TÜRKİYE RIGHTS & JUSTICE BULLETIN

Weekly Human Rights & Justice Developments in Turkey

CROSSBORDER JURISTS

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As part of our legal and human rights advocacy mission, we closely monitor developments in law and human rights in Turkey. Within the scope of this work, we publish a weekly bulletin documenting/archiving the summary of the previous week.

ARBITRARY DETENTIONS AND ARRESTS

9 November: In an investigation in İzmir into alleged links to a left-wing organization, 23 people were detained; raids were also conducted at several addresses in Istanbul. Attendance at a commemoration event was reportedly cited as evidence in the investigation.

10 November: Yonca Verdioğlu Şık, wife of opposition MP Ahmet Şık, was detained as part of an espionage investigation and released the same day; Şık's party alleged that the family was being targeted through the investigation.

10–13 November: In investigations into alleged links to the Gülen movement, 11 people, including five accused of assisting prisoners' families, were detained; in a separate operation across 14 provinces, 29 more people were detained.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

13 November: Workers protesting a mobile phone restriction following the fatal November 9 explosion at the HABAŞ iron and steel plant were detained; different reports put the number of detainees between at least nine and around 20.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THE PRESS

9 November: Journalist İdris Yılmaz was questioned by police over a November 6 social media post regarding a corruption investigation.

10 November: In a new phase of the investigation that led to the takeover of Halk TV, seven people were reportedly detained or added to the investigation; because one of them was already in prison, the exact number of new detentions remained unclear.

11 November: An Istanbul court blocked access on national security grounds to a November 2 news report containing allegations regarding an investment fund scandal.

12 November: In separate cases related to journalistic activities, two journalists were given suspended prison sentences, while two other journalists were placed under house arrest.

12 November: Journalists Ahmet Erkan Yiğitsözlü and Tuba Demir and accountant Servet Topuz were arrested on allegations that YouTube advertising and Patreon revenues constituted financial ties to the Gülen movement.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE AND THE RULE OF LAW

9 November: Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency Vice President Muhammet Erişen and bank executive Murat Yönaç were arrested as part of an investigation into allegations of investment fund and stock market manipulation.

12 November: Istanbul Metropolitan Mayor's lawyer Mehmet Pehlivan and seven other defendants were released in a corruption trial involving municipal officials.

13 November: An appeal against Osman Kavala's detention was rejected by an appellate court in Istanbul despite binding ECtHR rulings requiring his release.

PRISON CONDITIONS

10 November: Prison administrative boards have reportedly postponed the conditional release of at least 116 prisoners throughout 2026; the figure announced by lawyers' organizations covers not only this week but also previous months.

13 November: It was alleged that there were around 40 tuberculosis cases at Adana Prison No. 2 and that healthcare services and infection prevention measures were inadequate; the case count and diagnoses could not be independently verified.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

14 November: A march was held in Istanbul from Karaköy to Eminönü demanding effective investigations into femicides and suspicious deaths and stronger measures against impunity.

GENDER RIGHTS

11 November: Three supervisory board members of the Kaos GL association were released in the trial against the association's representatives; some other defendants remain in detention.

12 November: An indictment sought up to eight years in prison for journalist Tuğba Tekerek over a previously published news report and an Instagram post.

12 November: The dissolution of the HEVİ LGBTI+ Association was requested, and charges were brought against five of its founders over its activities.

This bulletin was prepared with the contribution of the weekly bulletin of https://solidaritywithothers.com/.