

TÜRKİYE RIGHTS & JUSTICE BULLETIN

Weekly Human Rights & Justice Developments in Türkiye



**CROSSBORDER
JURISTS**

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As part of our law and human rights advocacy mission, we closely follow the developments in human rights and law in Türkiye. Scope of this study, we publish a weekly bulletin documenting/archiving the summary of the previous week.

ARBITRARY DETENTIONS AND ARRESTS

October 24: Within the scope of the investigation conducted by the Muğla Chief Public Prosecutor's Office targeting the Milas Municipality, 18 people, including Mayor Fevzi Topuz and his son Doruk Topuz, were [arrested](#).

October 23: 34 people, including Emrah Kozay, the Mayor of Adana's Çukurova district, former Mayor Soner Çetin, and two deputy mayors, were [arrested](#).

October 22: In an operation centered in Ankara across 12 provinces targeting the community known as the Süleymancılar, 19 out of 38 detained individuals were [arrested](#).

October 21: BirGün newspaper reporter İsmail Arı was [arrested](#) by the magistrate court following a complaint by Ebubekir Şahin, former President of the Radio and Television Supreme Council.

October 20: According to information shared with the public by MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu, cancer patient Mehmet

Daylak, a math teacher dismissed by decree (KHK) who was being tried under Gülen movement investigations in Gaziantep, was [re-arrested](#) 13 days after his release. Mehmet Daylak had one kidney removed and is 86% disabled.

October 19: As part of an investigation launched by the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office into claims that two German citizens were carrying out transactions to launder high amounts of money from unidentified sources, 15 people were [arrested](#), including journalist Murat Ağirel, who was under house arrest due to fund crisis reporting.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

October 25: The tent vigil protest initiated against the "EIA Positive" decision given for the planned "Zenkar 2 Solar Power Plant and Energy Storage Facility" project in Kervansaray Neighborhood, Sur district of Diyarbakır, entered its third day. After company employees entered the project site accompanied by gendarmerie and

soldiers, the neighborhood residents' march towards the project site was [stopped](#) by the gendarmerie.

October 24: During a process in which journalists were arrested, a trustee was appointed to Halk TV, and access to T24 and numerous websites was blocked, press professional organizations organized simultaneous demonstrations in Istanbul Kadıköy, Ankara, and İzmir under the slogan "No to censorship, freedom to news". The marches, called by organizations including TGS, DİSK Basın-İş, Journalists' Association, Press Council, ÇGD, İGC, and DFG, were supported by political parties, trade unions, bar associations, and non-governmental organizations. In the demonstrations held on the first anniversary of the appointment of a trustee to TELE1, banners reading "Free press cannot be silenced" and "Journalists imprisoned, financiers free" were [carried](#).

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THE PRESS

October 23: Freedom of Expression Association (İFÖD) announced that an access block decision was issued against Halk TV's YouTube channel with 2.6 million subscribers based on URL using channel ID, following its username being blocked on October 14. Changing its username to @Halktv-eu after the blocking decision, the channel has not yet been rendered invisible from Türkiye by YouTube. Access blocks against Halk TV [continue](#) alongside the trustee process appointed within the scope of the investigation into channel owner Cafer Mahiroğlu.

October 21: Yeni Yaşam newspaper, whose social media accounts were closed many times before, [announced](#) that its X

accounts were once again blocked from access.

October 21: Independent Communication Network (BİA) Media Monitoring Report revealed that pressure and censorship against journalists increased in the July-September 2026 period; seven journalists were arrested in three months while access blocks were imposed on at least 52 online news items and the X accounts of 16 journalists and eight media outlets. According to the report, journalists reporting on irregularities in the fund market faced access blocks, while T24 was shut down on allegations of "LGBT propaganda", showing that following Açık Radyo and TELE1, this closure demonstrates the continuation of policies to weaken independent media. At least two journalists were sentenced to prison in the last three months, while TCK Article 217/A, which entered into force in October 2022, continues to be [used](#) in investigations and arrests targeting journalists.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE AND THE RULE OF LAW

October 22: In the process following the March 31, 2024 local elections, the ruling party changed in 37 out of 81 provinces; it was stated that including district and town municipalities, the number of municipalities passing to the AKP reached 112. While arrests, dismissals, trustee appointments, and party-switching mayors were expressed to reshape the political map, opposition party leaders [claimed](#) that some party transitions occurred through blackmail.

October 19: Judge Murat Arslan, President of YARSAV (Judges and Prosecutors Association) who was awarded the prestigious Václav Havel

Human Rights Prize by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), was [released](#) after serving the entirety of his 10-year prison sentence.

October 19: Germany-based Die Zeit newspaper alleged that some Turkish citizens paid bribes to open criminal investigations in Türkiye in order to present evidence of political prosecution in asylum applications. According to the report by Christoph Heinemann, intermediaries on TikTok and Telegram provide real investigation records to be entered into UYAP in exchange for bribes. It was [reported](#) that providers issue investigation files and indictments for 800 euros, while packages including illegal border crossing to Germany start at 6,000 euros. While the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) announced encountering fake UYAP websites, the report noted that the asylum acceptance rate for Turkish citizens dropped from 43% to 12%.

TORTURE AND MALTREATMENT

October 23: The left leg of severely ill prisoner Abdullah Tırpan, held in Istanbul Metris Prison, was amputated below the knee last night. However, due to the infection spreading to the upper part of his leg, it was [learned](#) that Tırpan will undergo a second surgery to amputate his leg above the knee.

GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS

October 24: A group reacting to the unfurling of an LGBTI+ flag at the 128th Ordinary General Assembly of the Istanbul Bar Association [attacked](#) those who opened the flag.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

October 22: In Kapaklı district of Tekirdağ, 14-year-old F.K., a 9th-grade Vocational Education Center (MESEM) student, was assaulted with kicks, slaps, and punches by business operator Abdulkadir K. in an auto repair shop under the pretext of not coming to school and work. This situation once again [brought up](#) questions as to whether the purpose of MESEMs is vocational education or cheap labor.

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

October 20: In two separate incidents off Lesbos and Samos islands in Greece on October 19, 12 refugees and migrants lost their lives, including a baby. Off Agrilia in southern Lesbos, a speedboat carrying refugees capsized after colliding with a Greek Coast Guard patrol boat; while Greek authorities claimed the speedboat rammed the patrol boat, results of an independent investigation into how the collision occurred have not yet been announced. Greek police [detained](#) a 37-year-old Turkish citizen found among the survivors on suspicion of operating the boat and human smuggling.

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

October 19: Cemevi members and local residents initiated a vigil against the transfer and eviction of Kırac Cemevi in Esenyurt to the Cem Foundation. Cemevi President Evren Kaya stated that the cemevi was built with the labor of neighborhood residents, alleging that the Cem Foundation obtained the title deed by using connections in the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, and said they took the decision to court. Kaya [said](#), "This place is ours, we built it. We will definitely not hand it over to the Cem Foundation."