an İstanbul-based rights group.

June 24: The İstanbul Governor's Office banned an LGBT pride march scheduled for June 26. After the organizers went ahead with their plan and held the march as expected, the police violently blocked it, detaining 47 people.

June 26: A district governor's office in İstanbul issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a day. The decision came following calls for a demonstration outside a courthouse.

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.

July 5: The police in Ankara violently intervened in a demonstration held to demand the release of prominent rights defender Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu, briefly detaining five people.

July 5: The police in İstanbul detained activist Nursel Tanrıverdi while protesting her summary removal from her public sector job in the aftermath of the 2016 coup.

July 6: An opinion published by the Venice Commission underlined that Turkey's new terrorism financing law goes beyond the stated intention and negatively affects civil society by further tightening the government's control over its activities.

July 8: The Aydın Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of five days. The ban came amid public protests against the construction of a feldspar mine in the province.

July 9: The police in Adıyaman detained nearly 50 people for attending protests against a regulation on tobacco trading.

July 9: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration to commemorate the victims of a 2015 bomb attack, briefly detaining five people.

July 10: The police in Ankara blocked a demonstration to commemorate the victims of a 2015 bomb attack, briefly detaining 13 people.

July 10: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration to commemorate the victims of a 2015 bomb attack, briefly detaining six people.

July 11: Reports revealed that İzmir prosecutors indicted three people on the charge of insulting the president during Boğaziçi University protests in February.

July 12: The police in İstanbul briefly detained activist Nursel Tanrıverdi who was staging a sit-in to protest the mass purges in the public sector after a coup in 2016.

July 12: The Muş Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 14: The police in Şanlıurfa briefly detained Emine Şenyaşar and Ferit Şenyaşar who were staging a sit-in in front of a local courthouse to protest the alleged lack of effective prosecution in the case of a family member who was killed by a local ruling party official.

July 14: The police in İstanbul briefly detained four people who held a protest in front of the Greek consulate to demand the release of their relatives who are jailed in Greece.

July 19: The police in Adana blocked a demonstration to commemorate the victims of an ISIS attack in 2015, briefly detaining 19 people.

July 19: The Adana Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 19: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 19: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 19: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 19: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 30 days.

July 20: The police in İstanbul used tear gas and rubber bullets to block a demonstration to commemorate the victims of an ISIS attack in 2015, detaining 62 people.

July 20: The police in Ankara intervened in a demonstration to commemorate the victims of an ISIS attack in 2015, briefly detaining 23 people.

July 20: The police in İzmir intervened in a demonstration to commemorate the victims of an ISIS attack in 2015, briefly detaining 10 people.

July 21: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration to commemorate the victims of an ISIS attack in 2015, detaining a number of people.

July 26: The police in İstanbul briefly detained activist Nursel Tanrıverdi while staging a sit-in to protest her summary removal from her public sector job in the aftermath of the July 2016 coup attempt.

July 27: An İstanbul court put on trial 17 HDP members for attending a demonstration against the construction of a nuclear power plant in southern Turkey.

July 30: The police in Van, Mardin, İstanbul and Ankara intervened in several demonstrations organized to protest the racist attack against a Kurdish family in Konya, detaining a total of 23 people.

July 30: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban has been held in effect since June 2020.

July 31: The police in İstanbul blocked a protest march held by workers, briefly detaining seven people.

August 1: The police in İstanbul blocked a protest march held by workers, briefly detaining two people.

August 1: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest organized by the HDP, detaining 15 people.

August 2: The police in İstanbul blocked a protest march held by workers, briefly detaining three people.

August 2: The police in Diyarbakır detained four people who were protesting the racist attack on a Kurdish family in Konya that claimed the lives of seven people.

August 2: The police in Gaziantep detained seven people who were protesting the racist attack on a Kurdish family in Konya that claimed the lives of seven people.

August 2: The police in İstanbul detained activist Nursel Tanrıverdi who was staging a sit-in to protest her summary removal from her public sector job after a coup in 2016.

August 3: The police in Ankara intervened in a women's rights protest, briefly detaining 15 people.

August 3: The police in İstanbul blocked a workers' protest, briefly detaining five people.

August 4: A fact sheet released by the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey said that between the years 2015 and 2019 the authorities violated the freedom of association 5,498 times.

August 4: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

August 6: A Van court ruled to arrest three people who were detained for attending a protest on July 30, while releasing under judicial control seven others who were detained for the same reason.

August 6: The police in İstanbul attacked a group protesting femicides, detaining one person over the slogans that were shouted.

August 9: The police in İstanbul briefly detained activist Nursel Tanrıverdi while staging a sit-in to protest her summary removal from her public sector job in the aftermath of a 2016 coup.

August 10: The police in Bolu blocked a workers' protest march, briefly detaining two labor union activists.

August 11: The police in Şanlıurfa detained 18 farmers who were protesting a local energy distributor over power cuts.

August 12: The Şırnak Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

August 13: The police in Ankara blocked a workers' protest, detaining 14 people.

August 14: The police in Bitlis intervened in a protest, detaining 70 people.

August 15: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

August 15: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban has been in effect uninterruptedly since November 2016.

August 16: The police in İstanbul briefly detained activist Nursel Tanrıverdi while staging a sit-in to protest her summary removal from her public sector job in the aftermath of a 2016 coup.

August 17: The police in İstanbul detained 11 people including four minors for allegedly spreading terrorist propaganda during their attendance at a festival organized by the HDP.

August 18: The gendarmerie in Şanlıurfa detained 11 people for holding a protest against a local energy distributing company over power cuts. The detainees were released later in the same day after appearing before a court.

August 20: President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan issued a presidential decree authorizing the State Supervisory Council (DDK) to inspect NGOs. The development came after last year's parliamentary legislation allowing the Ministry of Interior to replace executives of any foundation prosecuted on charges of "terrorism."

August 22: The police in Hatay detained four people who were protesting a police raid in January which led to the death of a 70-year-old woman who had a heart attack.

August 23: The police in İstanbul briefly detained eight Boğaziçi University students and a journalist for protesting the president's appointment of a new rector to the university.

August 23: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

August 23: A district governor in Mardin banned a campaign organized by a local medical chamber to promote vaccination against Covid-19, citing a 15-day ban on outdoor gatherings issued by the provincial governor's office.

August 24: An İstanbul court accepted an indictment that seeks prison sentences for 17 women's rights activists on charges of insulting the president at an International Women's Day gathering in March 2021.

August 29: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

August 31: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 1: A district governor in İstanbul issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of five days. The ban came ahead of planned World Peace Day rallies on September 1.

September 1: The Eskişehir Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban came prior to a planned World Peace Day celebration.

September 3: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 5: The police in İstanbul intervened in a rally to mark the World Peace Day, detaining 57 people.

September 6: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 6: The Bitlis Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 8: The Constitutional Court ruled that a ban imposed by a governor's office on all protests in a southeastern city violated the applicants' constitutional right to assembly and demonstration.

September 9: Osmaniye prosecutors indicted local HDP politician Müslüm Çağan and presenter Erdal Tecik, seeking punishment on terrorism-related charges over their participation in Newroz celebrations in 2018.

September 9: An İstanbul court accepted an indictment drafted by prosecutors against 46 people who were detained during an LGBT pride march in June.

September 13: Stage actor Orhan Aydın, known for his outspoken criticism of the government, suffered a physical attack following a leftist rally. In his social media messages, Aydın accused the authorities of failing to identify the assailants.

September 13: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 13: A court ruled to arrest three activists who were detained in Tekirdağ on September 6 for hanging banners demanding the release of a sick prisoner.

September 15: The police in İstanbul attacked a demonstration held by victims of a large-scale post-coup purge after 2016, briefly detaining eight people.

September 15: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 16: The police in Diyarbakır detained at least seven people for attending protests against a local energy distributor.

September 18: The police in Rize detained four people who protested the construction plans for a hydroelectric power plant in the province.

September 19: The police in Ankara briefly detained five people for holding an alternative graduation ceremony in a university.

September 19: The police in Kırklareli briefly detained nine leftist political activists for handing out flyers.

September 19: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 20: The police in Ankara briefly detained nine students who protested the problems encountered by university students in finding affordable accommodation.

September 21: The police in Adana detained nine people, including a local HDP executive and two executives of an NGO established for solidarity with the relatives of prisoners.

September 22: The police in İstanbul detained eight people as part of an investigation into an NGO established for solidarity with the relatives of prisoners. The detainees were placed in house arrest on September 24.

September 22: A Diyarbakır court sentenced journalist Yelda Çiçek to one year, eight months in prison for following the protests held in the province against the government-appointed trustee who replaced the elected mayor.

September 22: The police in Eskişehir detained six university students who were sleeping in a park to protest the high housing prices.

September 22: The police in İstanbul briefly detained four people protesting unaffordable student housing.

September 22: The Supreme Court of Appeals overturned the prison sentence of six years, three months which was handed down to journalist Aziz Oruç on account of a protest that he attended as a student in 2011.

September 23: The police in Tekirdağ attacked a workers' protest, detaining 58 people.

September 23: The police in İzmir detained three people protesting high housing prices for students.

September 24: The police in Bolu briefly detained three people who protested their summary removal from public service in the aftermath of a 2016 coup attempt.

September 25: A district governor's office in Hatay banned a concert planned by human rights groups, citing the Covid-19 pandemic.

September 27: The police detained 28 people in İstanbul and 41 others in İzmir for protesting the lack of affordable housing for university students. The detainees were released the next day.

September 28: Media reports said that at least 80 people were in police custody for protesting the unaffordable housing problem for university students.

September 28: The authorities seized the bank account of Nazan Bozkurt, a former public servant summarily fired from her job by an executive decree in 2017, after an administrative fine of TL 281,000 (€27,000) was imposed on her for participating in a protest.

September 29: Reports revealed that several university students were removed from public dormitories and deprived of their scholarships for attending an LGBT parade.

September 29: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 29: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

October 1: The police in İstanbul briefly detained two people holding a demonstration in front of the Forensic Medicine Institution to demand the release of a sick prisoner.

October 2: The Muş Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

October 4: A district governor in Samsun removed from office two neighborhood mukhtars over a protest against a government-led expropriation.

October 4: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

October 5: The police in İstanbul physically assaulted journalist Fatoş Erdoğan while she was covering a student protest in Boğaziçi University.

October 6: The police in İstanbul detained 10 university students who were trying to make a public statement against the president's accusations against them. Two of the students were later arrested by a court.

October 6: The police in Ankara briefly detained three activists who were spray painting slogans on a wall.

October 6: The police in Diyarbakır detained 13 people for allegedly preparing to organize a demonstration.

October 7: The police in İstanbul detained seven university students protesting the detention of students the day before.

October 7: The police in İzmir and Manisa detained 12 people, including a local HDP executive and an executive of an NGO established for solidarity with relatives of prisoners.

October 7: The police in Ankara detained activist Merve Demirel during a protest against mass dismissal of public sector workers in the aftermath of a 2016 coup.

October 7: The İstanbul Governor's Office banned a demonstration planned by doctors' associations.

October 8: Naci İnci, the rector of the Boğaziçi University who was appointed to his position by the president, filed a complaint with the police about students who took part in protests against his appointment.

October 8: An Ankara court acquitted 18 students who stood trial for being involved in a pride event in a university.

October 11: The police in Ankara intervened in a gathering to commemorate the victims of a 2015 bomb attack, detaining 22 people.

October 12: Şırnak prosecutors launched an investigation into an event held to commemorate a 7-year-old child who was killed by an armored police vehicle. A local politician and a musician were summoned by the police for questioning.

October 12: Adana prosecutors launched an investigation into 25 people over their participation in a gathering held in commemoration of a leftist activist.

October 13: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration to call for the release of a sick prisoner, detaining eight people.

October 13: A publishing house was forced to discontinue its Kurdish-language literary events in Mardin following police obstruction under the pretext of Covid-19.

October 13: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

October 13: An İstanbul court ruled to release five Boğaziçi University students who were detained last week for protesting the appointment of a new rector.

October 14: The police in Ankara detained five opposition party members who were handing out flyers about a corruption allegations implicating a businessman with ties to the government.

October 14: A district governor's office in Şırnak banned an event planned by the HDP to commemorate the party's foundation anniversary, citing the Covid-19 pandemic. Reports revealed that the same office had granted permission to a two-day-long event organized by the ruling party in October.

October 15: An İzmir court ruled to acquit some 30 labor union members who stood trial on terrorism charges over union activities.

October 15: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

October 16: The police in İstanbul blocked a protest march organized by HDP members. Ten people were briefly detained.

October 16: A district governor's office in İstanbul banned a concert organized by a pro-Kurdish cultural organization, citing national security reasons.

October 19: The police in Antalya intervened in a demonstration and briefly detained Fatma Karakuzu and Melek Çetinkaya. Karakuzu is the mother of Ayşe Özdoğan, an end-stage cancer patient who is imprisoned over alleged links to the Gülen movement. The two were holding the demonstration to call for Özdoğan's release.

October 19: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration in front of a courthouse. Three people were briefly detained.

October 20: The police in Ankara intervened in a demonstration to protest the mass dismissals from public service, briefly detaining four people.

October 20: A Mardin court acquitted five journalists and three others who stood trial over their participation in demonstrations.

October 21: The Constitutional Court found no rights violation in the case of four individuals previously convicted on charges related to the Gezi Park protests of 2013.

October 21: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

October 22: The police in İstanbul briefly detained 45 students for protesting the government-appointed rector of Boğaziçi University.

October 25: The police in Van intervened in a press briefing organized by local medical chambers, briefly detaining two people.

October 26: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

October 27: An Erzincan court sentenced 15 people to six years, eight months in prison each on charges related to their participation in the Gezi Park protests in 2013.

October 28: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 2: İstanbul prosecutors indicted nine lawyers who made a public statement to protest an Interior Ministry decision to remove three Kurdish mayors from office in August 2019.

November 2: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 4: The police across several provinces blocked demonstrations organized by the HDP to mark the fifth anniversary of the imprisonment of former party co-chairs Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ. The intervention resulted in the brief detention of four people in Ağrı and two people in Van.

November 6: The police in İstanbul briefly detained 18 people protesting the Council of Higher Education.

November 8: The police in İstanbul detained 11 people protesting the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) at a university.

November 8: The police detained seven executives from pro-Kurdish labor unions, chambers of commerce and associations for solidarity with relatives of prisoners as part of a Diyarbakır-based investigation.

November 9: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 12: The police in İstanbul briefly detained three people protesting the government-appointed rector of Boğaziçi University.

November 12: The lawyers of two students arrested over Boğaziçi University protests announced that their clients were placed in one-person cells in an İstanbul prison.

November 13: The police in İstanbul detained six people holding a demonstration to protest the rapid decline in the value of Turkey's currency.

November 14: The police in Van briefly detained a vendor protesting high prices.

November 14: The police in Muğla detained a person protesting a fossil fuel plant. The detainee was released the next day.

November 14: The Tunceli Governor's Office banned a commemoration event, citing the Covid-19 pandemic.

November 15: A Hatay court sentenced eight people, including journalist Ali Arslan Dadük, to 10 months' imprisonment over a commemoration event in 2015.

November 15: A Diyarbakır court ruled to arrest four out of seven pro-Kurdish NGO and labor union executives who were detained on November 8 while releasing three others.

November 15: The police in İstanbul briefly detained two people holding a demonstration about sick prisoners.

November 16: An İzmir court handed down prison sentences to three people over their participation in 2014 protests against an ISIS assault on the Syrian Kurdish town of Kobane.

November 16: An İstanbul prosecutor demanded prison sentences for a group of lawyers from the Progressive Lawyers' Association (ÇHD) who are standing trial on terrorism-related charges.

November 16: A Mersin court ruled to acquit 17 people who were put on trial for holding a demonstration against a nuclear power plant.

November 17: The police in Tekirdağ detained six members and executives of the HDP as part of an investigation into a rally held in the province on November 7.

November 18: The Tunceli Governor's Office banned a planned awareness event about violence against women.

November 19: Tunceli prosecutors launched an investigation into individuals who distributed leaflets inviting people to a commemoration event.

November 22: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish journalist Nurcan Yalçın to three years, seven months and 22 days in prison on terrorism charges due to her membership in a women's association.

November 24: The police in İstanbul, Ankara, Çanakkale and Mersin intervened in demonstrations to protest the government's economic policies, detaining at least 91 people.

November 24: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 24: An İstanbul court rejected a request for filing a criminal complaint against public officials responsible for the violent police attack on a demonstration in August 2018.

November 25: Kocaeli prosecutors launched an investigation into a women's group for throwing headscarves on the ground in a protest against the Taliban in Afghanistan.

November 25: The police in İstanbul fired tear gas at hundreds of women protesting against male violence.

November 27: Gendarmerie forces in Şırnak attacked a protest against a local energy distributing company, detaining one person.

November 28: The police in Ankara intervened in a demonstration to protest the government's economic policies, detaining 24 people.

November 28: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 29: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 29: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 2: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration held in support of municipal workers on strike, detaining one person.

December 3: The Interior Ministry launched an investigation into several NGOs for allegedly receiving funds from a Texas-based foundation.

December 3: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 6: An İstanbul prosecutor indicted three waste workers who staged protests after their depots were raided by the police, seeking up to 17 years in prison for each.

December 7: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration to demand the release of a sick prisoner, detaining three people.

December 9: The government-appointed rector of Boğaziçi University filed criminal complaints against 16 academics who participated in a daily protest held in the campus against his appointment.

December 10: A district governor's office in Antalya banned a rally organized by labor unions to protest high cost of living.

December 11: An İstanbul prosecutor indicted 14 university students who staged demonstrations against the government-appointed rector of Boğaziçi University, seeking jail terms on four different charges.

December 11: The police in Şırnak detained Serhat Küçük, an executive for an association established for solidarity with people who have lost family members in the armed conflict in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish southeast.

December 12: A demonstration to be held in Ankara by a youth movement to protest high costs of living was met with police brutality. The police prevented buses carrying protesters

from İzmir and İstanbul from entering Ankara, injuring at least 10 people. The police also intervened in the protest in the city, briefly detaining at least 90 people.

December 13: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Yüksel Almas, co-chair of an association established for solidarity with relatives of those who lost their lives in the armed conflict in the Kurdish-majority southeast, to 10 years in prison on terrorism-related charges.

December 13: The police in Konya detained a man named Hayrettin Bulan for staging a protest in front of the local governor's office.

December 13: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 14: The police in Ankara intervened in a demonstration staged by university students to protest the government's economic policies, briefly detaining 13 people.

December 14: A Diyarbakır court sentenced former NGO executive Yılmaz Kan to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political movement.

December 14: The Kahramanmaraş Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 14 days.

December 15: The authorities imposed a TL 80,000 (€ 4,500) in administrative fine and confiscated a house belonging to Acun Karadağ, a former public servant summarily fired from her job by an executive decree after a 2016 coup attempt, for participating in a protest.

December 16: The police in Diyarbakır detained Emine Kaya, the co-chair of a pro-Kurdish association for solidarity with relatives of prisoners.

December 16: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit 13 activists who stood trial for protesting a pro-government construction company for building a stone quarry in an environmentally significant area.

December 17: The Tunceli Governor's Office banned a planned labor rally, citing the Covid-19 pandemic.

December 18: The İstanbul Governor's Office banned an event planned by an opposition party.

December 20: The police in Ankara intervened in a demonstration held by former public sector workers summarily dismissed by decree-laws in the aftermath of a 2016 coup attempt, detaining four people.

December 20: A court ruled to arrest Osman Aksoy and Mirza Kurt, two pro-Kurdish NGO members who were detained on December 19.

December 23: A Diyarbakır court sentenced two members of a pro-Kurdish charity association to two years, one month in prison on terrorism-related charges.

December 23: The police in İstanbul briefly detained 11 people staging a protest against rights violations in prisons and the continuing detention of sick prisoners.

December 25: The police in İstanbul briefly detained two people who were making a public statement to demand the release of a sick prisoner.

December 25: The police in Mersin briefly detained four HDP members who were handing out flyers about the downturn in the economy.

December 26: The police in Diyarbakır detained 16 people on terrorism charges during a youth meeting organized by the HDP.

December 26: The police in İstanbul detained 10 workers on strike who displayed a banner denouncing a district mayor.

December 27: The police in İstanbul intervened in a workers' protest, briefly detaining nine people.

December 27: The police in Ankara intervened in a workers' protest, briefly detaining four people.

December 28: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of one day.

December 30: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration about rights violations in prisons, detaining 11 people.

December 31: A judge at an İstanbul court criticized women who demonstrate against femicide during a hearing in the trial of 35 women standing trial due to a women's rights demonstration they staged in March 2020.

January 2, 2022: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, detaining at least 10 people.

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December 27, 2021: The police in İstanbul intervened in a workers' protest, briefly detaining nine people.

December 27: The police in Ankara intervened in a workers' protest, briefly detaining four people.

December 28: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of one day.

December 30: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration about rights violations in prisons, detaining 11 people.

December 31: A judge at an İstanbul court criticized women who demonstrate against femicide during a hearing in the trial of 35 women standing trial due to a women's rights demonstration they staged in March 2020.

January 2, 2022: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, detaining at least 10 people.

January 3: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 4: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 6: The police in İstanbul briefly detained a person protesting in front of a courthouse to demand the release of a sick prisoner.

January 6: The police in İstanbul detained a person protesting in front of a courthouse to demand the release of imprisoned lawyers.

January 6: The police in Ankara briefly detained three former municipal workers protesting their layoff.

January 7: An İstanbul court released on probation Ersin Berke Gök and Caner Perit Özen, university students standing trial along with 12 others due to their participation in Boğaziçi University protests.

January 9: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 10: The police in Bursa, Mardin and Siirt intervened in protests organized by the Furkan Foundation, an anti-government religious group, detaining dozens of people.

January 10: An İstanbul court issued arrest warrants for five people who are on trial over Boğaziçi University protests.

January 12: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 13: The Elazığ Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 14: The police in İstanbul intervened in protests that erupted following the suicide of a university student, detaining 83 people. The student's death caused nationwide controversy due to a video he released prior to his death in which he denounced the pressures he faced at his Islamic cult-run dorm.

January 16: The police in Adana used tear gas and plastic bullets to disperse a protest held by an anti-government religious group to demand the release of its jailed members.

January 17: A Diyarbakır court sentenced pro-Kurdish NGO activist Yıldız Damla to six years, three months on terrorism charges.

January 17: The police in Ankara intervened in a women's protest to demand free feminine hygiene products, detaining nine of them.

January 17: The police in Ankara briefly detained 11 people protesting the suicide of a university student staying at a religious dorm.

January 17: A district governor's office in Diyarbakır issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 18: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Mehmet Şerif Çamçı, an NGO executive, to six years, three months on terrorism charges, as part of an investigation into the Kurdish political movement.

January 18: The Constitutional Court concluded the complaint of an applicant who was wounded due to police intervention during Gezi Park protests in 2013, ruling that the prohibition ill-treatment was not violated as the use of pressurized water by the riot police was proportionate and justified.

January 21: A Tunceli court sentenced local civil society activist Özkan Arslan to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, over his participation in environmental protests as well as his social media commentary.

January 25: The police in Antalya detained local labor union executive İlhan Karakurt due to a speech he made at a protest calling for a secular education.

January 25: The authorities suspended the monthly loans of students who participated in nationwide demonstrations against student housing shortages.

January 27: The authorities launched an investigation into 33 people who were briefly detained by the police in İzmir while protesting unaffordable living costs for university students.

January 28: The police in İstanbul detained without a detention warrant three women who allegedly participated in women's rights protest in November 2021.

January 28: The Batman Governor's Office refused to authorize the opening of a stand to call for the official recognition of the Kurdish language.

January 28: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 29: The police in Ankara briefly detained three people holding a protest in front of the Justice Ministry.

January 31: The police in Kocaeli intervened in a workers' protest, briefly detaining 200 people.

February 3: An administrative court in Denizli rejected appeals filed by four Iranian refugees who are facing a possible deportation to Iran for protesting Turkey's withdrawal from the İstanbul Convention. The refugees announced that they faced pressure to sign papers for voluntary deportation during their detention at a migrant deportation center in April 2021.

February 3: The police in İstanbul detained 17 people protesting to demand the release of sick prisoners.

February 3: A district governor's office in İstanbul banned an event for solidarity with prisoners.

February 3: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

February 4: The police in İstanbul briefly detained one person staging a protest about the situation of sick prisoners.

February 7: The police in Mardin detained 41 people a day after they attended protests against the increases in electricity prices. The detainees were released the next day.

February 8: The police in Van intervened in a demonstration staged by health workers, briefly detaining eight people.

February 9: Mardin prosecutors indicted civil society activists Abdullah Ayav, Vesile Yüksel and Ruken Aslan on charges of spreading terrorist propaganda, over an event that featured Kurdish-language theater and music.

February 9: The authorities imposed monetary fines on five trans women over a protest in March 2021.

February 10: The police in İstanbul briefly detained 16 people who gathered in front of a cemevi, an Alevi place of worship, for a funeral.

February 10: The police in Rize briefly detained a local leftist politician for carrying a banner to protest increases in energy prices.

February 10: An Eskişehir court ruled to acquit five people who stood trial over their participation in protests against high cost of student housing.

February 11: An İzmir court ruled to acquit 25 lawyers and a journalist who stood trial over their participation in a protest against the appointment of government trustees to replace the elected mayors of three predominantly Kurdish provinces in August 2019.

February 12: The police in Muş detained lawyers Tarık Güneş and Rumet Agir Özer, former executives of the Human Rights Association (İHD) on terrorism-related charges. Güneş was arrested by a court on February 13 while Özer was released on probation.

February 15: The police in İstanbul detained Esin Çelik, an executive for an association established for solidarity with relatives of prisoners.

February 16: The police in Ağrı detained six people for their participation in events in 2015.

February 17: The police in İstanbul briefly detained three people handing out flyers about sick prisoners.

February 18: The police in İstanbul intervened in a workers' protest, briefly detaining 100 people.

February 18: The police in Ankara intervened in a women's protest, briefly detaining eight people.

February 18: The police in İstanbul detained one person demonstrating for sick prisoners.

February 18: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

February 21: The police in İzmir briefly detained two leftist activists for handing out flyers for an event.

February 22: A court ruled to arrest one of the 11 members and executives of an NGO for solidarity with relatives of inmates who were detained on February 15, while releasing others on probation.

February 23: The police in İstanbul detained one person for participating in a demonstration in front of a courthouse to demand the release of sick prisoners.

February 24: The police in Ankara battered and detained the members of a family who were staging a sit-in in front of the Ministry of Justice.

February 24: The police in Ankara briefly detained six people protesting the Russian invasion of Ukraine in front of the Russian embassy.

February 24: The police in Van detained four university students who staged a protest at the university cafeteria.

February 27: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

February 28: The police in İstanbul briefly detained 26 people protesting the high costs of living.

March 1: The police in Ankara briefly detained one person protesting his layoff from a district municipality.

March 3: An İzmir court sentenced six people to five months in prison over a demonstration they staged in 2019 against the ousting of elected mayors in three predominantly Kurdish provinces.

March 3: The police in İstanbul briefly detained three people protesting to demand the release of a sick prisoner.

March 3: İstanbul prosecutors drafted an indictment seeking the closure of a pro-Kurdish association.

March 4: The police in Ankara briefly detained two people demonstrating in front of the Ministry of Justice to demand the release of a sick prisoner.

March 4: The police in İstanbul briefly detained one person over a demonstration about sick and hunger striking prisoners.

March 4: İstanbul prosecutors indicted 10 members and executives of the Republican People's Party (CHP) over the distribution of a brochure on money laundering allegations implicating the government.

March 4: A district governor's office in Kocaeli rejected a request for permission to organize a demonstration about the economic situation.

March 6: The police in Ankara detained five people holding a demonstration on the occasion of the upcoming International Women's Day.

March 6: The authorities announced investigations into 12 people over events organized on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

March 7: The İstanbul Governor's Office banned demonstrations and marches to mark International Women's Day.

March 7: A Şırnak court ruled to acquit 16 people who were standing trial over their participation in a commemoration event for the victims of a Turkish airstrike that killed 34 civilians in 2011.

March 8: The European Court of Human Rights ruled that Turkey violated the right to freedom of assembly of 15 applicants who were sentenced to prison over a non-violent protest at a courthouse in 2003.

March 8: The police in İstanbul, İzmir, Antalya and Diyarbakır intervened in Women's Day marches, briefly detaining at least 78 people.

March 10: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Kurdish author Azad Zal to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges, citing as evidence his memberships in pro-Kurdish associations, his involvement in pro-Kurdish media and his affiliation with the Kurdish political movement.

March 14: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest against price hikes, briefly detaining 10 people.

March 14: The police in Eskişehir detained three members of a socialist youth organization. The detainees were released on March 16.

March 14: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 15: The police in Ankara intervened in a protest against increases in public transport prices, briefly detaining nine people.

March 16: The police in Diyarbakır detained 24 women's rights activists over their participation in Women's Day demonstrations.

March 17: A Diyarbakır court sentenced 79-year-ol peace activist Meryem Soylu to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges, over her membership in an association for people who have lost their relatives in the armed conflict in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish southeast.

March 17: The police in Mersin detained four people, including an executive for an association established for solidarity with relatives of inmates.

March 18: The police in Ankara detained one person staging a protest in front of a courthouse to demand the release of a sick prisoner.

March 18: The police in İstanbul detained one person holding a demonstration in front of the Forensic Medicine Institution to demand the release of a sick prisoner.

March 20: The police in Adana was seen in videos where they were using excessive violence on the members of a religious group protesting the government.

March 20: The police in İstanbul intervened in a Newroz celebration, briefly detaining 86 people.

March 21: The police in Diyarbakır, Ağrı, Hakkari, Konya and Mardin intervened in Newroz celebrations in the province, detaining at least 353 people.

March 22: An Adana court ruled to acquit seven people who stood trial over their participation in protests against the government-appointed rector of Boğaziçi University.

March 23: An Ankara court ruled to acquit 33 women who were standing trial for participating in protests against Turkey's withdrawal from the İstanbul Convention.

March 25: The police in İzmir and Tekirdağ detained at least 55 people over their participation in Newroz celebrations.

March 25: A human rights lawyer lodged a complaint with the UN Human Rights Council's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on behalf of three Iranian refugees in Turkey who face deportation for protesting Turkey's withdrawal from the İstanbul Convention.

March 26: Denizli prosecutors launched an investigation into four people, including an NGO executive, for sending money to their relatives in prison.

March 26: The Diyarbakır Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 10 days.

March 26: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 27: The police in İstanbul intervened in a leftist group's demonstration, detaining six people.

March 28: The police detained two people over their participation in last week's Newroz celebrations.

March 29: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 30: A Diyarbakır court sentenced NGO executive Zahit Çiftkuran to seven years, six months in prison on terrorism charges, over his participation in events and funerals.

March 30: The police in İstanbul intervened in a leftist group's demonstration, briefly detaining 40 people.

March 30: The police in Ankara intervened in a workers' protest, detaining five people.

March 30: The police in Antalya detained 10 people, including two minors, over their participation in Newroz celebrations. The detainees were released the next day.

March 31: The police in İstanbul briefly detained a person who was demonstrating to call for the release of sick prisoners.

March 31: The police in Ankara intervened in a workers' protest, detaining six people.

March 31: The gendarmerie in Mardin detained six people over their participation in Newroz celebrations. The detainees were released the next day.

March 31: The gendarmerie in Muğla intervened in a protest against an energy company's plans to uproot olive trees in a rural area, briefly detaining two people.

March 31: A district governor's office in İstanbul issued a ban on all outdoor demonstrations for a period of 15 days.

April 1: The police in İstanbul detained one person staging a protest to call for the release of a sick prisoner.

April 2: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

April 3: The police in Ankara intervened in a protest against an energy company, briefly detaining eight people.

April 3: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

April 4: The police in İzmir briefly detained 16 people for attending Nevruz celebrations on March 20.

April 5: The police in Muğla detained 30 people who took part in Nevruz celebrations on March 20.

April 5: Mersin prosecutors launched an investigation into 22 lawyers for holding a press conference about a sick prisoner.

April 8: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest held in support of two prisoners on hunger strike, detaining two people. The detainees were released the next day.

April 12: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest staged by the HDP and detained three people, including executives of the party. The detainees were released the next day.

April 12: An İstanbul prosecutor demanded the closure of an association due to an LGBTI event it organized.

April 13: İstanbul prosecutors indicted 40 women over their participation in Women's Day events.

April 13: The police in Ankara briefly detained two former municipal workers protesting their layoff.

April 13: An İzmir court ruled to acquit seven people who stood trial over a protest march.

April 13: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

April 14: Gendarmes in Adıyaman briefly detained 20 people protesting the construction of a marble quarry.

April 14: The police in İstanbul briefly detained six women protesting the prices of female hygiene products.

April 14: The authorities started a legal process to close down the We Will Stop Femicide Platform (Kadın Cinayetlerini Durduracağız Platformu), accusing it of "illegal and immoral activities" and "damaging the Turkish family structure." The women's rights group is instrumental in raising awareness on violence against women and compiling data on femicides as well as other types of gender-based violence and abuse.

April 14: An Eskişehir court ruled to acquit six people who stood trial for participating in protests against high costs of living for students.

April 15: The police detained at least 66 people on terrorism-related charges for their attendance at Newroz celebrations in Diyarbakır in March.

April 15: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest about sick prisoners, briefly detaining three people.

April 15: The police in İstanbul detained a man staging a protest about sick prisoners.

April 17: The police in Ankara detained a man who participated in a protest about the imprisonment of military cadets on coup charges.

April 18: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration to commemorate a deadly May Day incident in 1977, detaining 26 people, including members of the HDP.

April 19: The police in İstanbul briefly detained a man staging a demonstration in front of a courthouse.

April 19: The police in Antalya detained four people over their participation in demonstrations held in the province.

April 19: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

April 20: The police in İstanbul briefly detained five people staging a demonstration for two prisoners who are on hunger strike.

April 21: The police in Muğla detained eight people for participating in Newroz celebrations in March.

April 21: The police in İstanbul briefly detained two people protesting for prisoners on hunger strike.

April 24: The İstanbul Governor's Office banned gatherings to mark the Armenian genocide.

April 25: An İstanbul court sentenced businessman and civil society leader Osman Kavala to life in prison on charges of attempting to overthrow the government by financing the 2013 Gezi Park protests.

April 25: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration at Boğaziçi University, detaining two people and injuring two others.

April 25: The police in İzmir briefly detained Nilay Güleser, an executive of an NGO established for solidarity with relatives of prisoners.

April 26: The police in İstanbul detained three people holding a protest march for prisoners on hunger strike.

April 26: An Eskişehir court ruled to acquit 16 people who stood trial over their participation in an LGBT pride parade in June 2021.

April 26: A governmental higher education agency halted the student loans of 12 people over their participation in women's rights protests.

April 27: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest against the conviction of civil society leader Osman Kavala, detaining 51 people.

April 28: The police in several provinces detained a total of 17 people holding protests for prisoners on hunger strike.

May 1: The police in İstanbul intervened in demonstrations held on the occasion of the International Workers' Day, detaining at least 164 people.

May 3: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

May 5: The police in Ankara intervened in an event organized by the HDP, detaining six party members as well as two others. Party members were physically assaulted during the intervention. An officer verbally threatened MP Ayşe Acar-Başaran.

May 5: The police in İstanbul briefly detained two people who staged a protest in front of a courthouse.

May 6: The Constitutional Court ruled that the authorities violated the rights of a woman who was arrested for protesting the imprisonment of a relative near the home of the president.

May 7: The police in Muş intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, briefly detaining three party executives.

May 9: The İstanbul Governor's Office blocked the bank accounts of the Nesin Foundation on the grounds that the foundation was allegedly involved in an unauthorized donation campaign.

May 9: The Eskişehir Governor's Office banned a planned music festival.

May 9: The Adana Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

May 10: The police in Mardin briefly detained 12 people, including five minors, over their participation in Newroz celebrations.

May 10: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit two underage children who were detained and tried over their participation in an LGBT pride march.

May 10: The Eskişehir Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

May 10: The Batman Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

May 10: The Rize Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 5 days.

May 11: The police in Mardin detained 10 people over their participation in Newroz celebrations.

May 11: The police in İstanbul briefly detained six people protesting about prisoners on hunger strike.

May 11: The Gaziantep Governor's Office banned a rally planned by opposition party DEVA.

May 13: The police in Ankara briefly detained three people protesting for prisoners on hunger strike.

May 13: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

May 13: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 7 days.

May 14: The police in Tunceli violently intervened in the funeral of a Kurdish politician, detaining four people. Three of the detainees were later released while one was arrested by a court on charges of resisting the police.

May 15: The Kocaeli Municipality cancelled a concert by Kurdish singer Aynur Doğan.

May 16: Opposition MP Sezgin Tanrıkulu announced that the police detained 288 people in 45 demonstrations in April.

May 16: The police in İstanbul detained two people protesting for prisoners on hunger strike.

May 17: The police in İstanbul briefly detained Hanife Yıldız, a peace activist fighting for accountability for the enforced disappearances of the 1990s, while she was attempting to stage a demonstration in front of a courthouse.

May 17: The gendarmes in Şanlıurfa briefly detained five people protesting a local energy supplier.

May 17: The police in Balıkesir detained three people for carrying rainbow flags during an LGBT event.

May 17: The Muş Governor's Office banned a concert by Metin Kahraman and Kemal Kahraman.

May 17: The Ministry of Culture and Tourism removed a K-Pop group from a festival on the grounds that the group encouraged homosexuality.

May 17: A municipality in Kocaeli banned the staging of a Kurdish-language theater play.

May 18: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit 17 people who stood trial for protesting to raise awareness about hunger strikes in prisons.

May 18: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration to commemorate a left-wing militant, detaining 25 people. The detainees were released the next day.

May 19: The police in İstanbul detained two people protesting for prisoners on hunger strike.

May 20: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, briefly detaining four people.

May 20: The police in İstanbul intervened in an LGBT pride march, detaining 70 activists.

May 22: The İstanbul Governor's Office banned a picnic organized by an association.

May 22: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest against Turkey's military incursion into northern Iraq, detaining 25 protestors.

May 22: The police in İstanbul, Adana and Hatay intervened in demonstrations organized by members of an anti-government religious group, detaining at least 11 people.

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.

May 30: The police in Hatay briefly detained two people staging a sit-in to support prisoners on hunger strike.

May 30: A district governor's office in Bitlis canceled a Kurdish-language theater play, citing technical problems.

May 30: The Kocaeli Governor's Office canceled a youth festival.

May 31: The police in Şırnak intervened in a protest organized by the HDP, detaining five party executives.

May 31: The police in İstanbul detained two people demonstrating for prisoners on hunger strike.

May 31: The police in İstanbul briefly detained 29 people protesting an energy supplier.

June 1: The police in İstanbul intervened in demonstrations held to mark the ninth anniversary of the 2013 Gezi Park protests, detaining at least 170 people.

June 1: The police in Ankara detained 46 people holding a demonstration to mark to ninth anniversary of the 2013 Gezi Park protests.

June 2: The police detained 22 people as part of an investigation into the Migration Monitoring Association (GÖÇİZ-DER).

June 2: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration held by relatives of prisoners, detaining six people.

June 3: The police in İstanbul briefly detained five people who staged a protest against restrictions on women artists.

June 5: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration held by LGBT activists, briefly detaining 11 people.

June 6: Governors of Adana and Mersin banned the Kurdish-language staging of Tartuffe without a justification.

June 7: The rectorate of a university in Ankara announced that it will block an LGBT pride march.

June 8: The police in İstanbul briefly detained five people staging a protest in front of a courthouse to support prisoners on hunger strike.

June 9: The police in Ankara detained five labor union members who were staging a protest in front of the official statistical agency.

June 9: The police in İstanbul detained 16 people staging demonstrations in front of courthouses.

June 9: The Bursa Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

June 10: An Adana court handed down prison sentences to seven people over their participation in protests in 2013.

June 10: The police in Ankara detained 38 university students staging an LGBT pride march.

June 11: The police in Eskişehir detained two university students over a demonstration.

June 11: The police in Diyarbakır detained 12 pro-Kurdish politicians and activists who staged a demonstration.

June 11: The police in İstanbul detained 20 university students holding a march.

June 11: The Çanakkale Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of four days.

June 12: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 12: The İzmir Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of two days.

June 13: The police in Konya detained 22 members of the Furkan Foundation, an anti-government religious group, who organized a protest march.

June 13: The police in İstanbul briefly detained two people who tried to obstruct a park's demolition.

June 14: A Diyarbakır court sentenced NGO activist Mehmet Hafız Şık to six years, three months in prison on terrorism charges.

June 14: The police in İstanbul detained six people who staged a protest against an energy company.

June 16: The police in İstanbul briefly detained nine people who staged a protest about sick prisoners.

June 18: A picnic scheduled to take place in a university campus in İstanbul as part of LGBT pride week activities was canceled after it was targeted by radical religious groups who threatened to lynch attendees. The police who arrive at the scene briefly detained 26 attendees of the picnic.

June 18: The Governor of Gaziantep announced that no pride event will be authorized in the province.

June 21: An İzmir court sentenced women's rights activist Meryem Yıldırım to five months in prison over her participation in a demonstration.

June 21: The police in İstanbul briefly detained four people staging a demonstration in front of a courthouse to protest a lenient prison sentence that was handed down in a case of femicide.

June 21: The Muğla Governor's Office banned all planned LGBT events.

June 22: An İstanbul court sentenced activists Kaan Ünal and Doğukan Akkaya to five months in prison over their participation in protests against the government-appointed rector of Boğaziçi University.

June 22: The İstanbul Governor's Office banned all planned LGBT events.

June 22: The Eskişehir Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days, in anticipation of planned LGBT events.

June 23: The police in İstanbul briefly detained six people staging a vigil in front of a courthouse.

June 23: The Muğla Governor's Office interrupted a rap concert and forcibly removed the singer off the stage.

June 24: The İzmir Governor's Office banned planned LGBT events for a period of three days.

June 25: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the Saturday Mothers (Cumartesi Anneleri), briefly detaining 16 people.

June 26: The police in İstanbul intervened in a Pride march, detaining 373 people. The detainees were released the next day.

June 26: The police in İzmir intervened in a Pride march, briefly detaining eight people.

June 27: The police in Osmaniye detained 30 members of an anti-government religious group staging a protest. Two of the detainees were arrested by a court on June 28.

June 27: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest held in front of the German consulate, detaining one person.

June 30: The police in İstanbul intervened in a vigil staged in front of a courthouse about sick prisoners, detaining one person.

June 30: The police in Kocaeli attacked an outdoor exhibition organized by the HDP, briefly detaining six party members.

July 1: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration about prisoners on hunger strike, briefly detaining two people.

July 2: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 3: The police in Ankara detained five people over slogans chanted at a meeting organized by the HDP.

July 3: The police in Eskişehir intervened in an LGBT pride march, briefly detaining 12 people.

July 4: Gendarmerie in Şırnak intervened in a protest by local inhabitants against an energy company, detaining 20 people.

July 5: The police in Batman detained four people over slogans chanted at a HDP rally.

July 5: The police in Ankara detained three journalists for attending a demonstration protesting the arrest of 16 of their colleagues on terrorism charges.

July 5: The police in Ankara intervened in a pride march, briefly detaining at least 50 LGBT rights activists.

July 7: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest vigil, detaining four people.

July 7: The police in Mardin detained seven people protesting a local energy supplier.

July 13: The police in Hatay intervened in a demonstration organized by leftist activists, detaining 24 people.

July 13: The police in İstanbul detained four activists who were handing out flyers.

July 14: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest vigil outside a courthouse, briefly detaining six people.

July 14: The Giresun Governor's Office banned a concert by Pontic Greek singer Apolas Lermi after he was the target of racist attacks on the media.

July 14: The Van Governor's Office released a statement designating the vicinity of government offices as well as a number of streets as parks as localities categorically forbidden for demonstrations while lifting restrictions to assembly imposed in other areas in the province.

July 18: Gendarmerie in İstanbul intervened in a workers' protest, detaining 20 people.

July 18: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 17 days.

July 18: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 20: The police in İstanbul, Ankara and İzmir intervened in demonstrations held to commemorate the victims of an ISIL massacre in 2015, detaining a total of 170 people.

July 21: The police in İstanbul briefly detained eight people protesting about the situation of sick prisoners.

July 21: A culture festival in Tunceli was cancelled after local authorities imposed roadblocks that made the event impossible to hold.

July 22: The police in İstanbul sealed off the building of an religious association after an İstanbul court ruled to shut it down.

July 23: The police in İstanbul intervened in a football event organized by the HDP to commemorate a 19-year-old Kurdish university student who was killed by the police, detaining 11 people.

July 23: The police in İstanbul detained a leftist militant who held a demonstration to protest an alleged Turkish artillery strike that killed nine civilians in northern Iraq.

July 25: The Mersin Governor's Office banned pride events in the province for a period of 15 days.

July 25: The police in Antalya intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, briefly detaining seven people.

July 27: Gendarmerie in Ordu intervened in a demonstration organized to protest the granting of a spring water source to a private company, briefly detaining 11 people.

July 29: The police in İstanbul detained three people who protested the İstanbul mayor during a mosque visit.

August 1: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

August 2: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest against the planned demolition of a park, detaining nine people.

August 4: The Constitutional Court ruled that a monetary fine imposed on 10 people in Van for handing out flyers about a HDP meeting was in violation of the right to assembly.

August 9: The police in Muğla intervened in a protest vigil against the construction of a hotel, briefly detaining 15 people.

August 9: The police in İstanbul intervened in a funeral organized for a leftist militant, detaining 10 people.

August 10: The Batman Governor's Office restricted all outdoor gatherings for a period of 10 days.

August 11: The police in İstanbul detained two people staging a demonstration to support a prisoner who is on hunger strike.

August 11: The police in İstanbul intervened in a workers' protest, briefly detaining 12 people.

August 11: A district governor's office in Balıkesir refused to authorize a music festival, citing public order reasons.

August 11: The police in İzmir raided a local leftist party office in anticipation of a planned demonstration to commemorate a militant, briefly detaining 20 people.

August 11: The police in Tekirdağ briefly detained 10 activists in anticipation of a planned demonstration to support a prisoner who is on hunger strike.

August 11: A district governor's office in İstanbul banned all outdoor gatherings for a period of one month. The decision was announced following demonstrations organized by workers to protest a construction company.

August 12: The police in İstanbul intervened in a workers' protest, detaining 10 people.

August 13: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration to commemorate a leftist militant, detaining 23 people.

August 13: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration about sick prisoners, briefly detaining 40 people.

ASSOCIATION

August 15: The police in İstanbul intervened in a workers' protest, briefly detaining four people.

August 16: The police in Muğla detained three people protesting the construction of a hotel.

August 16: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

August 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

August 20: Gendarmerie in Aydın intervened in a protest against the construction of a geothermic central in an agricultural area, detaining five people.

August 22: The police in Ordu intervened in a funeral held for a deceased leftist militant, detaining at least 10 people.

August 22: The İstanbul police detained 16 people protesting the demolition of their houses.

August 23: The police in Artvin briefly detained three people over their participation in an environmental protest.

August 23: The Muğla Governor's Office banned a music festival that was scheduled for early September.

August 24: The police in Ordu intervened in a funeral held for a deceased leftist militant, detaining nine people.

August 24: The Mersin Governor's Office banned a concert organized by the Human Rights Association (İHD) on the occasion of the International Day of Peace.

August 26: The Constitutional Court found inadmissible appeals rejected by Mücella Yapıcı, Tayfun Kahraman and Can Atalay who were sentenced to life in prison on charges related to the Gezi Park protests of 2013.

August 26: The government-appointed rector of Boğaziçi University, Naci İnci, suspended 16 academics over their participation in protests against his appointment.

August 27: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest vigil about sick prisoners, briefly detaining 10 people.

August 30: The İstanbul police intervened in a demonstration held on the occasion of the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances to commemorate Turkey's enforced disappearance victims, briefly detaining 14 people.

August 30: The police in Ankara intervened in a demonstration organized by teachers to demand better wages, briefly detaining nine people.

August 30: A district governor's office in Adana and the Mardin Governor's Office banned concerts that were organized on the occasion of a national holiday.

August 31: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 1: İstanbul prosecutors indicted 86 people over their participation in demonstrations in January.

September 1: The police in İstanbul and Van intervened in demonstrations held on the occasion of the International Day of Peace, briefly detaining at least 108 activists.

September 1: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 2: A district governor's office in Balıkesir prevented two people from taking the stage at a local concert.

September 3: The İstanbul Governor's Office banned a gathering organized by an opposition MP to raise awareness about enforced disappearances.

September 6: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest staged by construction workers, detaining 15 people.

September 8: A district governor's office in Muğla banned a local music festival.

September 10: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest organized by relatives of prisoners, briefly detaining eight people.

September 12: The police in İzmir briefly detained four people protesting the high cost of living for university students.

September 13: The İzmir Governor's Office banned a sporting event organized by the provincial bar association.

September 13: The Şırnak Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 14: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit 21 people who stood trial over their participation in a Labor Day demonstration in 2021.

September 16: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP to demand mother tongue education for Kurds, detaining nine people.

September 16: A Diyarbakır court sentenced Yıldız Damla, a member of an association established for solidarity with people who lost relatives in the conflict in the predominantly Kurdish southeast, to six years, three months on terrorism charges. The judgment came after an appeals court overturned the same sentence that was previously handed down to Damla.

September 16: The police in İstanbul intervened in a workers' protest, briefly detaining 30 people.

September 16: The police in İstanbul detained five people protesting the detention of two leftist politicians.

September 16: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

September 17: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration about sick prisoners, briefly detaining seven people.

September 18: The police in İstanbul intervened in a workers' protest, briefly detaining one person.

September 20: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration held in support of the protests in Iran over the death of a woman due to torture, detaining two people.

September 21: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest, briefly detaining 16 people. The demonstration was organized by the Saturday Mothers, a group of activists and family members seeking the whereabouts of loved ones who disappeared while in police custody in the 1990s. Some of the group's members are on trial over their participation in earlier protests.

September 21: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office banned a concert by singer İlkay Akkaya, citing security and public order reasons.

September 25: A district governor's office in İstanbul banned a festival.

September 25: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration staged against the banning of a festival, detaining 15 people.

September 25: The police in Diyarbakır detained six people for carrying a flag of the Iraqi Kurdistan in a football stadium during a match.

September 26: Eskişehir prosecutors launched an investigation into several people for their participation in a demonstration in support of ongoing women's rights protests in Iran.

September 27: The Mersin Governor's Office banned a concert by Kurdish musician Mem Ararat.

September 30: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest vigil held to support a hunger striking prisoner, briefly detaining two people.

October 1: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration about sick prisoners, briefly detaining nine people.

October 2: The police in Ankara intervened in a demonstration to support the women's rights protests in Iran, briefly detaining nine people.

October 2: The police in Şırnak briefly detained two people for participating in a protest held against a local electricity supplier.

October 3: The police in İstanbul and Diyarbakır intervened in demonstrations organized by the HDP to protest the assassination of a journalist in Iraqi Kurdistan, briefly detaining 36 people.

October 4: An İzmir court acquitted 11 people who stood trial over their participation in a Labor Day event in the province.

October 5: The police in İstanbul intervened in a workers' protest, detaining 21 people.

October 5: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of eight days.

October 7: The police in İzmir and Manisa detained 13 people due to their participation in demonstrations.

October 8: The police in İstanbul detained three people for staging a protest about sick prisoners.

October 9: The police in İstanbul and several provinces across the country intervened in demonstrations held to call for the release of the jailed leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), detaining at least 170 people. Video footage of the police intervention showed HDP MPs Habip Eksik and Sait Dede being battered on the ground. Eksik's leg and nose were broken.

October 10: The police in Ankara intervened in a demonstration held to commemorate the victims of a 2015 bomb attack, briefly detaining 17 people.

October 13: An İstanbul court sentenced an activist named Mert Karadağ to five months in prison over his participation in Boğaziçi University protests.

October 14: The Adana Governor's Office refused to authorize an event that was planned by the HDP to mark its anniversary.

October 15: The Mardin Governor's Office banned an exhibition that was planned to be held in a church.

October 15: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration about sick prisoners, briefly detaining four people.

October 15: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

Provincial governors and other local authorities imposed the following blanket bans on outdoor gatherings:

Date	Governor's Office	Duration
October 19	Muş	15 days
October 19	Diyarbakır	1 day
October 20	Adıyaman	10 days
October 20	Şanlıurfa	3 days
October 20	Gaziantep	7 days

October 20	Tunceli	4 days
October 20	Bitlis	15 days
October 20	Şırnak	2 days
October 20	Bingöl	15 days
October 20	Elazığ	7 days
October 23	Şanlıurfa	15 days

The blanket bans were mostly issued in predominantly Kurdish cities, in apparent anticipation of potential protests that could be sparked by allegations that Turkey's military used chemical weapons in its fight against the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in northern Iraq.

October 17: The police in Ankara intervened in a workers' protest, briefly detaining 28 people.

October 19: The police in İstanbul intervened in a students' protest, detaining two people.

October 20: The police in Gaziantep detained eight people over their participation in a Newroz celebration. The detainees were released the next day.

October 20: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest about allegations that Turkey's military used chemical weapons in northern Iraq, briefly detaining 37 people.

October 20: The gendarmerie in Amasya detained three villagers who were protesting the construction of an industrial complex.

October 21: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration about sick prisoners, briefly detaining activists Fince Akman and Cemile Karakaş.

October 24: The police in İstanbul intervened in a workers' protest, detaining one person.

October 26: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protests against the detention of prominent human rights advocate Şebnem Korur Fincancı, briefly detaining 62 people.

October 27: The Mersin Governor's Office banned an NGO event for solidarity with relatives of prisoners.

October 27: An Antalya court ruled to acquit 48 labor union activists who stood trial for staging a demonstration.

October 28: Ankara prosecutors demanded the dismissal and replacement of the executives of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB), after chairperson Şebnem Korur Fincancı was arrested for urging an investigation into the military's alleged use of chemical weapons in northern Iraq.

October 28: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest vigil held for sick prisoners, detaining activists Fince Akman and Cemile Çiftçi.

October 31: The police in İzmir intervened in a demonstration staged against the arrest of leading rights defender Şebnem Korur Fincancı, briefly detaining 23 activists.

October 31: A district governor's office in Bursa banned a concert by musician İlkay Akkaya.

October 31: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 1: The police in İzmir intervened in an exhibition organized by university students, detaining 20 students.

November 1: The police in İstanbul intervened in a students' protest, detaining four activists.

November 1: The police in İstanbul intervened in a labor union demonstration, briefly detaining two people.

November 2: The Şırnak Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 5 days.

November 4: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest vigil about sick prisoners, detaining three activists.

November 6: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration about the military's alleged use of chemical weapons in northern Iraq, briefly detaining 121 people.

November 6: The gendarmes in Şırnak intervened in a protest about the military's alleged use of chemical weapons in northern Iraq, detaining 32 people.

November 8: The police in İstanbul detained 10 people over their attendance in a demonstration.

November 8: The police in Ankara detained seven people who protested a construction project in front of the municipality.

November 8: An İstanbul court acquitted two activists who stood trial over their demonstrations for sick prisoners.

November 9: The police in Ankara intervened in a labor union demonstration outside the Constitutional Court, detaining five union members and executives.

November 10: An Ankara court sentenced 13 university students to imprisonment over their protests against a construction project. The students were given prison sentences ranging from 20 days to eight months. The sentences were later converted to monetary fines.

Provincial governors and other local authorities imposed the following blanket bans on outdoor gatherings.

Date	Governor's Office	Duration
November 14	Mardin	15 days
November 15	Hakkari	15 days

November 17	Tunceli	5 days
November 20	Elazığ	15 days
November 20	Bingöl	15 days
November 20	Van	9 days
November 20	Şanlıurfa	15 days
November 20	Bitlis	15 days

The blanket bans were mostly issued in predominantly Kurdish provinces, in apparent anticipation of potential protests that could erupt following Turkey's airstrikes in Kurdish-majority areas in Syria and Iraq.

November 16: The Kadıköy district governor's office in İstanbul banned a movie event organized by a university student club.

November 17: The police in İstanbul raided a women's association during a commemoration event, briefly detaining 11 people who were inside.

November 17: İstanbul prosecutors indicted 104 people who were detained during their attendance in protests.

November 20: The police in Tunceli intervened in a protest against Turkey's airstrikes in Iraq and Syria, detaining one person.

November 21: The police in İstanbul, Ankara, Van and Diyarbakır intervened in protests held against Turkey's airstrikes in Kurdish-majority areas in Iraq and Syria, detaining 125 people.

November 21: The Diyarbakır Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

November 22: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest held against Turkey's airstrikes in Iraq and Syria, detaining 10 people.

November 22: The police in İstanbul intervened in a women's rights protest, briefly detaining eight people.

November 22: İstanbul prosecutors indicted 12 people who took part in Boğaziçi University protests, demanding up to three years in prison for each defendant.

November 22: The Şırnak Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

November 23: The Batman Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of eight days.

November 24: A Manisa court handed down prison sentences to four people for staging a protest against construction plans for a geothermal power plant. The court acquitted 29 other activists who faced charges in the same trial.

November 24: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

November 25: The police in İstanbul, Ankara, Ağrı, Erzurum and Şırnak intervened in women's rights demonstrations, detaining 260 people.

November 25: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration about sick prisoners, briefly detaining 11 people.

November 25: The Beyoğlu district governorate in İstanbul banned demonstrations for a day. The ban was issued prior to a planned women's rights march on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

November 25: The Gaziantep Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

November 25: The Kilis Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

November 25: Governors in Osmaniye, Bursa and Tunceli refused to authorize women's rights marches on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

November 27: The police in İstanbul intervened in a women's rights demonstration, briefly detaining 116 people.

November 28: The police in Manisa detained 10 people as part of an investigation into a Newroz demonstration.

November 29: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 1: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 2: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration staged outside a courthouse, detaining four people.

December 5: The Bursa Governor's Office banned a painting contest about gender equality organized by a labor union.

December 6: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration against a mining company, detaining seven people.

December 9: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest about sick prisoners, briefly detaining seven activists.

December 10: The police in İstanbul intervened a protest staged in reaction to allegations that an underage girl was married off, briefly detaining 12 people.

December 11: The police in Diyarbakır intervened in a demonstration march about the imprisoned leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), detaining two people.

December 11: The Diyarbakır Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a day.

December 12: The police in Van intervened in a demonstration staged to protest the detention conditions of the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), briefly detaining 48 people.

December 13: President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan ordered a 60-day postponement of strikes at two steel factories in Kocaeli, citing concerns about national security.

December 13: The Şırnak Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 7 days.

December 15: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration staged outside a courthouse, briefly detaining eight people.

December 15: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 17: The Küçükçekmece district governor's office in İstanbul banned a concert organized by a pro-Kurdish association. The police intervened in a protest staged against the ban, briefly detaining 26 people.

December 17: The police in Kocaeli detained opposition activist Ali Demir for hanging a political banner on an overpass.

December 17: The police in Diyarbakır detained Kurdish activists Jiyan Timurtaş and Şerzan Kılıçarslan due to an event about the flag of Kurdistan.

December 17: The Kahramanmaraş Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 10 days. The ban came ahead of an anniversary of a massacre that took place in the province.

December 18: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest march about sick prisoners, detaining 70 people. The detainees were released the next day.

December 18: The police in İzmir intervened in a protest against the prison conditions of jailed PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan, detaining 42 people.

December 19: The police in İstanbul and Kocaeli intervened in protests staged against an incident of police violence, detaining 109 people.

December 19: The police in İstanbul intervened in a commemoration event, briefly detaining three activists.

December 19: The Muş Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 13 days.

December 21: An İstanbul court sentenced 22 people to one year, three months in prison due to their participation in a commemoration event in 2019.

December 21: The police in Ankara intervened in a protest staged by former public sector workers summarily dismissed by decree-laws, detaining six people.

December 23: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration against the detention of Kurdish politicians, detaining one activist.

December 26: The gendarmes in İzmir intervened in several workers' protests that were sparked by the layoff of a mineworker, detaining 22 people.

December 26: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration staged outside the French consulate to protest an armed attack on a Kurdish association in Paris, briefly detaining 14 people.

December 29: The authorities in Van imposed monetary fines on at least 25 people for attending a women's rights march in November 2022.

December 29: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit 12 university students who stood trial for protesting a rector that was appointed by the government and for carrying rainbow flags.

December 30: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 30: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

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December 26, 2022: The gendarmes in İzmir intervened in several workers' protests that were sparked by the layoff of a mineworker, detaining 22 people.

December 26: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration staged outside the French consulate to protest an armed attack on a Kurdish association in Paris, briefly detaining 14 people.

December 29: The authorities in Van imposed monetary fines on at least 25 people for attending a women's rights march in November 2022.

December 29: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit 12 university students who stood trial for protesting a rector that was appointed by the government and for carrying rainbow flags.

December 30: The Mardin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

December 30: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 3, 2023: The Kars Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

January 4: The Constitutional Court ruled in favor of labor union activists Nureddin Şimşek, Deniz Topkan and Cihan Tüzün who received monetary fines for participating in a protest.

January 4: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

January 5: The police in Muş intervened in a funeral event, detaining 31 people.

January 6: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of seven days.

anuary 9: The Constitutional Court ruled that the conviction of a man on terrorism charges over his membership in an association violated his rights.

January 10: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit 40 people who stood trial over their participation in a workers' protest.

January 13: Tunceli prosecutors indicted 19 people who were detained for participating in Newroz celebrations in the province.

January 13: The police in İzmir intervened in a demonstration organized by the HDP, briefly detaining two party executives.

January 13: The police in Van intervened in a folk celebration organized in a university campus, briefly detaining seven people.

January 13: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days. The ban has been held in effect in the province since January 2022.

January 15: The police in İstanbul detained 14 people who were returning from a demonstration.

January 20: A Kocaeli court handed down suspended prison sentences to 15 people over their participation in a commemoration event in 2014.

January 20: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration staged outside a prison to protest rights violations in prisons, briefly detaining 10 people.

January 20: The authorities confiscated a large amount of money that was deposited at the bank account of the Nesin Foundation on the grounds that the foundation's donation campaign was unauthorized.

January 22: The police in İstanbul intervened in a commemoration event held by a left-wing group, detaining six activists.

January 23: The police in İstanbul intervened in an animal rights demonstration, briefly detaining two activists.

January 24: President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan ordered the postponement of a metal worker strike in Kocaeli for a period of 60 days, citing national security reasons.

January 24: İstanbul prosecutors dismissed a complaint filed by labor union executive Dilbent Türker whose leg was broken during a police intervention in a protest march.

January 27: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit 19 people who stood trial over their participation in a pride march in 2021.

January 27: The Çanakkale Governor's Office banned a concert organized by the HDP.

January 28: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration staged on a steamboat to protest an incident of child abuse, briefly detaining nine activists.

January 28: Governorates of Hakkari, Siirt and Mardin issued 15-day-long bans on all outdoor gatherings.

February 3: An İstanbul court sentenced 14 people to six months in prison due to their attendance in Boğaziçi University protests.

February 3: The Mardin Governor's Office banned a concert by musician Azad Bedran, citing a blanket ban on outdoor events it previously issued.

February 4: Governorates of Van and Şırnak issued blanket bans on all outdoor gatherings for four days and 10 days respectively.

February 12: The police in İstanbul intervened in a press conference held by a left-wing party about the earthquakes in southern Turkey, briefly detaining 40 people.

February 13: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest about the government's handling of the earthquakes, briefly detaining 20 activists.

February 13: The governorates of Mardin, Hakkari and Siirt issued blanket bans on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

February 15: The police in Osmaniye detained 10 left-wing activists who attended an event for solidarity with the earthquake victims.

February 15: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit 57 people who stood trial due to their attendance in a demonstration.

February 17: The police in İzmir intervened in a students' protest, briefly detaining 22 people.

February 20: The police in İstanbul intervened in a students' protest, detaining 25 people.

February 22: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration against the government's handling of the earthquake, detaining four protesters.

February 23: The Constitutional Court ruled in favor of Saturday Mothers, a group of activists seeking the whereabouts of loved ones disappeared in police custody in the 1980s whose protest vigil in August 2018 was violently dispersed by the police.

February 26: The police in İstanbul intervened in a protest organized by a leftist group, briefly detaining 109 activists.

February 27: The police in İstanbul and Ankara intervened in demonstrations held by leftist groups, detaining at least 26 activists.

February 28: The police in Mersin detained four people due to their participation in protests against the government's handling of the earthquakes.

February 28: The police in Ankara and İstanbul intervened in demonstrations held by NGOs to protest restrictions against healthcare personnel in earthquake-hit zones, briefly detaining 22 people.

February 28: The Mersin Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 1: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration held by a leftist political party, detaining 77 people.

March 1: The police İstanbul intervened in a women's rights protest, detaining five activists.

March 2: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration held to protest a fatal house raid in September 2018, briefly detaining four people.

March 3: The Osmaniye Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

March 5: The police in İstanbul intervened in a women's rights protest, detaining five activists.

March 7: The police in Şanlıurfa briefly detained eight people protesting an incident of anti-Kurdish racism in a football game.

March 8: A district governor's office in İstanbul banned demonstrations in an around the famous Taksim Square ahead of the International Women's Day. The police violently intervened in a women's rights march that was held despite the ban, detaining at least 22 activists.

March 11: The police in İstanbul detained socialist activists Adnan Özcan and Kalender Polat who were promoting a commemoration event.

March 13: The police in İzmir briefly detained 13 people, including members and executives of the HDP, due to their attendance in an event held at a party building.

March 15: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration held outside a courthouse, briefly detaining 45 protesters.

March 16: An İzmir court sentenced 30 former university students to more than three years each in prison for taking part in protests over a mining disaster in 2014.

March 19: The police in İstanbul, Mardin and İzmir intervened in Newroz celebrations, detaining 272 people. **March 20:** The police in Kocaeli briefly detained two people following their attendance in a Newroz celebration.

March 21: The police in Diyarbakır detained 160 people who gathered to celebrate the Newroz.

March 23: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit peace activist Hanife Yıldız who stood trial over a demonstration in May 2022.

March 29: Gendarmes in Şanlıurfa intervened in a protest against plans to install solar panels in a rural area, detaining nine protesters.

March 30: The police in Antalya briefly detained 10 people as part of an investigation into a Newroz celebration held in the province.

March 31: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 10 days.

April 2: The Muş Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of five days.

April 3: A Samsun court handed down varying prison sentences to 39 people due to their participation in a demonstration in June 2013. The prison sentences ranged from 10 months up to three years, one month and 15 days.

April 3: The Şırnak Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of two days.

April 4: Gendarmes in Şanlıurfa intervened in the opening ceremony of the Green Left Party's (YSP) local branch, detaining seven people.

April 4: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration held outside a courthouse, detaining at least 25 people.

April 4: Gendarmes in Hatay intervened in a demonstration against government's earthquake management, detaining 20 people.

April 4: The police in İstanbul briefly detained five people who participated in a demonstration.

April 4: A district governor's office in İstanbul issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of one day.

April 5: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit former HDP MPs Levent Tüzel and Sebahat Tuncel who stood trial due to a demonstration they attended.

April 8: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration to raise awareness about enforced disappearances, detaining 15 activists.

April 8: Gendarmes in Muğla intervened in a protest of local inhabitants against plans to build a cement plant, detaining 11 people.

April 11: Gendarmes in Şanlurfa intervened in a protest against plans to build a solar power plant, detaining three people.

April 11: An İzmir court ruled to acquit a 18-year-old person who stood trial for handing out flyers on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

April 11: The Constitutional Court ordered the state to pay damages to a woman who was shot in the head with a tear gas canister shot by the police in a demonstration in 2013.

April 14: The police in Hakkari briefly detained 15 people due to their attendance in a demonstration.

April 15: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration to raise awareness about enforced disappearance incidents of 1980s and 90s, briefly detaining 12 activists.

April 17: The police in Ankara intervened in an election campaign booth set up by a leftist party, briefly detaining three party members.

April 20: The governorates of İstanbul and Ankara banned Armenian Genocide remembrance events.

April 22: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration held to raise awareness about enforced disappearance cases of 1980s and 90s, briefly detaining 17 activists.

April 25: The police in İstanbul intervened in Green Left Party (YSP) election events, detaining at least 22 people.

April 25: The police in Diyarbakır intervened in a protest about the widespread detention of Kurdish politicians and activists, detaining two people.

April 27: The police in Muş detained 10 people after their attendance in a Green Left Party (YSP) rally.

April 27: Gendarmes in Mersin intervened in a protest against the inauguration of a nuclear power plant, briefly detaining three people.

April 27: A district governorate in Kocaeli banned a May Day rally on the grounds that the planned venue was beyond the areas designated by the governorate.

April 28: The police in Diyarbakır detained five opposition party members and executives who were carrying out an election campaign event.

April 28: The police in İstanbul detained six journalists who staged a protest over the detention of their colleagues.

April 29: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration about enforced disappearance cases of 80s and 90s, detaining 25 activists.

April 30: The police in İstanbul detained 13 people after their attendance at a Green Left Party (YSP) rally.

May 1: The police in İstanbul intervened in May Day demonstrations, detaining at least 239 people.

May 2: The police in Edirne intervened in an election event organized by the Green Left Party (YSP), detaining seven party members.

May 4: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration staged to protest the murder of a Kurdish street musician, detaining two people.

May 4: The police in Ankara intervened in a leftist party's election event, violently detaining nine people.

May 4: The police in Adana intervened in an election event held by the Green Left Party (YSP), detaining 14 people. The detainees were released the next day.

May 4: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized by the Green Left Party (YSP), detaining 15 people.

May 6: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration organized to seek justice for those who disappeared in police custody in the 1990s, detaining 24 people.

May 7: The police in İstanbul detained four people following their attendance at a rally, for wearing bracelets colored yellow, red and green – colors associated with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

May 8: The Rize Governor's Office banned a concert that was planned to be given by musicians Selçuk Balcı and Korhan Özyıldız.

May 9: The police in Bursa briefly detained three people who were distributing a book authored by Sinan Ateş, a politician who was murdered under suspicious circumstances.

May 11: The authorities in Ankara banned an election event planned by the Workers' Party of Turkey (TİP).

May 16: The police in Ankara briefly detained 10 people for protesting alleged fraud in the announcement of election results.

May 20: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration about those who disappeared in police custody in the 1990s, briefly detaining 13 people.

May 22: The police in five provinces detained 17 people, including executives of the HDP, as part of an Ankara-based investigation into Newroz celebrations.

May 23: The police in five provinces detained 24 people as part of an investigation into a Kurdish NGO for solidarity with the families of political prisoners.

May 24: The police in İzmir detained 11 people on terrorism-related charges due to their attendance in a Green Left Party (YSP) election event.

May 24: The police in Mardin detained four people, including members of the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions of Turkey (DİSK), on terrorism-related charges.

May 24: The police in İzmir detained five people due to their attendance in a left-wing commemorative event and the flags that they carried during the demonstration.

May 25: The police in İstanbul detained eight people who protested the Interior Minister's election campaign.

May 26: The police in Ağrı briefly detained 35 people due to their attendance in a demonstration in 2014.

May 26: An İstanbul court sentenced HDP executive Koray Türkay to pay a fine due to a demonstration.

May 26: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit 14 people who stood trial over their attendance in a demonstration about enforced disappearances.

May 27: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration to seek justice for those who disappeared in police custody in the 1990s, detaining 18 people.

May 30: Gendarmes in Manisa intervened in a mine workers' protest, detaining three labor union executives. The detainees were released the next day.

May 30: An İzmir court ruled to acquit 26 people who stood trial due to their attendance in a Newroz celebration in 2015.

May 31: The police in İstanbul intervened in demonstrations to commemorate the Gezi Park protests of 2013, detaining 59 people.

June 1: The police in Ankara intervened in a demonstration staged to commemorate a man who was killed by the police in 2013, detaining 28 people.

June 1: The police in Düzce intervened in a labor union protest, detaining six people.

June 3: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration about enforced disappearances, briefly detaining 13 people.

June 6: District governorates in İstanbul banned two separate events organized to display films and documentaries on the occasion of LGBT pride month. One of the events, which was scheduled to take place at a foundation, met with obstruction by the police who briefly detained eight people.

June 6: A Batman court ruled to acquit jailed Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtaş of charges related to his attendance in a Newroz event in 2016.

June 7: An Ankara court ruled to acquit eight people who stood trial for protesting Turkey's withdrawal from the İstanbul Convention on combating violence against women.

June 9: The police in Ankara intervened in an LGBT pride march staged in a university campus, briefly detaining 15 people.

June 9: The police in Eskişehir intervened in a demonstration to protest religious interference in public schools, detaining eight people. The detainees were physically and verbally mistreated.

June 10: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration about those who disappeared in police custody in the 1990s, detaining 20 people.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

June 12: The police in Muş detained 18 people over their attendance in the funeral of a man who died in an armed attack against a Kurdish cultural center in Paris. On June 15, the police intervened in a demonstration held to protest the detentions, briefly detaining four others.

June 13: The police in İzmir intervened in a picnic event organized on the occasion of LGBT pride month, briefly detaining five university students.

June 13: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 15: The police in İstanbul intervened in a workers' protest, detaining six people.

June 15: The police in Tekirdağ detained labor union executives Güneş Atalay and Cahit Atalay. The reason for their detention was not disclosed. The police also raided the provincial office of their union, confiscating computers and printed material. The detainees were released under judicial control two days later.

June 15: The governor of İstanbul announced a ban on all pride activities in the province, citing concerns about the "protection of the family."

June 15: The Eskişehir Governor's Office issued a ban on all LGBT pride month activities for a period of 30 days.

June 15: An Eskişehir court ruled to acquit seven people who stood trial over their attendance in an LGBT pride march in July 2022.

June 16: A district governor's office in İstanbul banned a cultural event organized by a Kurdish NGO.

June 16: The Aydın Governor's Office issued a ban on all LGBT pride events for a period of three days.

June 16: A district governor's office in Muğla issued a ban on all LGBT pride month activities for a period of 10 days.

June 17: A district governor's office in İstanbul banned a stand-up comedy event on the grounds that its poster contained a reference to LGBT people.

June 17: The governor of İzmir announced a blanket ban on all LGBT pride month events.

June 18: The police in İstanbul intervened in an LGBT pride march, briefly detaining 10 people.

June 19: The police in Ankara intervened in a leftist demonstration to protest the government's economic policies, briefly detaining 20 people.

June 19: A district governor's office in Bitlis banned a Kurdish-language theater play without a justification.

June 21: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

June 21: The authorities banned Ekofest, an environmental event that was planned to be held in Balıkesir.

June 22: A district governorate in İstanbul banned an event that was planned to commemorate a massacre that took place in 1993. The governorate then issued a blanket ban on all events in the district for a period of two days.

June 22: A Batman court ruled to acquit 25 people who stood trial over their attendance in a protest against the removal of elected Kurdish mayors from office.

June 23: An İstanbul court sentenced eight people, including a former HDP MP, to six years, three months in prison on terrorism-related charges due to their attendance in protests and events, while acquitting nine others who were tried in the same case.

June 23: Çanakkale prosecutors launched an investigation into 26 people over their attendance in a protest.

June 25: The police in İstanbul and İzmir intervened in Pride marches, detaining at least 163 people.

June 26: A Muğla court sentenced two activists to six months, 20 days in prison on charges related to their attendance in an environmental protest against the construction of a coal mine.

June 27: Rights groups announced that five foreign nationals who were among more than 100 people detained at a Pride march in İstanbul are facing deportation.

July 1: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration about those who disappeared in police custody in the 1990s, detaining 22 people.

July 3: The Antalya Governor's Office banned Pride Week events scheduled to take place between July 3 and July 9.

July 6: A Van court handed down a suspended prison sentence of eight months to a man named Bedir Yamaç who was detained during a demonstration in 2018, while acquitting 14 others who stood trial in the same case.

July 6: A district governor's office in İstanbul banned a concert to be given by Grup Yorum, a leftist music band, without providing a justification.

July 7: The Hakkari Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 8: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration about those who detained in police custody in the 1990s, briefly detaining 30 people.

July 8: The Adana Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of three days.

July 9: The police in Adana intervened in a pride event, detaining 18 people. An MP for the Green Left Party (YSP) was physically assaulted during the intervention.

July 9: The police in Şanlıurfa intervened in a protest against power outages, detaining 20 people.

July 9: The police in Eskişehir intervened in a pride march, detaining 18 people.

July 10: The police in Ankara intervened in a leftist party's protest against the government's economic policies, briefly detaining 15 people.

July 11: An İstanbul court ruled to acquit 15 people who stood trial over their participation in protests in 2019.

July 12: An Ankara court ruled to acquit 14 people, including members of the HDP, who stood trial over their participation in political events.

July 12: The Siirt Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

July 14: The police in Mersin detained 11 people as part of an investigation into Newroz celebrations held in the province.

July 15: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration about those who disappeared in police custody in the 1990s, briefly detaining 15 people.

July 15: Gendarmes in Şanlıurfa intervened in a demonstration about power outages, detaining 20 people.

July 15: A district governorate in Hatay banned a concert to be given by the leftist music band Grup Yorum without providing a justification.

July 17: The police in İstanbul intervened in a commemorative event staged by leftist youth organizations, detaining 46 people.

July 20: The police in İstanbul, İzmir and Ankara intervened in demonstrations to commemorate the victims of a bomb attack in 2015, detaining a total of 181 people.

July 20: The Aydın Governor's Office issued a new ban on LGBT-themed events in the province.

July 22: The police in İstanbul and Tunceli intervened in demonstrations about those who disappeared in police custody in the 1990s, briefly detaining a total of 30 people.

July 24: Gendarmes in Muğla intervened in an environmental protest against the construction of a coal mine in a forested area, briefly detaining eight activists. Three more were detained in the same protest the next day. The protests continued on July 26 and four more protesters were detained. Gendarmes detained 24 people on July 29 and one more on July 30.

July 24: The İstanbul Governor's Office banned a march aimed at drawing attention to the suppression of the Kurdish language and Kurds' longstanding demand for access to education in their mother tongue.

July 27: The Sinop Governor's Office banned a camping event scheduled to take place between August 3 to 6.

July 28: The Tunceli Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a day.

July 29: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration about those who disappeared in custody in the 1990s, detaining 50 activists.

July 31: Gendarmes in Hatay intervened in a demonstration against the expropriation of agricultural lands, detaining seven people.

August 1: The Tunceli Governor's Office banned three concerts that were planned as part of a local cultural festival. Several band members were detained after the announcement of the ban.

August 1: An İstanbul court ruled that a ban on a 2021 cultural event organized by a Kurdish NGO was unlawful.

August 2: Gendarmes in Muğla intervened in an environmental protest against the construction of a coal mine in a forested area, briefly detaining one activist.

August 2: Gendarmes in Mardin and Şanlıurfa intervened in protests against a local electricity supplier, detaining a total of seven people.

August 4: A district governorate in İstanbul banned an opposition exhibition event on the grounds that "it could turn into an opposition rally."

August 4: The Adana Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a day.

August 5: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of two days.

August 5: The police in İstanbul and Adana intervened in demonstrations about those who disappeared in police custody in the 1990s, detaining a total of 44 activists.

August 5: The Samsun Governor's Office banned a concert, citing national and spiritual values.

August 6: The police in İstanbul detained a man named Nurettin Koç for staging a sit-in protest in a park about the government's economic policies.

August 8: The Tunceli Governor's Office banned a concert that was planned to be held in the province.

August 11: The Adana Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a day.

August 11: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for two days.

August 12: The police in İstanbul and Adana intervened in demonstrations about those who disappeared in custody in the 1990s, detaining a total of 70 activists.

August 12: The police in Gaziantep briefly detained labor union leader Mehmet Türkmen Şireci over a protest march against low wages.

August 12: The police in Muş briefly detained 20 people who joined a campaign event organized by the HDP.

August 13: Gendarmes in Muğla intervened in a demonstration against the construction of a coal mine in a forested area, detaining two activists.

August 14: The Adana police detained 39 people over the demonstrations about those who disappeared in police custody in the 1990s.

August 17: The Supreme Court of Appeals (Yargıtay) upheld a 124-year prison sentence handed down to Mazlum İçli for allegedly taking part in Kurdish protests in 2014. The sentence was handed down despite video footage presented in court showing İçli at a wedding at the time of the protests. He was 14 years old at the time.

August 18: A district governorate in Kocaeli issued a ban on all outdoor events for a period of seven days. The ban came ahead of a planned demonstration to call for the release of opposition MP Can Atalay who is being kept behind bars despite gaining parliamentary immunity.

August 18: The Adana Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor events for a day.

August 18: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor events for two days.

August 19: The police in İstanbul intervened in a demonstration about those who disappeared in custody in the 1990s, detaining 21 activists.

August 19: Gendarmes in Şanlıurfa intervened in a commemoration event about a Kurdish politician who died in prison, briefly detaining three people.

August 22: The police detained a man who staged a protest in front of the Ministry for Family and Social Services in Ankara against the high cost of living in the country.

August 26: Istanbul police detained at least 25 rights defenders gathered on Istiklal Street to protest against law enforcement's refusal to recognize the Constitutional Court's (AYM) rulings on rights violations.

August 30: The police intervened in the press declaration of the Private Sector Teachers' Union in front of the Turkish Private Schools Association building in Beyoğlu district of Istanbul and detained 30 people including Eren Edebali, chair of the union, and union executives in handcuffs behind their backs.

September 1: The rector of the Istanbul-based Boğaziçi University, who was appointed by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, launched a disciplinary investigation into academics who participate in protests against presidentially appointed rectors at the school.

September 2: Istanbul police have detained 32 people, including activists and family members of the Saturday Mothers, during the group's 962nd weekly demonstration in Istanbul's Galatasaray Square.

September 7: Bursa Governorate made a declaration on September 6, 2023 and banned all demonstrations and events across the province for 6 days as of September 5, 2023, citing the march from Istanbul to Ankara by the Association for Solidarity with Families of Prisoners and Convicts (TAYAD).

September 8: In Izmir, 39 workers were beaten and detained after resisting their dismissal for being union members.

September 8: The police intervened with the people protesting the demolition of 411 workplaces in Suruç district of Urfa by the municipality appointed with trustees and detained 4 people.

September 11: The 17th Aykut Kence Evolution Conference (AKEK), which was to be organized by the Middle East Technical University (METU) Biology and Genetics Society (BIYOGEN) on December 6-7 this year, has been canceled.

September 11: The police intervened the screening of the movie Pardon organized by the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP) Kocaeli Freedom Neighborhood House, 13 people were detained.

September 12: Izmir Governor's Office announced a ban on all events such as meetings, marches, press statements, opening stands/tents, distributing leaflets, hanging banners/posters, protests, picnics, festivals, festivals etc. under the name "We Speak Out Against LGBTI+ Phobic State Organs!".

September 13: Turkish police on Tuesday intervened in a demonstration in Izmir protesting the broadcast of an anti LGBT public ad on TV stations, briefly detaining 10 participants.

September 14: The Istanbul Governor's Office has refused to issue a permit to a group of civil society organizations that sought to hold a commemoration ceremony for Iranian woman Mahsa Amini on the first anniversary of her death.

September 14: On the 35th day of the resistance of FEDAŞ (Fırat Electricity Distribution Co.) workers in Dersim, the solidarity concert to be organized in Seyit Rıza Square was banned by the governorate on the grounds that it was "not deemed appropriate".

September 15: It was announced that the Kurtuluş Street Festival, which has been organized for the past two years, will not be held this year due to a "negative response" from the Beyoğlu Municipality.

September 18: The police in Izmir intervened in a demonstration against military clashes in northern Iraq, briefly detaining 12 people.

September 18: A Van court ruled to acquit human rights defenders Hu seyin Yaviç and Sevim Çiçek who stood trial over their attendance at a demonstration in 2021.

September 19: Ankara prosecutors indicted five labor union leaders, seeking up to four and a half years in prison due to their attendance at a demonstration in 2022.

September 20: The police in Istanbul intervened in a workers' protest, detaining 16 people.

September 21: The police detained 24 people for attending a leftist commemoration ceremony in May.

September 22: A Şanlıurfa court ruled to acquit lawyers Hidayet Enmek, Eyu p Sabri Tinaş, and Mehmet Emin Uyguner who stood trial over their detention during a Newroz celebration in 2012.

September 22: The Van Governor's Office issued a ban on all outdoor gatherings for two days.

September 23: The police in Istanbul intervened in a demonstration about enforced disappearances, detaining 28 activists.

September 24: The Adana Governor's Office banned a concert scheduled as part of a youth festival.

September 27: The police intervened in the sit-in protest of Trendyol workers, who were dismissed from their jobs for being union members, in front of the headquarters and detained 15 people using physical violence.

September 29: Writer Murat Gülsoy, a retired faculty member at Boğaziçi University, was banned from entering the school.

September 29: Governorate of Van made a declaration on September 28, 2023 and banned all activities such as press declarations, sit-ins and surveys, setting up/opening tents and stands, organizing petitions, distributing leaflets, brochures and flyers and all kinds of protest actions for 2 days.

October 5: Students protesting against food price hikes at Izmir Dokuz Eylül University's cafeteria were escorted out of the Tınaztepe Campus cafeteria today by Special Security Unit (OGB) of icers. Eight of the students were detained by the police after a violent intervention.

October 6: The Governorate of Van banned all activities such as press declarations, sit-ins and surveys, setting up/opening tents and stands, organizing petitions, distributing leaflets, brochures and flyers and all kinds of protest actions for 4 days as of October 6, 2023.

October 6: Şırnak Governorate announced a ban on demonstrations, marches, and open-air meetings for 10 days starting from October 6.

October 9: The march planned for October 8 in Tandoğan Square as part of the "World Women's March" and the Anıtpark concerts were banned by the Ankara Governorate.

October 10: The police used batons, pepper spray and rubber bullets to intervene against the protesters who were demonstrating against urban transformation in Şahintepe neighborhood of Başakşehir district of Istanbul and detained 10 people by using physical violence.

October 11: During the closing concert of the 3rd International Refugee Film Festival organized by the Peoples' Bridge Association, held at Izmir Ahmet Adnan Soygun Art Center, a demand was made to stop the concert on the grounds that while Bajar was on stage, a traditional Kurdish dance, halay, was being performed in the hall.

October 12: The governorate of Mardin made a declaration on October 12, 2023 and announced that all meetings, demonstrations, press declarations, open and closed meetings and similar events and activities are banned for 7 days as of October 13, 2023.

October 12: Turkish police detained at least 40 people in the country’s southeast on Thursday for holding a demonstration in protest of ongoing airstrikes by the Turkish military in northeast Syria.

October 12: A Turkish court in Izmir handed down varying prison sentences to four people due to their attendance at a gathering in support of Boğaziçi University protests.

October 13: Octoberfest, which was planned to take place in Eskişehir Odunpazarı on October 14-15, was banned by the Eskisehir governor's office after it was targeted by some circles, especially trade unions, since the announcement of the event was published.

October 14: The gendarmerie intervened in the protest against the dismantling of horse transformers in Dilimli rural neighborhood of Eyyübiye district of Şanlıurfa and detained 6 people, including the headman of the neighborhood, using physical violence.

October 20: The Governorate of Van made a declaration on October 19, 2023 and announced that all events such as press declarations, sit-ins, polls, opening/setting up tents and stands, organizing petitions, distributing lealets, brochures and lyers and all kinds of protest actions and similar activities are banned for 2 days as of October 21, 2023.

October 20: Tunceli Governorate made a declaration on October 19, 2023 and announced that press declarations, meetings, demonstrations, rallies, protests, sit-ins, commemorations, hunger strikes, opening stands, petitions, concerts, festivals, distributing flyers, leaflets,

brochures and similar actions and activities throughout the province are subject to the permission of the local administrative chief for 5 days as of October 20, 2023.

October 21: Police detained 26 people, including activists and family members of the Saturday Mothers, during the group's 969th weekly demonstration in Istanbul's Galatasaray Square, where they were demanding justice for their loved ones who disappeared in police custody in the 1990s.

November 1: The police intervened the "Peoples resist from Palestine to Rojava" demonstration in Sultangazi district of Istanbul and detained 17 people.

November 9: Private security units and the police intervened the protest organized by the Federation of Socialist Youth Associations (SGDF) at Diyarbakır Dicle University campus and detained 2 people using physical violence.

November 18: The Diyarbakır leg of the march to Gemlik against the isolation of PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan started under police blockade. Citing the governorate's ban, the police detained at least 30 people.

November 21: Şırnak Governorate made a declaration on November 21, 2023 and banned all open-door meetings, demonstrations, marches, press declarations, sit-ins, rallies, pitching tents, petitions, opening stands, mass funerals and visits to cemeteries, commemorations, festivals, concerts, entertainment, performances, demonstrations and similar events for 7 days as of November 22, 2023.

November 23: The police intervened the press declaration in front of Istanbul Çağlayan Courthouse about Type Y, S and R prisons and detained 6 people.

November 30: The gendarmerie intervened the press statement in front of the workplace in Urfa to protest the dismissal of a worker on the grounds of union membership and detained BIRTEK-SEN President Mehmet Türkmen and union representatives Çayan Dursun and Mazlum Ayçiçek.

November 30: Urfa Governorate made a declaration on November 29, 2023 and banned press declarations, meetings, marches, hunger strikes, sit-in protests, rallies, opening stands, setting up tents, distributing lealets, hanging banners and similar actions and activities for 3 days as of November 29, 2023.

December 1: Ninety-seven protestors who had gathered in Istanbul's Kadıköy district shortly after two powerful earthquakes hit Turkey's south earlier this year claiming that corruption was the cause of the ensuing devastation and high death toll were indicted.

December 8: The police intervened the demonstration organized by Anatolian Association for Assistance and Solidarity with Families who Lost Their Relatives (ANYAKAYDER) in Bahçelievler district of Istanbul on December 7, 2023 to protest in the delivery of PKK militants' bodies to their families in cardboard boxes. 46 people including Istanbul Co-Chair of Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (HEDEP) were detained by the police using physical violence and handcuf ing them behind their backs.

December 10: The gendarmerie intervened with batons and pepper spray against those who were protesting the dismissal of a worker in front of his workplace in Urfa, detaining 92 people, including BIRTEK-SEN Executive Çayan Dursun and BIRTEK-SEN Organizing Specialist Deniz Kar, using physical violence.

December 24: 60 people including 5 children were detained by physical violence after DEM Party 1st Youth Assembly Congress in Diyarbakır and Diyarbakır Public Prosecutor's Of ice initiated an investigation on the congress.

December 27: It was reported that 2 people were detained in house raids on December 26, 2023 through the investigation of Diyarbakır Public Prosecutor's Office on Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) 1st Youth Assembly Congress held in Diyarbakır on December 24, 2023 and detention period was extended for 1 more day on December 27, 2023.

December 27: Governorates of Bingöl and Siirt announced on December 26, 2023 that all events such as demonstrations, marches, press declarations, hunger strikes, sit-in protests, rallies, opening stands, setting up tents, distributing leaflets, hanging banners and similar activities are banned for 6 days from December 26, 2023 until January 1, 2024.

December 28, 2023: The police intervened the press declaration of Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Tunceli Provincial Organization and DEM Party Dersim Provincial Organization against the operations in Northeast Syria and detained 6 people. The police intervened the press declaration in front of DEM Party Ceylanpınar District Organization in Ceylanpınar district of Urfa for the same reason and detained 10 people.

ANNEX 5. Turkey Rights Monitor on Freedom of Assembly - Reporting Period: December 2023–January 2025

December 24, 2023: 60 people including 5 children were detained by physical violence after DEM Party 1st Youth Assembly Congress in Diyarbakır and Diyarbakır Public Prosecutor's Office initiated an investigation on the congress.

December 27: It was reported that 2 people were detained in house raids on December 26, 2023 through the investigation of Diyarbakır Public Prosecutor's Office on Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) 1st Youth Assembly Congress held in Diyarbakır on December 24, 2023 and detention period was extended for 1 more day on December 27, 2023.

December 27: The governorates of Bingöl and Siirt announced on December 26, 2023 that all events such as demonstrations, marches, press declarations, hunger strikes, sit-in protests, rallies, opening stands, setting up tents, distributing leaflets, hanging banners and similar activities are banned for 6 days from December 26, 2023 until January 1, 2024.

December 28: The police intervened the press declaration of Democratic Regions Party (DBP) Tunceli Provincial Organization and DEM Party Dersim Provincial Organization against the operations in Northeast Syria and detained 6 people. The police intervened the press declaration in front of DEM Party Ceylanpınar District Organization in Ceylanpınar district of Urfa for the same reason and detained 10 people.

January 31, 2024: The police intervened the members of Private Sector Teachers' Union who wanted to hold a press declaration in Ankara on January 30, 2024, to protest the physical violence of Melih Can Kurt, a teacher, by the director of the institution he works for demanding his salary, and detained 1 person.

February 1: Oktay Saral, Chief Advisor to the President, targeted and threatened journalist Fatih Altaylı for the statements he made while commenting on the news on his social media channel.

February 1: Governorate of Bitlis made a declaration on February 1, 2024 and announced that demonstrations, outdoor and indoor meetings, press declarations, sit-ins and polls, setting up/opening tents and stands, organizing petitions, distributing leaflets and flyers and all kinds of protest activities are banned for 4 days between February 1, 2024 and February 4, 2024.

February 2: Hakkari Governorate made a declaration on February 1, 2024 and announced that all events such as demonstrations, sit-ins, press declarations, protests, demonstrations, sit-ins, press statements, protests etc. are banned for 4 days between February 1, 2024 and February 4, 2024.

February 2: Ağrı Governorate made a declaration on February 1, 2024 and announced that demonstrations, outdoor and indoor meetings, press declarations, sit-in protests and surveys, setting up/opening tents and stands, organizing petitions, distributing leaflets, brochures and

flyers and all kinds of protest activities are banned for 4 days between February 2, 2024 and February 5, 2024.

February 7: On February 6, 2024, the police intervened the commemoration of Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions (DISK), Confederation of Public Employees' Trade Unions (KESK), Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects (TMMOB) and Turkish Medical Association (TTB) for the anniversary of February 6, 2023 earthquake in Beşiktaş district of Istanbul, and detained 5 people.

February 8: The police intervened the press declaration of Özak Tekstil workers in front of a shopping mall in Beylikdüzü district of Istanbul on February 7, 2024 to demand their labour rights and detained 23 people.

February 22: Istanbul University students, who were to hold a forum on February 22, 2024 to protest the decision to open the Istanbul University campus to visitors, were prevented from entering the campus by the police.

February 28: 12 people were detained in police intervention against the press declaration of Socialist Women Assemblies (SKM) in front of Süreyya Opera House in Kadıköy district of Istanbul.

March 8: The police intervened the march organized by Istanbul University students in Beyazıt Square in Fatih district of Istanbul on March 8, International Working Women's Day, on the grounds that the banner they were carrying said LGBTIQ+ and detained at least 10 people.

March 11: Three people were detained for protesting Turkey’s ongoing trade with Israel amid the conflict in Gaza during an event attended by a cabinet minister and ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) officials in western Bursa province.

March 11: Şırnak Governorate made a declaration on March 11, 2024 and announced that Gabar Mountain Region within the borders of Central District and Güçlükonak District of Şırnak Province has been declared as a temporary special security zone for 15 days between March 11 and March 25, 2024.

March 11: Adana Governorate prevented four members of the music group Kolektîfa Rîtmên Azad from performing at the March 8 rally, citing ongoing investigations against them for "illegal organization membership" and "making illegal organization propaganda".

March 13: A report titled “Civil Society Organizations in Turkey: Freedom of Association and Right to Participation” sheds light on the ongoing restriction of the civil society space in Turkey and the increasing pressure that civil society organizations (CSOs) are facing from the state.

March 13: Members of DEM Party Istanbul Provincial Organization who were distributing leaflets in front of Süreyya Opera House in Kadıköy district of Istanbul to call for the Istanbul Newroz to be held on 17 March 2024 at Yenikapı Meeting Area were prevented by the police and the people distributing leaflets were blockaded by the police. 18 people, including DEM Party Kadıköy Co-Mayoral Candidates Nimet Çelebi Erdoğan and Veysi Eski, were detained.

March 21: On March 20 and 21, 2024, at least 57 people including 2 children were detained in house raids in Izmir, Ankara and Afyon on the grounds of slogans they chanted, scarves they wore and social media posts they made during Newroz celebration in Izmir on March 17, 2024.

March 22: 206 people, including 38 children, were detained on the allegations of 'making propaganda for an illegal organization' and 'violating Law No. 2911 on Meetings and Demonstrations' after the Newroz events held in Newroz Park in Bağlar district of Diyarbakır.

March 26: Turkish authorities have banned at least 28 concerts and cultural events in the Kurdish language across 16 provinces since 2019.

March 29: 15 people were detained during the police intervention against executives and members of Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party) and Marmara Association for Assistance to Families of Prisoners and Convicts (MATUHAYDER) who held a press declaration on March 28, 2024 in front of Bakırköy Women's Prison about Hatice Yıldız (75, k) who was detained on March 22, 2024 after the finalization of the sentence in the lawsuit filed against her for 'financing an illegal organisation' for sending money to her daughter and her daughter's ward mate in prison, and then arrested and sent to Istanbul Bakırköy Women's Prison.

April 4: Muş Governorate made a declaration on April 3, 2024 and announced that all events in public areas such as squares, streets, roads, parks etc. will be banned for 3 days between April 4, 2024 and April 6, 2024.

April 4: Şırnak Governorate made a declaration on April 3, 2024 and announced that all open-door meetings and demonstrations are banned for 15 days between April 3, 2024 and April 17, 2024.

April 4: Turkish police have detained 340 people over protests that erupted across Turkey in response to a local electoral authority's decision to annul the victory of a pro-Kurdish candidate in eastern Turkey and hand the mayorship to the ruling party's runner-up.

April 6: Turkish courts arrested 23 people among hundreds detained over protests that erupted across Turkey in response to a local electoral authority's decision to annul the victory of a pro-Kurdish party candidate in eastern Turkey and hand the mayorship to the ruling party's runner-up.

April 8: Turkish police on Saturday used excessive force to disperse a group of young people who had gathered in the central İstanbul neighborhood of Taksim to demand that the Turkish government cut off its trade with Israel in light of Israel's ongoing war on Gaza and detained 38 of them.

April 9: The Van Bar Association, the Human Rights Association (İHD) and the Association for the Freedom of Lawyers (ÖHD) have prepared a joint report on law enforcement's handling of protests that erupted in Van over a local election controversy, accusing the police of firing plastic bullets at the protesters and using disproportionate force.

April 18: 18 people were detained during the police intervention against the strike of factory workers in Kemalpaşa district of Izmir on 7 March 2024, on the grounds of not getting their rights in the factory where they work.

23 April: The İstanbul Governor's Office has declared that Taksim Square will not be open for the upcoming May Day celebrations and an alternative location will be designated for the festivities.

24 April: The İstanbul Governor's Office has again banned a commemoration ceremony scheduled for 24th April in memory of the Armenians who were killed during a mass deportation in the final days of the Ottoman Empire, in a decision condemned as "an anti-democratic move" by the organizers.

26 April: Construction workers involved in the building of the İstanbul Finance Center, a complex housing the Central Bank among other facilities, staged a protest to demand their overdue wages. The demonstration was cut short as police prevented the unions from reading out a statement and proceeded to detain union leaders and workers.

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.

6 May: Thirty-eight people who allegedly resisted law enforcement on Wednesday in an attempt to hold a demonstration in İstanbul's Taksim Square to mark International Workers' Day despite a government ban have been arrested.

10 May: Governorate of Van Governorate announced that demonstrations, open-air meetings, indoor and outdoor meetings, press declarations, sit-in protests and surveys, setting up/opening tents and stands, organising petitions, distributing leaflets, brochures and flyers and all kinds of protest activities are banned for 6 days between 10 May 2024 and 15 May 2024.

15 May: The police intervened the protest organised by Student Collectives in İstiklal Street for Ata Emre Akman, a university student who was killed while working as a motorbike courier in Balıkesir. 11 students were detained.

17 May: The governors of 12 provinces including Diyarbakır, Mardin, Dersim, Bingöl, Bitlis, Kars, and İzmir banned all kinds of demonstrations, meetings, and protests following the Kobanê Trial in which Kurdish politicians were sentenced to imprisonment.

21 May: Turkish police detained 27 more people who resisted law enforcement in İstanbul on May Day in an attempt to hold a demonstration in central Taksim Square despite a government ban, in the third wave of detentions targeting the demonstrators.

29 May: Two indictments drafted separately by Turkish prosecutors seek prison sentences of up to 13-and-a-half years for each of 42 people arrested for defying a government ban to hold a May Day demonstration in central İstanbul.

29 May: During the police intervention against the sit-in protest of the Private Sector Teachers' Union in front of the Ministry of National Education in Ankara, 12 union members and Labour Party (EMEP) Ankara Provincial Chair Rüstem Kahraman, who was there in solidarity, were detained.

30 May: In Istanbul's Arnavutköy İmrahor neighborhood, demolition orders were issued for 35 structures built by the residents, and as the residents protested against the demolition of their homes, police detained 104 protestors.

2 June: Turkish police detain 13 activists protesting against the sale of Azerbaijani crude oil to Israel via Turkey.

6 June: A new indictment seeks a prison sentence of up to 15-and-a-half years for 12 people, eight of whom are in pretrial detention, for attempting to defy a government ban on holding May Day demonstrations in central İstanbul.

7 June: The police intervened against the locals who protested the inclusion of Akasya, Aksaray and Saraykent neighborhoods in Antakya as "reserve areas" by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change.

1 July: Several hundred people participated in an LGBTQ Pride march in İstanbul that had been banned by local authorities, leading to the detention of 15 of the protestors.

11 July: The police in Ankara forcibly broke up a protest staged by an education workers labor union, detaining 15 teachers.

20 July: Turkish police detained 20 protesters in Istanbul and the capital Ankara during commemoration marches for the 33 people who lost their lives in the ISIS suicide bomb attack in 2015 in the Suruç district of Turkey’s eastern Şanlıurfa province.

27 July: Turkish police detained 4 activists in Ankara during a protest against a controversial bill targeting stray dogs.

14 August: The Şırnak Governorship announced a three-day ban on all public gatherings, events, and related activities from August 14 to 16, 2024, including inter-district travel and collective movements into the province.

15 August: Police intervened in a press statement in front of Istanbul Çağlayan Courthouse demanding the closure of Y and S-type prisons, also known as "well-type" prisons, and detained three individuals: Ayşe Lerzan Conde, Hasan Basri Yıldız, and Emir Karakum.

15 August: The Mardin Governorship announced a three-day ban on all public gatherings, including outdoor and indoor meetings, marches, press statements, hunger strikes, sit-ins, setting up stands or tents, drone activities, surveys, distribution of flyers, and similar activities, starting from August 15, 2024.

20 August: During the World Beykozlular Day celebrations in Istanbul's Beykoz district, a group reportedly affiliated with the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) attempted to disrupt Suavi's concert by chanting slogans such as "We don't want terrorists in Beykoz."

22 August: A man was detained after staging a protest by throwing melons in front of an AKP-run municipality, expressing his dissatisfaction with the local government's actions.

22 August: In Mardin's Savur district, the gendarmerie used tear gas and water cannons to disperse people protesting the Dicle Electricity Distribution Inc. (Dicle Elektrik Dağıtım A.Ş.) teams who had arrived in Sürgücü neighborhood under gendarmerie escort.

26 August: In Soma, Manisa, gendarmerie forces detained at least 70 people, including the president of the Independent Mine Workers' Union, Gökay Çakır, during a sit-in protest by miners opposing the dismissal of workers for unionizing.

10 September: Eight workers were hospitalized after police clashed with protesters outside a factory in Istanbul, where employees have been demonstrating for nearly two months.

14 September: Police intervened once again in a protest by Polonez factory workers in Istanbul's Çatalca district, who had been striking for 59 days after being dismissed for joining a union. 80 workers, including Tek-Gıda-İş union official Furkan Seyhan, were detained with their hands cuffed behind their backs.

17 September: Police detained 25 people during a protest in front of Fernas Mining in Ankara, organized by workers demanding the right to unionize after 7 workers were fired from the Soma-based company, owned by AKP Batman MP Ferhat Nasıroğlu, for being union members.

3 October: Police intervened in a protest organized by members of the Socialist Party of the Oppressed (ESP) in Istanbul's Beyoğlu district against Israel's attacks on Palestine and Lebanon. Five people, including journalist Yadigar Aygün from Gazete Patika, were detained with reports of torture and ill-treatment during the arrest.

4 October: Police intervened in a protest organized by members of TAYAD in Ankara's Yüksel Street, demanding the closure of Y and S-Type prisons, detaining 5 people with reports of torture and ill-treatment during the arrest.

5 October: Police detained three members of the Direniş Çadırı group at Adana Şakirpaşa Airport during TEKNOFEST 2024 after they protested Turkey's trade relations with Israel during President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's speech.

8 October: Turkish police detained 20 protesters in Ankara during a demonstration against Turkey's ongoing trade with Israel, despite a government-imposed ban.

10 October: During a protest in front of Marmara University's Göztepe Campus in Istanbul against the killing of two women, police intervened and detained five students, accusing them of "insulting the President."

15 October: Turkish police have detained 269 people in connection to a recent demonstration in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish province of Diyarbakır where protestors demanded an end

to the solitary confinement of jailed Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan and his ultimate release from prison.

15 October: Gendarmerie intervened in a protest by villagers in Adıyaman's Yeşiltepe (Gazikale) forested area against the cutting of trees for the construction of earthquake housing, detaining six people.

16 October: During a police intervention, 37 workers and union leaders protesting for labor rights at Fernas Maden, owned by AKP MP Ferhat Nasırlıoğlu, in Ankara's Kurtuluş Park were detained on charges of "endangering public safety."

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.

30 October: Police intervened during a press statement in front of Istanbul's Çağlayan Courthouse, where a call was made for the closure of type Y and S prisons, resulting in the detention of four individuals.

31 October: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office announced a two-day ban, effective from October 31, 2024, on all outdoor activities across the province, including gatherings, marches, press statements, hunger strikes, sit-ins, rallies, setting up stands or tents, distributing leaflets/brochures, and hanging posters/banners, as well as restricting entry to the province for individuals intending to participate in such activities.

4 November: The governor's offices of Mardin, Şırnak, Diyarbakır, Van, Ağrı, Şanlıurfa, and Batman announced bans on all potential public gatherings and activities, including press statements, assemblies, marches, hunger strikes, sit-ins, rallies, setting up stands or tents, distributing leaflets or brochures, and hanging posters or banners, as well as restrictions on the entry and exit of individuals likely to participate in such events, effective for between 2-10 days starting November 4, 2024.

5 November: On the second day of protests that erupted over the removal of three Kurdish mayors from their posts in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish southeast, dozens of people, including two journalists, were forcibly detained by the police.

5 November: In Antalya, 12 people, including 8 members of the Halkevleri organization, were detained during house raids, allegedly due to slogans and songs performed during May Day celebrations.

15 November: Amid protests against the Ministry of Interior's appointment of trustees to CHP and DEM-affiliated municipalities, 37 individuals were arrested out of 358 detained.

20 November: On November 20, 2024, police intervened in a march and press statement planned at Ankara's Kolej Metro for Transgender Day of Remembrance, detaining 4 individuals, including a lawyer.

20 November: On November 20, 2024, during a press statement held in front of Istanbul Çağlayan Courthouse advocating for the closure of Y and S type prisons, police intervened and detained an individual named Ferdi Sarıkaya.

26 November: Police in Istanbul detained 169 demonstrators demanding action to end violence against women on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

3 December: Police detained 84 people during a press statement in Istanbul's Beyoğlu district, Şişhane Square, protesting military operations and clashes in Northern Syria.

4 December: The Urfa Governor's Office announced a two-day ban on gatherings, marches, press statements, hunger strikes, sit-ins, rallies, leaflet distribution, and similar activities, as well as restricting the entry of individuals deemed likely to participate in such events, effective from December 4 to December 6, 2024.

11 December: The Urfa Governor's Office announced on December 11, 2024, a seven-day ban on public gatherings, marches, press statements, hunger strikes, sit-ins, rallies, leaflet distribution, and similar activities, as well as entry and exit of individuals deemed likely to participate, effective from December 11 to December 18, 2024.

13 December: Nine pro-Palestinian activists, who interrupted President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's speech on November 29 to protest Turkey's alleged ongoing trade with Israel, face charges that could lead to up to three years in prison.

23 December: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office announced a five-day ban on all outdoor events, including press statements, gatherings, marches, hunger strikes, sit-ins, vigils, rallies, and leaflet distribution, as well as the entry of individuals deemed likely to participate in such activities, effective from December 23 to 27, 2024.

24 December: The final hearing in the case seeking the closure of the Migration Monitoring Association (GÖÇİZ-DER) was held at the Istanbul Bakırköy 15th Civil Court of First Instance, where the court ruled for the dissolution of the association following the defense statements.

25 December: Eighteen people were detained during a street protest in Istanbul against the newly announced minimum wage.

27 December: The Ankara Criminal Court of First Instance sentenced a protestor to 6 months and 7 days in prison for "obstructing a public official through force or threat" during a protest held on February 2, 2021, in Ankara against the appointment of a rector to Boğaziçi University by President Erdoğan, as part of a trial involving 21 individuals.

ANNEX 6. Turkey Rights Monitor on Freedom of Assembly - Reporting Period: December 2024–November 2025 (date of writing)

23 December, 2024: The Şanlıurfa Governor's Office announced a five-day ban on all outdoor events, including press statements, gatherings, marches, hunger strikes, sit-ins, vigils, rallies, and leaflet distribution, as well as the entry of individuals deemed likely to participate in such activities, effective from December 23 to 27, 2024.

24 December: The final hearing in the case seeking the closure of the Migration Monitoring Association (GÖÇİZ-DER) was held at the Istanbul Bakırköy 15th Civil Court of First Instance, where the court ruled for the dissolution of the association following the defense statements.

25 December: Eighteen people were detained during a street protest in Istanbul against the newly announced minimum wage.

27 December: The Ankara Criminal Court of First Instance sentenced a protestor to 6 months and 7 days in prison for "obstructing a public official through force or threat" during a protest held on February 2, 2021, in Ankara against the appointment of a rector to Boğaziçi University by President Erdoğan, as part of a trial involving 21 individuals.

3 January, 2025: Turkish police detained three protesters at a rally in Istanbul for displaying banners condemning trade with Israel, accusing them of incitement, as tensions over the Gaza conflict continue to escalate.

14 January: Protests erupted following the arrests of pro-Kurdish DEM Party mayors and the appointment of a trustee to Akdeniz Municipality in Mersin, leading to police intervention and the detention of five individuals.

22 January: Police detained 38 people, including ESP Co-Chair Murat Çepni and Limter-İş Chair Kanber Saygılı, during a protest in İstanbul's Kadıköy against the detention of 41 journalist and association members from leftist groups.

25 January: Police used physical force to detain 34 people in Ankara's Ulus Square who were promoting a Furkan Movement conference scheduled for January 26, 2025.

29 January: Police detained three people during a protest in front of Siirt Municipality against the appointment of a trustee replacing pro-Kurdish DEM Party Mayor Sofya Alağaş.

29 January: Following the removal of Siirt Co-Mayor Sofya Alağaş from office, the Siirt Governor's Office announced a 10-day ban from January 29 to February 7 on all public gatherings, protests, and related activities, including the entry of individuals and vehicles for such events.

7 February: Turkish police detained three people during a February 6 earthquake commemoration in Hatay after protesters clashed with security forces blocking access to the official ceremony site.

8 February: Turkish authorities denied the main opposition CHP a permit for a pro-Palestinian march in İstanbul, sparking criticism over double standards as the ruling AKP recently held a similar rally at the same location.

10 February: Turkish police detained 18 women using physical force during a crackdown on the "Kadınlar Örgütlülüğe Yürüyor" (Women Marching for Organization) protest organized by Tevgera Jinên Azad (TJA) in Van.

11 February: The Van Governor's Office announced a 15-day ban on all public gatherings, protests, press statements, marches, sit-ins, rallies, concerts, commemorations, and distribution of printed materials, along with restrictions on entry into the city, effective from February 11 to February 25, 2025.

12 February: The Gaziantep Governor's Office announced a 15-day ban on all public gatherings, protests, press statements, rallies, sit-ins, hunger strikes, commemorations, and distribution of printed materials, effective from February 13 to February 27, 2025.

15 February: Turkish police detained 127 people, including six journalists, after storming Van city hall at dawn with tear gas and rubber bullets, following the government's removal of Mayor Abdullah Zeydan and the appointment of a trustee.

18 February: Nearly 400 people, including 55 minors, have been detained during protests against the removal of Van Municipality mayor Abdullah Zeydan, with reports of mistreatment in custody.

21 February: The Kars Governor's Office announced on February 20, 2025, a 10-day ban on all demonstrations, including press statements, gatherings, marches, hunger strikes, sit-ins, rallies, setting up stands or tents, distributing leaflets, and hanging banners, as well as restricting the entry and exit of vehicles supporting such activities between February 21 and March 2, 2025.

27 February: The Van Governor's Office has imposed a 15-day ban on all public gatherings, protests, events, and related entries into the province from February 26 to March 12, 2025.

27 February: Gendarmerie forces blocked mine workers' march in Ankara's Nallıhan district as they protested the privatization of the Çayırhan Thermal Power Plant and Mine.

7 March: A district governor's office in İstanbul has as in previous years declared the central Taksim neighborhood and surrounding area off limits for demonstrations or marches to mark International Women's Day, March 8.

9 March: Police detained some 200 demonstrators in İstanbul late on Saturday after more than 3,000 women marched peacefully through the city center under tight security to mark International Women's Day.

12 March: Police detained Ferdi Sarıkaya in front of Istanbul Çağlayan Courthouse during a press statement demanding the closure of Y and S-type prisons, which are high-security facilities criticized for harsh isolation conditions and severe restrictions on prisoners' rights.

14 March: An İstanbul court has ruled for the acquittal of 46 people from the Saturday Mothers, a group of activists and relatives seeking to learn the fate of loved ones who disappeared while in police custody in Turkey in the 1990s, who were tried for participating in a protest in August 2018.

20 March: Turkish riot police fired rubber bullets and tear gas at thousands of protesters near İstanbul City Hall on Thursday as demonstrations intensified over the detention of Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu.

22 March: More than 1100 people were detained across Turkey following massive protests sparked by the detention of İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, as Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya vowed zero tolerance for what he called attempts to provoke chaos amid growing unrest in over 50 provinces.

23 March: The governor of İstanbul has extended a citywide ban on public gatherings until March 27 and restricted entry for those "suspected" of illegal activity after huge protests sparked.

25 March: Following the arrest of İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, the Ankara Governor's Office banned all protests and public gatherings for six days from March 26 to April 1, while the İzmir Governor's Office imposed a four-day ban from March 26 to 29 on all demonstrations and press statements.

27 March: Turkey's interior minister has announced that more than 1,800 people have been detained and 260 have been put in pretrial detention for participating in protests that erupted after İstanbul's popular mayor, Ekrem İmamoğlu, was taken into custody last week.

27 March: An Istanbul court sentenced 40 people, including three journalists, to prison terms ranging from 3 months 10 days to 5 months for violating the law on assemblies during a protest against trustee appointments in Kadıköy.

8 April: CHP MP Mahmut Tanal's solo protest in front of Turkey's Justice Ministry for jailed students was disrupted by police, who dismantled his tent and took security measures, reflecting broader police crackdowns on mass protests following İstanbul Mayor İmamoğlu's arrest.

8 April: İstanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office announced that 20 separate indictments were filed against 819 individuals, including 278 in pretrial detention, for participating in protests against the arrest of İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu.

10 April: Police intervened in a forum organized by the Workers' Party of Turkey (TİP) in İstanbul's Gülhane Park, detaining 47 people including children.

16 April: University students who joined protests against the detention of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu are facing threats of eviction from state-run KYK dormitories, with some already forcibly removed and others under disciplinary investigation, despite legal precedent affirming that peaceful protest participation cannot justify cutting scholarships or housing.

17 April: Two high school students were detained in Bursa province after participating in a press statement demanding the release of arrested peers, with police targeting them over speeches made near their schools.

22 April: A Turkish textile worker, N.K., was arrested and jailed on charges of insulting President Erdoğan and attempted assault after throwing his phone toward a stage and displaying protest banners criticizing the government's economic policies during a hospital opening in İstanbul.

22 April: Ankara Governor's Office rejected the main opposition Republican People's Party's (CHP) request to march from the 1st Parliament building to Anıtkabir for the April 23 National Sovereignty and Children's Day.

24 April: Four people were detained in İstanbul for allegedly chanting "Erdoğan without a diploma" while walking on the street, along with one person who shared the incident on social media; all five were released by a criminal court under house arrest and a travel ban.

26 April: Police in Ankara detained at least 30 people, including students, a journalist, and a lawyer, during a protest against the arrest of Erdoğan's political rival, with rights groups condemning the excessive force, mistreatment, and denial of legal counsel reported by detainees.

1 may: More than 400 people, including nine lawyers, were detained in İstanbul on International Workers' Day while attempting to march to Taksim Square despite a government ban, as authorities deployed over 52,000 police and shut down key transit points across the city.

7 May: Turkish prosecutors have charged 16 people, mostly young protesters supporting opposition mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, with "insulting the president" during March demonstrations in İstanbul, leaving 14 in pretrial detention for 45 days ahead of their May 30 trial.

12 May: Turkish Education Minister Yusuf Tekin publicly labeled a teacher a "terrorist" after he criticized the controversial interview-based hiring system, sparking outrage from educators and opposition figures who say the system is rife with favoritism and has driven hundreds of teacher candidates to despair or suicide.

14 May: Turkish police detained 97 people during student protests at Boğaziçi University against preacher Nureddin Yıldız, known for controversial remarks on child marriage; six protesters were later formally arrested.

20 May: Over 350 mostly female agricultural workers at Queen Flowers in İzmir have been protesting for 20 days against alleged union-busting practices, wage cuts, and workplace intimidation after joining the United Agricultural Workers Union (Tarım-Sen).

29 May: Turkish police detained 18 people in İstanbul's Taksim Square on Wednesday during a silent "standing man" protest marking the 12th anniversary of the 2013 Gezi Park demonstrations, a mass civil movement against authoritarianism that remains a powerful symbol of dissent in Turkey.

29 May: In Diyarbakır, at least four people, including CHP Diyarbakır Deputy Provincial Chair Remzi Sürek and Bağlar District Chair Çiğdem Özturan, were detained by police for hanging a banner reading "Azadi/Free İmamoğlu" on the city's historic walls; the banners were confiscated.

4 June: The Beyoğlu District Governor's Office banned a press statement planned by the İHD İstanbul Branch LGBTI+ Commission for Pride Month on June 3, 2025, along with all demonstrations and public events in the district for one day.

11 June: A group staged a protest in Kadıköy against trade with Israel at the office of a company allegedly representing an Israeli logistics firm in Turkey; police quickly intervened and detained five people.

13 June: In Ankara's Çankaya district, police used physical force and reverse handcuffing to detain six people during a protest organized by the End the Occupation in Palestine Platform and other political parties and organizations.

17 June: Two local union leaders from the DİSK-affiliated Genel-İş were arrested in İzmir for allegedly "insulting the president" during protests against the jailing of opposition mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu.

23 June: Hundreds of lawyers protested at İstanbul Courthouse against the arrest of Mehmet Pehlivan, lawyer for jailed mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, but were blocked by police from marching to the İstanbul Bar Association.

29 June: Police in İstanbul intervened in the 23rd İstanbul Pride March held in Ortaköy, detaining at least 55 people before they could reach the area.

2 July: Turkish police detained 42 people during a major rally at İstanbul City Hall marking 100 days since Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu's arrest, as protests over his politically charged detention continue.

20 July: On July 20, 2025, during a march in Ankara's Çankaya district marking the 10th anniversary of the Suruç Massacre, police detained 40 people using physical violence and reverse handcuffing.

23 July: A Turkish court ordered the continued pretrial detention of 13 young protesters arrested during a mass rally supporting jailed İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, as prosecutors indicted 35 people, including a journalist, for defying police orders and allegedly insulting the president.

23 July: At least 16 protesters were detained in İstanbul for allegedly insulting President Erdoğan during a pro-Palestinian demonstration against the IDEF 2025 arms fair, which activists criticized for hosting companies supplying weapons to Israel.

26 July: 10 members of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TİP), including party council member Arzum Yalçın, were briefly detained on charges of "insulting the president" over slogans chanted during a CHP rally in İstanbul.

31 July: President Erdoğan postponed a miners' strike at state-run Eti Maden for 60 days citing national security, sparking outrage from unions and rights groups who denounced the move as an unconstitutional violation of the right to strike.

4 August: A third-year Trakya University student was expelled from a state-run dormitory for participating in the March 19 protests, with officials citing a regulation banning involvement in ideological or political demonstrations.

11 August: Turkish police detained 11 activists in Ankara and İstanbul during pro-Palestine demonstrations, as public pressure grows on Ankara to cut ties with Israel amid mounting criticism of ongoing trade despite an official embargo.

13 August: An İstanbul appeals court ruled that the 2024 ban on May Day celebrations in Taksim Square was unlawful, affirming the site's historic significance for labor unions.

21 August: İsmail Çelik, arrested on July 25 for allegedly insulting the president by chanting "Murderer Israel, collaborator Erdoğan" during a protest at the IDEF 2025 defense fair, has had his detention extended and now faces a prison disciplinary probe over his social media posts criticizing Turkey's stance on Gaza.

22 August: Police in Ankara blocked a march by the United Public Workers Confederation to the presidential palace after civil servant wage talks collapsed, sending the dispute covering 6.5 million workers to an arbitration board amid protests, strikes and union demands for major pay hikes against soaring inflation.

22 August: In İstanbul's Ümraniye district, three residents of Topağacı neighborhood were detained as locals resisted forced evictions under an urban renewal project, protesting power, water and gas cuts with marches and phone lights while vowing to defend their homes.

2 September: Police used physical force to detain eight people during a vigil in Ankara organized by the Association for Solidarity with the Families of Prisoners (TAYAD) in support of Serkan Onur Yılmaz, who is on hunger strike in prison.

4 September: A state-run dormitory in Mersin permanently evicted 15 female students accused of joining protests over İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu's detention, citing activities deemed harmful to "national unity," though the students deny involvement and plan legal action.

5 September: In İstanbul, five people, including three members of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TİP), were detained in home raids for participating in a September 2, 2025 protest march organized by Boğaziçi University students over the killing of 15-year-old Hilal Özdemir in an armed attack during a wedding on campus.

12 September: Boğaziçi University student Pelin Gümüşdağ testified that Rector Naci İnci revoked her and four others' graduate admissions after their alleged involvement in protests over İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu's March arrest.

25 September: Police and private security intervened in a student club fair at Ege University, detaining around 20 students who said they were exercising their democratic right to distribute newspapers and magazines.

2 October: Twelve students were detained during protests in Ankara over the death of 22-year-old nursing student Kasım Bulgan, who reportedly suffered a fatal heart attack after showering in cold water due to lack of hot water in his state-run student dormitory.

9 October: The Tokat Governor's Office announced on October 9, 2025, a three-day ban on all demonstrations, marches, press statements, protests, meetings, sit-ins, hunger strikes, commemorations, and similar public events across the province.

15 October: Police detained nine members of the Student Collectives in İstanbul's Kadıköy district during a protest demanding that KYK scholarships be raised to at least half the minimum wage and student loan debts be canceled, as they criticized government austerity measures and urged authorities to "cut costs from the palace, not universities."

27 October: The Çanakkale Governor's Office banned all LGBTİ+-related events and demonstrations across the province for two days starting October 27, 2025, ahead of planned protests against the discriminatory provisions of Turkey's 11th Judicial Package.

31 October: A Turkish court has accepted an indictment seeking prison sentences for 168 women's rights activists detained during the 2024 Istanbul protest marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, amid a broader rollback of legal protections and rising violence against women following Turkey's 2021 withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention.

31 October: Five students were detained in İzmir after protesting Justice Minister Yılmaz Tunç at Ege University's academic year opening ceremony, demanding accountability for nationalist attackers who recently assaulted students with machetes at Hacettepe University.

7 November: Police detained 11 people during a protest held in front of Istanbul Technical University's Gümüşsuyu Campus on November 6, 2025, marking the anniversary of Turkey's Council of Higher Education (YÖK).

19 November: Students protesting security failures after a 15-year-old boy was found dead on the Van Yüzüncü Yıl University campus were met with a police blockade, with at least 10 students detained as officers also intervened against those trying to film the incident.

26 November, 2025: The police intervened with tear gas against the demonstration attended by hundreds of women in Istanbul. Women's march in Istanbul was prevented on the grounds that it was unauthorized.

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The Right to Freedom of Association and Economic Civil Society in Turkey: A Case Study of ANFED and Post-2016 Repression

Introduction

This submission is presented to the United Nations Human Rights Committee in response to its call for input[1] to inform the drafting of General Comment No. 38 on Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), concerning the right to freedom of association. Prepared by Solidarity with Others, a Brussels-based human rights organisation, it draws upon detailed documentation concerning the dissolution, confiscation, criminalisation, and long-term suppression of independent business federations in Turkey—most prominently the case of the Anadolu Sanayici ve İşadamları Federasyonu (ANFED) and other regional business organisations forcibly shut down with Gulen Movement affiliation charges following the 2016 coup attempt.

The report, The Right to Freedom of Association and Economic Civil Society in Turkey: A Case Study of ANFED and Post-2016 Repression, provides a structured account of how the Turkish government has, since 2015 and particularly under the post-2016 emergency decrees, systematically dismantled business associations perceived as politically undesirable or affiliated with disfavoured networks, the Gulen Movement. These actions included mass closures of federations and associations, widespread confiscation of assets, criminal investigations targeting business leaders, and long-term restrictions on the ability of entrepreneurs to organise collectively and engage in economic and civic cooperation. The measures were taken without due process, on the basis of overbroad terrorism allegations, and in a context where emergency powers were used to eliminate entire sectors of independent civil society.

This submission is directly relevant to the Committee's objectives for General Comment No. 38, as outlined in the OHCHR concept note. It demonstrates:

- The use of security and counterterrorism frameworks to dissolve associations and criminalise their leadership, in contravention of Article 22(2)'s necessity and proportionality requirements.

[1] OHCHR. (n.d.). *OHCHR | Call for input - Draft General Comment No. 38 on Article 22 (Freedom of Association) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*. https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2025/call-input-draft-general-comment-no-38-article-22-freedom-association

- The impact of emergency decrees on freedom of association, including the irrevocable closure of federations, absence of judicial oversight, and permanent loss of organisational and economic capacity.
- State interference in the autonomy of business associations, replacing independent federations with pro-government bodies and thereby reshaping civic space through coerced realignment.
- The intersection of property confiscation and associational rights, illustrating how the elimination of organisational assets prevents both economic activity and the re-establishment of associations.
- The chilling effect on economic and civic participation, as business leaders face arrest warrants, prosecutions, travel bans, and reputational destruction solely for their associative ties.

The report further highlights how these patterns did not end with the 2016 emergency period. The government's recent pressure on the Turkish Industry and Business Association (TÜSİAD) in 2025—through threats, criminal investigations, and public denunciation—shows that state interference with the freedom of association of business organisations remains a continuing concern in Turkey. These developments underscore the need for the Committee to articulate strong safeguards in the forthcoming General Comment, including protections against political retaliation, arbitrary dissolution, and economically coercive measures targeting associations and their leadership.

Through this submission, Solidarity with Others aims to assist the Committee in strengthening its interpretation of Article 22 by addressing forms of interference that arise at the intersection of economic life, civil society, and political power. In contemporary contexts such as Turkey, business associations are not merely economic actors—they are civic actors whose ability to organise freely is indispensable to democratic participation, economic pluralism, and the rule of law. Their suppression, therefore, constitutes a direct and serious restriction on the right to freedom of association under the ICCPR.

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Major Business Federations in Turkey Before July 2016:

Several prominent business associations operated in Turkey's private sector ecosystem before 2016. Among them were **TÜSİAD** (the Turkish Industry and Business Association) and **MÜSİAD** (Independent Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association), representing secular and Islamist-leaning business interests respectively. These groups were generally aligned with or independent from the government and were not implicated in the 2016 coup attempt. In contrast, the **Türkiye İşadamları ve Sanayiciler Konfederasyonu (TUSKON)** – the Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists of Turkey – was closely associated with the Gülen movement and would become a central target after 2016. Founded in 2005 as a national confederation, TUSKON was composed of **seven regional business federations** spread across Turkey.[2] By the mid-2010s, it claimed to represent about **12,000 entrepreneurs** through a network of 7 federations and around 150 local business associations.[3] [4] This expansive structure gave TUSKON a strong presence nationwide, with member associations in roughly 80 provinces.[5]

TUSKON's member federations covered different geographic areas and coordinated local business groups. For example, the **Anadolu İşadamları Federasyonu (ANFED)**, based in Ankara, brought together 21 business associations from Central Anatolia and West Black Sea regions (as of 2012), representing around 6,300 employers.

Similarly, the **Anadolu Sanayici ve İşadamları Federasyonu (ANSİFED)**, founded in Konya, comprised 15 associations in Konya and neighboring provinces. Other TUSKON federations included **MARİFED** (Marmara region), **ESİDEF** (Aegean and West Mediterranean), **KASİF** (Black Sea region), **DASİDEF** (Eastern Anatolia), and **GÜNSİAF** (Southeastern Anatolia), each uniting dozens of local business groups under TUSKON's umbrella.[6] Through this network, TUSKON was deeply embedded in Turkey's business community, especially among small-to-medium enterprises and Anatolian conservative entrepreneurs.

Activities and influence: Before the coup attempt, TUSKON and its federations were known for organizing major trade forums and international business summits. They actively promoted Turkish exports and global networking for Anatolian businesses. The confederation hosted events like the "Turkey-World Trade Bridge" programs, which connected Turkish companies with foreign buyers. For instance, in 2013 TUSKON brought **1,500 businesspeople from 140 countries** to Istanbul for a trade summit focused on the agriculture and food sectors. At that event, **25,000 bilateral meetings** were held and 115 product stands showcased Turkish goods. Regional federations like ANFED played an important role in these efforts. ANFED's president at the time, Rahmi Bıyık, lauded TUSKON for "bringing the world to our doorstep,"

[2] Tekgıda-İş Sendikası. (2023, October 23). Employers' Associations In Turkey, Türkiye'de İşveren Dernekleri – Fetö'nün Tuskon'u. Tekgıda-İş Sendikası. https://www.tekgida.org.tr/turkiyede-isveren-dernekleri-fetonun-tuskonu-66392/

[3] *Ibid.*

[4] Koç, Y. (2014). The Organisation Of F-Type Capital, F-Tipi Sermayenin Örgütü: TUSKON. Aydınlık Gazetesi. https://www.yildirimkoc.com.tr/usrfile/1406663065b.pdf

[5] *Ibid.*

[6] Tabak, S. (2016, July 23). TUSKON has become history, TUSKON tarih oldu. Sabah. https://www.sabah.com.tr/ekonomi/2016/07/24/tuskon-tarih-oldu

emphasizing that such programs created valuable opportunities for Anatolian industrialists to forge international partnerships.[7] In addition to trade diplomacy, these federations engaged in local business development, networking dinners, and lobbying. Their close affiliation with the Gülen movement often meant they had cordial relations with the AKP government during the 2000s, when the Gülen movement and the ruling party were allied.

Political stance: This relationship soured **after late 2013** when a graft probe (attributed by the-then Prime Minister Erdoğan's government to Gülen-linked prosecutors) caused a rift between the AKP and the Gülen movement. TUSKON's leadership became openly critical of the government. Notably, at TUSKON's 5th General Assembly on March 1, 2014, TUSKON President **Rızanur Meral** delivered a speech that, in pro- Erdoğan prosecutors' view, amounted to a thinly veiled threat against the Turkish government.[8] In that speech, Meral insinuated that government officials might not be in power much longer, prompting applause from business members. This incident was later cited as evidence of TUSKON's hostility to the government and solidarity with the Gülen network, and based on this "evidence" life imprisonment was demanded for TUSKON President Rızanur Meral.[9] After this open break, TUSKON and its affiliate federations fell under greater scrutiny from authorities. Months before the 2016 coup attempt – as early as November 2015 – Turkish police launched investigations into TUSKON-linked entities. On November 6, 2015, Ankara prosecutors ordered **raids on TUSKON's offices and those of its member federations in Ankara**, searching 18 locations including ANFED's headquarters and several related business associations.[10] This operation was part of a "Fetullahçı Terör Örgütü/Parallel State Structure" (FETÖ/PDY) probe and signalled the gathering legal pressure on Gülen-linked business networks even prior to July 2016.

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Post-Coup Crackdown on Business Federations:

The failed coup attempt of July 15, 2016 prompted an unprecedented crackdown by the Turkish state on institutions believed to be connected to Fethullah Gülen and his Movement. In the business realm, this translated into the dissolution of TUSKON and virtually all of its component federations and associations. Within days of the coup, the government declared a state of emergency and began issuing emergency decrees to shut down organizations accused of affiliation with the "coup plotters". **On July 23, 2016, the first decree (KHK)** was published in the Official Gazette, **closing 1,125 associations**, among them **196 business-related organizations** (industry and businessmen's associations) linked to the so-called "FETÖ"

[7] Platform. Tuskon Brought The World To Our Feet, Anfed Başkani Biyik: Tuskon Dünyayi Ayağimiza Getirdi. (n.d.). https://platformdergisi.com/yazi/haberler/1535/anfed-baskani-biyik-tuskon-duenyayi-ayagimiza-getirdi

[8] AA. 'The government was openly threatened at the TUSKON meeting', "TUSKON toplantısında hükümet açıkça tehdit edildi." (n.d.). https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/turkiye/tuskon-toplantisinda-hukumet-acikca-tehdit-edildi/810787

[9] CNN Türk. (2017, November 14). Life imprisonment demanded for TUSKON President Rızanur Meral, TUSKON Başkanı Rızanur Meral için müebbet hapis cezası istendi. CNN TÜRK. https://www.cnnturk.com/ekonomi/tuskon-baskani-rizanur-meral-icin-muebbet-hapis-cezasi-istendi-631760

[10] Bloomberg HT. (2015, November 6). TUSKON buildings are being searched, TUSKON binalarında arama yapılıyor. Bloomberg HT. https://www.bloomberght.com/tuskon-binalarinda-arama-yapiliyor-1833807

network.[11] This list[12] included TUSKON itself and all seven of its regional federations. Effectively, the entire TUSKON structure was dismantled at once.

Federations closed by decree:

The major business federations terminated in July 2016 for alleged Gülen Movement ties were: **Anadolu İşadamları Federasyonu (ANFED)**, **Marmara İş Hayatı Dernekleri Federasyonu (MARİFED)**, **Ege ve Batı Akdeniz Sanayici ve İşadamları Federasyonu (ESİDEF)**, **Karadeniz Sanayici ve İşadamları Dernekleri Federasyonu (KASİF)**, **Doğu Anadolu Sanayici ve İşadamları Dernekleri Federasyonu (DASİDEF)**, **Anadolu Sanayici ve İşadamları Federasyonu (ANSİDEF)**, and **Güneydoğu Sanayici ve İşadamları Federasyonu (GÜNSİAF)**. [13] In addition, **TUSKON** as the umbrella confederation was shut down. Table 1 summarizes these federations, their affiliations, and the post-coup legal outcomes. Not only were these federations disbanded, but **at least 188 local member associations** under them were also dissolved. The decree stipulated that all assets of the closed organizations would be seized by the state treasury or designated institutions. Indeed, thousands of Gülen-linked schools, charities, companies, and business associations had their assets confiscated in this period.[14] In one sweep, the Gülenist business network that had been built over decades was effectively outlawed and absorbed by the state.

Table 1: Major Turkish Business Federations Affected by Post-Coup Crackdown (2016).

Each of these federations was affiliated with the TUSKON confederation (linked to the Gülen movement) and was **permanently closed** by emergency decree in late July 2016. Many leaders and members faced legal action on charges of belonging to a terrorist organization.

Federation (Acronym)	Region / Affiliation	Post–2016 Outcome
1. Türkiye İşadamları ve Sanayiciler Konfederasyonu (TUSKON)	Nationwide umbrella (Gülen-linked)	Closed by decree in 2016; assets seized; leadership indicted or in exile.
2. Anadolu İşadamları Federasyonu (ANFED)	Central Anatolia (Ankara-based, TUSKON member)	Closed by decree in 2016; subject of "FETÖ" investigation; president fled abroad.

[11] Tabak, S. (2016, July 23). TUSKON has become history, TUSKON tarih oldu. Sabah. https://www.sabah.com.tr/ekonomi/2016/07/24/tuskon-tarih-oldu

[12] Annex to Official Gazette published on 23 July 2016 no. 29779. https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2016/07/20160723-8-1.pdf

[13] Official Gazette published on 23 July 2016 no. 29779. Başbakanlık Mevzuatı Geliştirme ve Yayın Genel Müdürlüğü. (2016, July 20). https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2016/07/20160723-8.htm

[14] Reuters. (2024, October 21). Fethullah Gulen, the powerful cleric accused of orchestrating a Turkish coup, dies. CNBC. https://www.cnbc.com/2024/10/21/fethullah-gulen-cleric-accused-of-orchestrating-a-turkish-coup-dies.html

3. Anadolu Sanayici ve İşadamları Federasyonu (ANSİDEF)	Central Anatolia (Konya-based, TUSKON member)	Closed by decree in 2016; regional member associations dissolved.
4. Marmara İş Hayatı Dernekleri Federasyonu (MARİFED)	Marmara region (Istanbul-based, TUSKON)	Closed by decree in 2016; regional member associations dissolved.
5. Ege ve Batı Akdeniz Sanayici ve İşadamları Federasyonu (ESİDEF)	Aegean & W. Mediterranean (Izmir-based, TUSKON)	Closed by decree in 2016; regional member associations dissolved.
6. Karadeniz Sanayici ve İşadamları Dernekleri Federasyonu (KASİF)	Black Sea region (Samsun-based, TUSKON)	Closed by decree in 2016; regional member associations dissolved.
7. Doğu Anadolu Sanayici ve İşadamları Dernekleri Federasyonu (DASİDEF)	Eastern Anatolia (various provinces, TUSKON)	Closed by decree in 2016; regional member associations dissolved.
8. Güneydoğu Sanayici ve İşadamları Federasyonu (GÜNSİAF)	Southeast Anatolia (Gaziantep-based, TUSKON)	Closed by decree in 2016; regional member associations dissolved.

Aside from the TUSKON-linked network above, a few other business associations were also caught in the post-coup dragnet. For example, an Istanbul-based housing developers' association (**KONUTDER**) and a textile business group (**OTİAD**) were reportedly on the list of closed entities. These were unusual cases and may have been included due to individual board members' links to the Gülen movement. Mainstream organizations like **TÜSİAD** and **MÜSİAD were not targeted** and continued operating normally, underscoring that the purge was focused on the Gülen-affiliated circuit.

Legal actions and prosecutions:

In the wake of these closures, Turkish authorities pursued criminal cases against businesspeople and executives associated with the banned federations. In August 2016, police carried out raids in at least 18 provinces targeting companies tied to Gülen. According to Anadolu Agency, **204 premises were searched and 187 businessmen were detained** on accusations of "membership in a terror organization" and financing terrorism; all suspects' assets were frozen or seized.[15] Many of those detained were members of TUSKON's regional associations. High-profile trials followed: prosecutors drew up indictments against TUSKON's leadership accusing them of orchestrating subversive activities and aiding the coup. In one major **indictment of TUSKON's "business wing of FETÖ"**, Fetullah Gülen himself, TUSKON President Rızanur Meral, and Secretary-General Mustafa Muhammet Günay were charged

[15] Wikipedia. (2025, March 24). 2016 Turkish coup attempt. Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Turkish_coup_attempt

with **"attempting to overthrow the constitutional order"**, among other offenses, with the prosecutor seeking multiple life sentences.[16] Dozens of TUSKON-affiliated businessmen (including prominent figures like a former Istanbul mayor's son-in-law and well-known food industry magnates) were charged as well, accused of "FETÖ membership and financing".[17] Evidence cited in these cases included the suspects' use of ByLock (an encrypted messaging app linked to FETÖ), possession of one-dollar bills said to be given by Gülen as loyalty tokens, sudden investments in Bank Asya (a Gülen-linked bank) after Gülen's urgings, and, notably, **their attendance and applause at the 2014 TUSKON meeting where the government was "openly threatened"**. The indictment even noted that the name "Yurtta Sulh Konseyi" ("Peace at Home Council," the name adopted by the coup plotters) was allegedly **mentioned for the first time at TUSKON's 2014 assembly** – an assertion used to argue that business network leaders had foreknowledge of themes that emerged in the coup attempt.

By early 2017, dozens of former TUSKON officials and members were on trial in Istanbul on terror charges. Many had to flee Turkey to avoid politically motivated prosecution. Courts eventually issued verdicts in some cases, while others are ongoing. (In a notable development years later, Turkey's Supreme Court of Appeals in 2023 overturned some lower court convictions, indicating the legal aftermath is still evolving.[18]) Nevertheless, the immediate effect of the post-coup measures was the **total dismantling of the Gülen-linked business federations**. Their offices were shuttered, records and computers confiscated, and websites taken offline. The space they occupied in Turkey's business landscape was largely filled by pro-government alternatives; for instance, the government encouraged business owners to join MÜSİAD or the official Chambers of Commerce instead. The **Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB)** and other neutral bodies continued to function, but the independent Gülen-aligned segment of civil society in the economy ceased to exist virtually overnight.

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Case Study: Anatolian Industrialists and Businessmen Federation (ANFED)

Background: The **Anadolu Sanayici ve İşadamları Federasyonu (ANFED)** – meaning Anatolian Industrialists and Businessmen Federation – was one of the regional federations under TUSKON's umbrella. Not to be confused with the similarly named Anadolu İşadamları Federasyonu (another TUSKON member based in Ankara), ANFED was headquartered in Konya and established in 2004. By 2012, ANFED (Konya) consisted of **15 local business associations** from Konya and surrounding Central Anatolian provinces, with roughly 2,880

[16] Turkish Minute. (2016, September 8). Arrest warrants issued for 113 businessmen, TUSKON head. Turkish Minute. https://www.turkishminute.com/2016/09/08/arrest-warrants-issued-113-businessmen-tuskon-head/
[17] CNN Türk. (2017, November 14). Life imprisonment demanded for TUSKON President Rızanur Meral, TUSKON Başkanı Rızanur Meral için müebbet hapis cezası istendi. CNN TÜRK. https://www.cnnturk.com/ekonomi/tuskon-baskani-rizanur-meral-icin-muebbet-hapis-cezasi-istendi-631760
[18] Aydınlık. (2024, March 6). The verdict on the TUSKON manager was overturned, TUSKON yöneticisiyle ilgili karar bozuldu. Aydınlık. https://www.aydinlik.com.tr/haber/tuskon-yoneticisiyle-ilgili-karar-bozuldu-458446

member entrepreneurs.[19] The federation aimed to support industrialists and traders in Anatolia by providing a platform for networking, business training, and international outreach. Like its sister federations, ANFED was part of the Gülen movement's business network, often working in tandem with local Gülen-affiliated institutions (schools, charities, etc.) to promote economic and social development in the region. It frequently partnered with the Ankara-based Anadolu İşadamları Federasyonu (ANFED–Ankara) for nationwide events, given the overlap in name and region. Rahmi Bıyık – a businessman from Kayseri who served as **ANFED's president** – was a prominent figure who also sat on TUSKON's board and acted as a key liaison for Gülen-affiliated businesses in Central Anatolia.

Pre-2016 activities:

ANFED was actively involved in TUSKON's international trade initiatives. The federation would mobilize delegations of Anatolian business owners to attend TUSKON's trade bridge conferences and to host visiting foreign investors. For example, ANFED led groups of Central Anatolian entrepreneurs to Istanbul for TUSKON's 2013 Turkey-World Trade Bridge summit, where President Rahmi Bıyık engaged with business delegates from countries as diverse as the Netherlands, Kenya, and Thailand.[20] Bıyık highlighted how critical it was for Anatolian firms to capitalize on these gatherings, noting that TUSKON "brought the world to our doorstep" and significantly contributed to Turkey's export goals for 2023. ANFED also organized regional business forums. In one instance, it hosted an "Ankara Business Forum" where dozens of firms from sectors like construction, furniture, and automotive met foreign trade representatives.[21] Such events underscored ANFED's role in connecting often overlooked provincial businesses with global opportunities. Additionally, ANFED engaged with local governments on economic matters. It had cooperative relationships with municipalities (sometimes facilitating investment in industrial zones) and worked with other NGOs on issues like vocational training. Prior to 2013, ANFED enjoyed support from the AKP government, which saw Anatolian SME growth as part of its economic narrative. Indeed, high-level officials, including ministers, occasionally attended or sent messages to ANFED/TUSKON events. This goodwill eroded after the political fallout with the Gülen movement.

Implication in "FETÖ" and investigation:

By 2014–2015, ANFED and its leadership came under suspicion for aiding the Gülen network's agenda. Rahmi Bıyık, in particular, was identified by authorities as a key "financier" for the

[19] KOÇ, Y. (2014). The Organisation Of F-Type Capital, F-tipi sermayenin örgütü: TUSKON [Newspaper-article]. Aydınlık, 2. https://egazete.aydinlik.com.tr/sites/default/files/dergi-arsivi/2014/07/28_07_2014.pdf
[20] Platform. Tuskon Brought The World To Our Feet, Anfed Başkani Biyik: Tuskon Dünyayi Ayağimiza Getirdi. (n.d.). https://platformdergisi.com/yazi/haberler/1535/anfed-baskani-biyik-tuskon-duenyayi-ayagimiza-getirdi
[21] Haber 3. (2012, June 11). ANKİSADtan Ankara iş Forumu. Haber 3. https://www.haber3.com/guncel/ankisadtan-ankara-is-forumu-haberi-1330896

network in Ankara-Konya region.[22] Pro-government media outlets alleged that Bıyık's construction firm had been involved in donating money to Gülen-linked charities. In the **November 2015 police raids in Ankara**, ANFED's offices were a primary target. The search warrant covered ANFED's headquarters and related organizations like **ANKİSAD (Ankara Businessmen and Industrialists Association)** and **HÜRSİAD (Free Industrialists and Businessmen's Association)**, both of which were member associations under ANFED. During these operations, authorities seized computers and documents, looking for evidence of illicit financial links to the Gülen movement. Although no immediate arrests of ANFED officials were publicized at that time, a clear message had been sent that ANFED was under the microscope. Rahmi Bıyık reportedly went into hiding as investigations expanded. By late 2015, Turkish media speculated that **Bıyık had to flee the country**, possibly alongside well-known businessmen like Koza Holding CEO Akın İpek.

Signage outside the ANFED headquarters (Federation of Anatolian Businessmen) in Ankara, photographed during a police search on November 6, 2015. ANFED was one of several TUSKON-affiliated federations raided as part of a "FETÖ" investigation prior to the 2016 coup attempt.[23] The sign also lists ANKİSAD (Ankara Industrialists and Businessmen's Association) and Akademiad, which were among the related organizations in the same building.

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Post-2016 fate:

After the coup attempt, ANFED (both the Ankara-based "İşadamları" federation and the Konya-based "Sanayici ve İşadamları" federation) was formally **dissolved by the emergency decree** along with TUSKON. The Official Gazette list of shuttered entities from July 24, 2016 explicitly includes "Anadolu İş Adamları Federasyonu, Ankara" and "Anadolu Sanayici ve İş Adamları Federasyonu, Konya" as two of the banned organizations.[24] All member associations linked to ANFED were similarly banned. This termination meant ANFED's offices were sealed and its activities ceased immediately. Any assets or bank accounts belonging to the federation were seized by the state. Local partner institutions (such as business schools or training centers associated with ANFED) were also likely closed if they hadn't been already. The closure of ANFED left a void in Konya and Central Anatolia, which was later filled by other business groups favored by the government. For instance, a new **Konya Industrialists and Businessmen**

[22] Yeni Akit. İşte FETÖ'nün beyin takımı! (2015, December 14). Yeni Akit. https://www.yeniakit.com.tr/foto-galeri/y-4166/43

[23] Anadolu Ajansı. (n.d.). Anadolu Ajansı. https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/pg/foto-galeri/tuskonun-ankaradaki-binalarinda-polis-aramasi-/2/171876#!#

[24] Medya Radar. (2018, November 23). The Journalists and Writers Foundation has been shut down!, Gazeteciler ve Yazarlar Vakfı kapatıldı! Medya Radar. https://www.medyaradar.net/gazeteciler-ve-yazarlar-vakfi-kapatildi-haberi-373073

Association emerged in subsequent years under different leadership, and existing pro-government groups in the region stepped in to represent the business community.

Legal proceedings and leadership outcomes:

Rahmi Bıyık, ANFED's president, became a wanted man in the post-coup period. In the main "FETÖ umbrella" indictment prepared in Ankara (often called the "FETÖ Çatı Davası"), Bıyık was listed among dozens of defendants (many of them living abroad in exile) accused of being part of the Gülenist leadership cadre.[25] Separately, his was named in the Istanbul indictment against TUSKON's business network. Turkish courts issued an arrest warrant for Bıyık on charges of "FETÖ membership and financing", but he could not be apprehended as he had already left Turkey. Bıyık lived in exile in the UK for several years. Tragically, in April 2020, he **died in London after contracting COVID-19**, still in exile at the time of his death. London based Turkish news reports noted his death.[26] Other ANFED-affiliated businessmen faced varied outcomes. Some were tried and imprisoned in Turkey for shorter terms (on charges like being a member of an armed terror group), while others cooperated with authorities or were acquitted. ANFED as an institution, however, did not survive – it remains defunct.

TÜSİAD's Parallel Story with ANFED

In **February and March 2025**, the Turkish Industry and Business Association (**TÜSİAD**), Turkey's leading business organization, faced significant governmental pressure following its public criticism of state policies. This situation draws parallels to the experiences of business federations affiliated with the Gülen movement, such as the Anadolu Sanayici ve İşadamları Federasyonu (**ANFED**), which encountered severe repercussions after the 2016 coup attempt.[27]

TÜSİAD's Confrontation with the Government

On **13 February 2025**, during TÜSİAD's General Assembly, Chairman **Orhan Turan** and High Advisory Council President **Mehmet Ömer Arif Aras** expressed concerns about the erosion of the rule of law and called for greater judicial independence in Turkey. They highlighted issues

[25] Gaziantep Sabah Gazetesi. (2020, April 16). FETÖ umbrella trial begins, FETÖ çatı davası başladı. Gaziantep Sabah Gazetesi. https://gaziantepsabah.com/guncel/feto-cati-davasi-basladi/58188

[26] Londra Gazete. (2020, April 22). Over 100 members of the Turkish Speaking Community fall victim to the coronavirus. Londra Gazete. https://londragazete.com/english/195087/over-100-members-of-the-turkish-speaking-community-fall-victim-to-the-coronavirus/

[27] Öğütçü, M. (2025, February 15). Türkiye's top business group leader under investigation: Listening or silencing business? - Yetkin Report. Yetkin Report. https://yetkinreport.com/en/2025/02/15/turkiyes-top-business-group-leader-under-investigation-listening-or-silencing-business/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

such as the dismissal of elected mayors and legal actions against political figures, emphasizing the necessity of trust in the judiciary for economic and social stability.[28]

These remarks prompted swift governmental responses. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan accused TÜSİAD of political meddling and undermining the government, asserting that the association had "overstepped" its boundaries and thrived on economic privilege at the nation's expense.[29]

Subsequently, the **Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office initiated investigations** into Turan and Aras for allegedly "publicly disseminating misleading information" and attempting to influence judicial proceedings. Both faced potential prison sentences and were subjected to judicial control measures, including travel bans.[30]

Parallels with ANFED and Gülen-Affiliated Federations

The challenges faced by TÜSİAD in early 2025 mirror the experiences of business federations linked to the Gülen movement post-2016. Following the failed coup attempt on 15 July 2016, the Turkish government implemented sweeping measures against organizations suspected of affiliating with the movement. Under Emergency Decree No. 667, issued on 23 July 2016, over 1,000 associations, including the Türkiye İşadamları ve Sanayiciler Konfederasyonu (TUSKON) and its regional affiliate ANFED, were forcibly dissolved, and their assets confiscated without legal recourse.

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ANFED, established in 2004 to support Central Anatolian businesses, had played a significant role in promoting international trade. However, after the 2016 coup attempt, its president, Rahmi Bıyık, fled to the United Kingdom amid mounting legal pressures and passed away in exile in April 2020 due to COVID-19 complications.

Comparative Analysis

Both TÜSİAD's recent experiences and the earlier suppression of Gülen-affiliated federations underscore a pattern of governmental actions against business organizations voicing dissent or criticism. While TÜSİAD has not faced dissolution or asset confiscation – not just yet, the legal actions and public admonishments against its leaders reflect tactics previously employed against groups like ANFED.

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[28] Cetinguc, C. (2025, March 10). TÜSİAD leaders face lawsuit for disseminating misleading information. P.A. Turkey. https://www.paturkey.com/news/2025/tusiad-leaders-face-lawsuit-for-disseminating-misleading-information-19003/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

[29] Reuters. (2025, February 19). Erdogan accuses top Turkish business group of political meddling. Reuters. https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/erdogan-accuses-top-turkish-business-group-political-meddling-2025-02-19/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

[30] Cetinguc, C. (2025, March 10). TÜSİAD leaders face lawsuit for disseminating misleading information. P.A. Turkey. https://www.paturkey.com/news/2025/tusiad-leaders-face-lawsuit-for-disseminating-misleading-information-19003/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

These developments highlight ongoing tensions between the Turkish government and civil society institutions, raising concerns about the state of freedom of expression, rule of law, and the operating environment for independent business associations in Turkey.

Conclusion

The saga of Turkey's business federations around the 2016 coup attempt illustrates how deeply and unfairly politics can impact civil society and economic organizations. Prior to 2016, federations like TUSKON (and its regional components such as ANFED) were key players in Turkey's "Anatolian tiger" economic narrative, helping mid-sized businesses expand globally. However, their natural and legal affiliation with the Gülen movement made them political casualties once the movement was unlawfully deemed a terrorist threat by Erdoğan regime. In the feverish aftermath of the coup attempt, the Turkish state moved swiftly to **dismantle these business networks**, viewing them as part of the alleged "parallel state." Legal actions ranged from mass closures and asset seizures to high-profile trials accusing business leaders of treason. The **Anadolu Sanayici ve İşadamları Federasyonu (ANFED)**, once a facilitator of trade for Anatolian businesses, was erased – its offices raided, its members scattered, and its president dead in exile.

In place of the purged federations, new or existing government-loyal business groups took on a greater role, and the government tightened oversight of remaining NGOs. The post-coup climate made it difficult for independent business associations to operate without explicit government approval. Over time, some normalcy returned – businesses continue to organize, but under frameworks considered politically safe. The case of ANFED and its peers serves as a cautionary tale of how swiftly a business community can be upended by violent and brutal state action. It highlights the intersection of economics, politics, and law in Turkey's recent history: **when a business federation is deemed a political threat to an authoritarian regime, it can be "legally" extinguished overnight**. The legacy of these federations prior to 2016 – in boosting trade and entrepreneurship – remains notable, even as their abrupt demise after 2016 stands as a stark reminder of the coup attempt's aftermath.

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