

TÜRKİYE RIGHTS & JUSTICE BULLETIN

Weekly Human Rights & Justice Developments in Türkiye



**CROSSBORDER
JURISTS**

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As part of our mission to defend law and human rights, we closely monitor developments in the field of law and human rights in Türkiye. As part of this work, we publish a weekly newsletter documenting and archiving the events of the previous week.

ARBITRARY DETENTIONS AND ARRESTS

October 3: In a morning operation targeting Istanbul's Ataşehir Municipality, 13 people, including Deputy Mayor Murat Güneş, were [detained](#).

October 3: As part of operations centered in [Konya](#) and [Istanbul](#), a total of 40 people alleged to be linked to the Gülen Movement were detained. 19 of them were remanded in custody and sent to prison.

October 02: In an operation carried out within the scope of an investigation targeting Istanbul's Eyüpsultan Municipality, 28 people, including Mayor Mithat Bülent Özmen, were [detained](#).

October 02: Journalist and DİSK Basın-İş Discipline Board member Derya Okatan was detained from her home in Ankara and taken to the Istanbul Çağlayan Courthouse. Referred to a judgeship with a demand for arrest without even taking

her statement at the prosecutor's office, she was [arrested](#).

October 01: Simultaneous operations were carried out against the Mersin Metropolitan Municipality as well as the Yenişehir and Mezitli municipalities; 59 people, including Metropolitan Mayor Vahap Seçer, Yenişehir Mayor Abdullah Özyiğit, and Mezitli Mayor Ahmet Serkan Tuncer, were [detained](#).

October 01: During the autumn session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in Strasbourg, a hearing regarding the situation of Osman Kavala was organized by the Parliamentary Network on the Implementation of ECHR Judgments under the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights. Osman Kavala's wife, Prof. Dr. Ayşe Buğra Kavala, also attended the hearing. In her speech, Mrs. Kavala [emphasized](#) that "geopolitical interests should not take precedence over human rights."

September 28: Journalist Fatih Ergin was detained and [arrested](#) on the grounds of a post he made regarding the death of former Forensic Medicine employee Dr. Turgay Tamer—who had previously been detained and released as part of the reopened investigation into former MIT official Kaşif Kozinoğlu's 2011 death in Silivri Prison.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THE PRESS

October 2: The X (Twitter) account of Mesopotamia Agency's Kurdish service was [blocked](#) from access in Turkey by decision of the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (BTK).

September 30: Within the scope of the "Ailem Güvende" (My Family is Safe) investigation, the Istanbul 1st Peace Judgeship of Criminal Jurisdiction decided to block access to T24's website and social media accounts. The Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office [announced](#) that the decision was made due to 118 pieces of content published on T24 in the last year, which it described as "LGBT propaganda."

September 29: The summary of the Sixth Interim Compliance Report of the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) regarding Turkey was shared with the public. According to the report, out of 22 recommendations regarding parliamentarians, judges, and prosecutors, only six were implemented satisfactorily, nine were partially implemented, and seven were not implemented. Stating that executive influence over the administration of the Justice Academy remains a source of concern, GRECO [called for](#) strengthening the independence of the Council of

Judges and Prosecutors and ensuring tenure security for members of the judiciary.

September 28: As part of the access blocks that gained momentum on social media especially following operations targeting LGBTI+ individuals, at least 55 X accounts were [blocked](#) from access.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE AND THE RULE OF LAW

September 30: The asset freeze decision issued against Mustafa Yazıcı, son of AKP Vice Chairman Hayati Yazıcı, as part of the FON Corruption investigation was lifted hours later. By the same decision, the injunction on the assets of 5 individuals, along with Yazıcı, was removed. This situation [brought about](#) debates regarding the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.

September 29: The European Court of Human Rights ruled that rights were violated in the cases of 947 people convicted on charges of "membership in a terrorist organization." The ECtHR [found](#) violations of the Right to a Fair Trial and the Principle of No Punishment Without Law.

TORTURE AND MALTREATMENT

September 28: YENİ Party Deputy Chairman Utku Çakırözer visited imprisoned journalist Tuğba Tekerek at Sincan Prison and announced that Tekerek was being made to sleep on the floor in front of the toilet in a 40-person narcotics ward. Çakırözer [stated](#) that 9-month pregnant Tuğba Ağırşen, staying in the same ward, needed oxygen support due to respiratory distress and was also sleeping on the floor, while human rights defender Tuğba Kahraman, detained in

dawn raids on June 23, remained imprisoned for about three months despite the conclusion of the NATO Summit.

GENDER RIGHTS

October 02: Academic for Peace Latife Akyüz published a report researching the experiences of Turkey-origin LGBTI+ migrants in Europe within the scope of the RESIST Project. In her report, Akyüz emphasized that anti-LGBTI+ rhetoric constructed around concepts like "family" and "protection of children" is similar across countries, LGBTI+ rights in Europe are not as advanced as thought, and migrant trans individuals are exposed to the highest level of hate speech. Conditions in refugee camps, bureaucratic violence, loss of professional status, and daily racism were [among](#) the main issues faced by migrant LGBTI+ individuals in the research.

WOMEN'S RIGHT

October 01: The Constitutional Court's reasoned decision annulment of the phrase "indefinitely" in Article 175 of the Turkish Civil Code was published in the Official Gazette; the annulment provision will [enter into force](#) on June 30, 2027.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

September 28: Lawyers stated that university students arrested in the investigation carried out prior to the NATO Summit were deprived of their right to education. Lawyers for Freedom Association member Berfin Babaoğlu stated that students could not complete course registrations in prisons, dormitory applications were not processed through prison education units, and they could not

directly access learning materials. Eğitim Sen Legal Secretary Özlem Töllu [reported](#) that students were being tried on allegations of "organization membership" for exercising their rights to expression, organization, and protest, could not take their exams, and lost their scholarships.