TÜRKİYE RIGHTS & JUSTICE BULLETIN

Weekly Human Rights & Justice Developments in Turkey

CROSSBORDER JURISTS

Issue 9 | Date 16 - 22 November **24.11.2026**

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

20 November: According to the Ministry of Interior, following the detention of 83 people in operations conducted across 28 provinces over ten days, 47 people were arrested by courts over alleged links to the Gülen movement.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

17 November: In İzmit, an indictment charging two university students with "incitement to commit a crime" for distributing leaflets calling for the resignation of Minister of National Education Yusuf Tekin was accepted by the court; the first hearing is scheduled for 15 June 2027.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THE PRESS

16 November: DEM Party MP Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu was ordered to pay 150,000 Turkish lira in damages to Minister of National Defense Yaşar Güler in a lawsuit filed over his parliamentary speeches regarding the 2016 coup attempt.

17 November: Sözcü TV and its affiliated news website were placed under state trusteeship by court order, while senior executives were detained by police as part of an investigation into unadjudicated financial allegations.

18 November: The Ankara 2nd Criminal Judgeship of Peace blocked access to six news reports published by BirGün, Evrensel, 12punto, dokuz8haber, Doğru Haber, and İlke TV concerning the Minister of Justice's criminal complaint against opposition MP Ahmet Şık.

19 November: BirGün journalist İsmail Arı was acquitted by the court in the trial over his posts regarding an investment fund scandal and ordered released after approximately 29 days in pre-trial detention.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE AND THE RULE OF LAW

17 November: The European Court of Human Rights ordered the release of imprisoned opposition MP Can Atalay, finding that his continued detention and the measures taken against his parliamentary status violated the Convention.

18 November: Istanbul Metropolitan Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu and eight others were sentenced to two years and one month in prison and handed a political ban by an Ankara court over allegations of election irregularities at the CHP's 2023 congress; three defendants were acquitted, and the rulings are subject to appeal.

19 November: The revocation of Istanbul Metropolitan Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu's university diploma was upheld by an administrative court in a separate case affecting his eligibility to run for president; his lawyers stated that the ruling had not yet been officially served.

KURDISH MINORITY

16 November: Kurdish journalist Rabia Önver was given an 18-month suspended prison sentence by a court over her social media posts relating to her journalistic activities and public commentary.

19 November: United Nations experts urged Türkiye to strengthen judicial safeguards and accountability in regulations concerning the peace process with the PKK.

PRISON CONDITIONS

20 November: Kayseri City Hospital issued a medical report stating that critically ill prisoner Evin Zapsu is medically unfit to remain in prison; according to another prisoner's family, the report was sent for forensic medical review.

20 November: Authorities were urged to release 73-year-old Islamic scholar Mustafa Özönder, detained over alleged links to the Gülen movement, due to his deteriorating health.

20 November: According to newly released figures, 5,121 children aged 12–17 are held in penal institutions in Türkiye, of whom 3,809 are in pre-trial detention and 1,312 are convicted, it was reported.

20 November: Şükran Yıldız's husband reported that she is being held in a solitary cell at Alanya Prison despite suffering from nerve pain and psychological issues; the appeal of her conviction over alleged links to the Gülen movement is ongoing.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

19 November: Yusuf Ahmet Özçiçek reported that he was beaten and threatened by police officers and forced to delete footage while attempting to record police violence against another person in Istanbul on 8 November; a criminal complaint was filed with the prosecutor's office following the incident.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

17 November: A man who stabbed his former wife in February 2025 was sentenced to two years and four months in prison by a court in Kocaeli and ordered released.

21 November: According to a survey by the Journalists' Union of Türkiye (TGS), 70.9 percent of participating female journalists reported experiencing gender-based discrimination; respondents also highlighted barriers to reporting workplace violence and harassment.

GENDER RIGHTS

20 November: In Adana, approximately nine people were detained by police during a banned gathering linked to LGBTI+ rights and demonstrations ahead of 25 November; in a report published on 21 November, a lawyer alleged that one detainee's hand was broken during the police intervention.

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