

TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPORT

October 6: The European Commission released its 2020 [report](#) on Turkey, noting serious backsliding of the respect for democratic standards, rule of law and fundamental freedoms.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

October 6: The governor's office in Batman [imposed](#) a ban on all outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days.

October 8: President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan [issued](#) a presidential decree, ordering the postponement of a strike organized by glass manufacturing workers, citing national security reasons.

October 8: The governor's office in Manisa [imposed](#) a ban on outdoor gatherings for a period of 15 days, citing Covid-19 pandemic. The decision came ahead of a major protest march organized by mineworkers.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

October 5: Yaman Akdeniz, a prominent human rights [announced](#) that he was told by Facebook and Instagram that the platforms will not be assigning representatives to Turkey, which is a [requirement](#) under the country's new social media law which took effect on October 1. Failure to comply with the new regulations could result in sanctions, including fines of up to \$5.1 million and a slowing of bandwidth by as much as 90 percent. Meanwhile, media watchdog RTÜK [issued](#) a warning to Spotify and FOXplay, urging them to complete their licensing process in order to continue their activities in Turkey.

October 5: Dilan Ekin, a member of the leftist music band Grup Yorum, was [arrested](#) by a court after being

detained on October 4. The group's members frequently face prosecution over their public concerts.

October 6: Journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şhriban Abi and Nazan Sala were [detained](#) after they reported on two Kurdish villagers who were allegedly tortured and thrown from a military helicopter.

October 6: A Balıkesir court [ruled](#) to block access to the Rûdaw news website, a pro-Kurdish outlet based in the Iraqi Kurdistan.

October 6: A Diyarbakır court [ruled](#) to block access to the Germany-based Nupel.net news website.

October 7: Media regulator RTÜK [threatened](#) legal action against media coverage on corruption allegations in state institutions.

October 7: Journalist Pınar Gayıp was [detained](#) in İstanbul over her coverage of a funeral.

October 7: An İstanbul court ruled to [confiscate](#) the assets of exiled journalist Can Dündar, in line with a previous ruling to declare him a "fugitive" in case he failed to appear in court within 15 days.

October 7: Journalist Fatih Pınar was [acquitted](#) of terrorism-related charges. Pınar faced trial for sharing a photo with the hashtag #NewrozPirozBe, which means "Happy Newroz" in Kurdish.

October 8: Murat İde, the press advisor of the opposition leader Meral Akşener, was [detained](#) by the police over an article that he penned in 2015.

October 8: Zeynep Durgut, a reporter for the Mezopotamya news agency was briefly [detained](#) by gendarmerie forces while covering news.

October 8: Former MP Mahmut Alnak was briefly [detained](#) by the police for allegedly insulting the president. Alnak was released after his questioning.

October 8: A Diyarbakır prosecutor [demanded](#) a prison sentence of up to 15 years for journalist Ayşegül Doğan, who faces terrorism-related charges over her interviews and her participation in meetings.

October 8: Journalist İnan Ketenciler was [sentenced](#) to 25 days in prison for taking a video of neighborhood guards' mistreatment of a citizen. Ketenciler was charged with illegally acquiring and publishing personal data.

October 8: A news portal [claimed](#) that the Turkish authorities gathered information on a government-critical TV network broadcasting out of Germany and initiated terrorism-related investigations into the journalists who appeared on their shows.

October 8: Media regulator RTÜK [imposed](#) a fine against government-critical Halk TV, over a guest's remarks criticizing Azerbaijan amid the ongoing clashes between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the South Caucasus.

October 8: An Ankara court ruled to [acquit](#) journalist Ayser Çınar, who faced trial for spreading propaganda on behalf of terrorist groups, over her tweets about a Turkish military incursion into Syria.

October 9: Journalist Sertaç Kayar was [acquitted](#) of terrorism-related charges which he faced over his reports about the Democratic Society Congress' (DTK) activities in Diyarbakır.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

October 6: The police [detained](#) Atilla Özbey and Emin Yıldız, executives of the Human Rights Association (İHD) in Ağrı, over press statements and assemblies that they attended. The two were released on probation on October 8.

October 9: An İstanbul prosecutor in a new [indictment](#) demanded an aggravated life sentence for prominent businessman and rights activist Osman Kavala on coup attempt and espionage charges.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE & RULE OF LAW

October 7: Supreme Election Board (YSK) [rejected](#) an appeal lodged by 24 bar associations requesting the

annulment of an interior ministry order to postpone the bar elections due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

KURDISH MINORITY

October 5: Three Swedish politicians were reportedly [prevented](#) by Turkish authorities from paying a visit to jailed Kurdish leader Selahattin Demirtaş.

October 6: Journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi and Nazan Sala were [detained](#) after they reported on two Kurdish villagers who were allegedly tortured and thrown from a military helicopter.

October 6: The police [detained](#) a number of HDP politicians in house raids carried out in Van, Diyarbakır, Urfa, Şırnak and Siirt.

October 6: A Balıkesir court [ruled](#) to block access to the Rûdaw news website, a pro-Kurdish outlet based in the Iraqi Kurdistan.

October 8: Şevin Alaca, the former co-mayor of the Kars province who was detained on October 1 as part of a large-scale crackdown on pro-Kurdish politicians, was [arrested](#) by a court.

October 8: Hayri Bökü, a district co-chair of the pro-Kurdish HDP in Manisa, was [detained](#) over a speech he made at a protest rally.

October 9: Media reports said that the Turkish authorities have been [restricting](#) Internet access of the Kurdish-majority town of Nusaybin for a year, citing security reasons.

MILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD

October 5: Canada [suspended](#) the export of military drone components to Turkey, citing concerns that the equipment was being used against civilian communities in the clashes between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

MISTREATMENT OF CITIZENS ABROAD

October 8: A news portal [claimed](#) that the Turkish authorities gathered information on a government-critical TV network broadcasting out of Germany and initiated terrorism-related investigations into the journalists who appeared on their shows.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

October 6: A media report [claimed](#) that prison guards in Diyarbakır used violence against an inmate named Kervan Bayhan, which led to the inmate's leg being broken.

October 6: A media report [claimed](#) that prison guards in Kayseri battered prisoners Feyyaz Gülsoy, Ali Saday, Emrah Kına and Cumali Yıldırım.

October 6: Journalists Adnan Bilen, Cemil Uğur, Şehriban Abi and Nazan Sala were [detained](#) after they reported on two Kurdish villagers who were allegedly tortured and thrown from a military helicopter.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

October 6: A monthly gender-based violence [report](#) compiled by bianet said that men inflicted violence on at least 97 women in September. Men killed at least 20 women, raped 19 and harassed 18, according to the report.

October 8: Muğla prosecutors [demanded](#) aggravated life imprisonment for Cemal Metin A., the main suspect in the femicide of Pınar Gültekin back in July.