

# TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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## ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

Throughout the week, prosecutors ordered the detention of at least 267 people over alleged links to the Gülen movement. In October 2020, a UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) [opinion](#) said that widespread or systematic imprisonment of individuals with alleged links to the group may amount to crimes against humanity. Solidarity with OTHERS has compiled a detailed [database](#) to monitor the Gülen-linked mass detentions since a failed coup in July 2016.

**July 12:** The Forensic Medicine Institution [decided](#) that 83-year-old ailing prisoner Mehmet Emin Özkan is fit to stay in prison.

**July 13:** Elif Çadırcı, the mother of a 13-month-old baby, was [detained](#) over alleged links to the Gülen movement.

**July 15:** The Constitutional Court [rejected](#) an opposition appeal for a stay of execution of a controversial Covid-19 early release law that excludes political prisoners.

## ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

No news has emerged of [Yusuf Bilge Tunç](#) and [Hüseyin Galip Küçüközyiğit](#), former public sector workers who were sacked from their jobs by decree-laws during the 2016-2018 state of emergency and who were reported missing respectively as of August 6, 2019 and December 29, 2020, in what appear to be the latest cases in a string of suspected [enforced disappearance](#) of government critics since 2016.

## FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

**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.

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

**July 13:** İstanbul prosecutors [indicted](#) former opposition MP Berhan Şimşek for “degrading the state,” over his remarks in a TV program.

**July 14:** An İstanbul court [ruled](#) to block access to news reports about allegations involving presidential aide Korkmaz Karaca.

**July 15:** The European Court of Human Rights [asked](#) Turkey to submit its defense in the case of 81 academics who were dismissed from their jobs for signing a peace declaration in 2016.

**July 15:** Turkey [ranked](#) second after India in the number of removal requests it made from Twitter for content posted by verified journalists and news outlets in the

second half of 2020, according to the company's Transparency Report.

## FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

**July 13:** Media reports indicated that two students from Boğaziçi University who were briefly detained in protests against the pro-government rector and released under judicial supervision are now [unable](#) to travel abroad to pursue postgraduate education due to a travel ban imposed on them.

**July 13:** Turkish authorities are [barring](#) writers and politicians from the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (KKTC), a breakaway state recognized only by Turkey, who criticize Ankara's policies from entering the country.

## 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.

## JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

**July 15:** A parliamentary subcommittee [approved](#) a bill extending state of emergency rules for three years. The bill extends emergency measures governing the dismissal of civil servants by the government and providing extra pre-detention periods to security authorities for people who are taken into custody as part of terrorism-related investigations.

## 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.

## MISTREATMENT OF CITIZENS ABROAD

**July 15:** Orhan İnandı, a Turkish-Kyrgyz educator who was rendered from Kyrgyzstan by Turkey's intelligence agency, was [abducted](#) by three Kyrgyz men, blindfolded and driven for several hours before he was put on a plane to Turkey, according to new details announced by

his lawyer. Ankara prosecutors in an indictment [demanded](#) up to 22 years, six months in prison for İnandı on terrorism-related charges.

## OTHER MINORITIES

**July 14:** Mustafa Destici, the leader of a small far-right party, [suggested](#) that Turkey remove references to "Greek" and "Armenian" on churches and schools belonging to those communities in the Princes' Islands in the Sea of Marmara.

## PRISON CONDITIONS

**July 12:** Mustafa Emiroğlu, an inmate held in an Afyon prison, was [hospitalized](#) only after his condition worsened 11 days after testing positive for Covid-19.

**July 13:** Reports revealed that an İzmir prison has been [denying](#) hospitalization to sick inmate Mithat Öztürk.

**July 17:** [Ertas Sofuoğlu](#), a psychologist imprisoned for alleged links to the Gülen movement, was hospitalized after being diagnosed with Covid-19 on June 28, but authorities have not released information about his condition since.

## REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

**July 12:** An İstanbul court [arrested](#) Iranian refugee Zohren Momeni for allegedly denigrating the Turkish flag.

**July 14:** Reports said that an extended family of 16 fleeing from the Taliban-occupied city of Herat in Afghanistan has been [stranded](#) at İstanbul Airport for nearly a month and is at risk of deportation despite applying for international protection.

**July 16:** A group of Turks who sought political asylum in Greece were strip-searched and [pushed back](#) by Greek border forces.

**July 17:** A fact-finding [report](#) by the European Parliament has found that the bloc's border and coast guard agency Frontex failed to protect the rights of people at EU borders, including the Greek-Turkish border.

## TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

**July 13:** The guards in a Bolu prison physically [assaulted](#) inmate Mustafa Özgür Mulla. Prison physicians later refused to document Mulla's injuries.

**July 14:** The guards in a Kahramanmaraş prison physically [assaulted](#) inmates who joined in a hunger strike.