

# TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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## ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

**August 5:** Turkish police briefly [detained](#) 6 members of the leftist music band Grup Yorum while they were rehearsing for a concert in İstanbul.

## ARBITRARY DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

**August 4:** İbrahim Baykara, a 46-year-old civilian, was reportedly [killed](#) by security forces in the eastern province of Van.

## FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

**August 4:** The police in İstanbul [detained](#) two people protesting the ban on the public concerts of the leftist music band Grup Yorum.

**August 4:** The governor's office in the southeastern province of Şırnak [imposed](#) a curfew in five villages until further notice.

**August 5:** The governor's office in Urfa [issued](#) a 30-day ban on all outdoor gatherings.

**August 5:** The police in İzmir [detained](#) 21 people protesting in favor of the İstanbul Convention on violence against women from which Turkish government officials have been implying Turkey's potential withdrawal.

**August 5:** The governor's office in Van [issued](#) a 15-day ban on all outdoor gatherings as of August 6. The ban has been in effect uninterruptedly since November 2016.

**August 8:** Authorities in İstanbul [blocked](#) a planned commemoration by relatives of the victims of a 2015 bomb attack in Suruç.

**August 8:** The governor's office in İzmir [issued](#) a ban on all outdoor gatherings until August 15.

**August 8:** The governor's office in Mardin [imposed](#) a curfew in two districts until August 9.

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

**August 6:** Activist Alev Şahin was briefly [detained](#) in Düzce while protesting her summary dismissal from public service.

**August 6:** Prosecutors in the province of Batman [indicted](#) journalist İdris Yayla over his reporting on a woman's alleged rape by a military officer.

## KURDISH MINORITY

**August 7:** Police [detained](#) 16 people in Adana, including members of the Kurdish-oriented HDP. The detainees were also put under a 24-hour ban from contacting their lawyers.

## OTHER MINORITIES

**August 6:** An LGBTI activist in İzmir [alleged](#) that the police specifically targeted him and used violence against him during a women's rights protest in favor of the İstanbul Convention from which government officials have been implying Turkey's potential withdrawal.

## TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

**August 4:** Jailed lawyer Aytaç Ünsal who has been hunger striking for months [claimed](#) that authorities are planning to force feed him and Ebru Timtik, another hunger striking lawyer, if they lose consciousness.

**August 5:** The Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) [published](#) the reports on its 2017 periodic visit and 2019 ad hoc visit to Turkey, which noted ongoing problems of arbitrary treatment, ill-treatment, unhealthy prison conditions, overcrowding, torture and harassment by officials.

## **WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

**August 5:** Reuters [cited](#) anonymous Turkish officials who said that the ruling AKP is considering whether to pull Turkey out of the Istanbul Convention, the international treaty on violence against women. A monthly [report](#) by the watchdog Bianet said that men inflicted violence on at least 80 women in July.