

# TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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## ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

**August 11:** Reports revealed that purged academic and resistance figure Nuriye Gülmen was among those [detained](#) on August 5 during a police raid on İstanbul's İdil Culture Center. Gülmen was subsequently arrested by a court, according to a law office.

**August 14:** The Constitutional Court [rejected](#) a request for the release of jailed lawyers Ebru Timtik and Aytaç Ünsal who have been on a hunger strike since February to demand fair trial, despite a medical report which found their health condition unfit to stay in prison.

## FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

**August 12:** Police briefly [detained](#) 33 women protesting against government project to pull Turkey out of the İstanbul Convention, the Council of Europe treaty to protect women against domestic violence.

**August 12:** The governor's office in Bitlis [imposed](#) a curfew in 36 villages until further notice, citing anti-terror operations.

**August 13:** The governor's office in Muş [imposed](#) a ban on all outdoor gatherings for 15 days.

**August 13:** The police in İstanbul [intervened](#) in a women's protest, detaining four people.

**August 14:** The governor's office in Tunceli [imposed](#) a ban on all outdoor gatherings for 15 days.

**August 14:** An Ankara court ruled to block access to news reports on the Cumhuriyet, Sözcü and Milli Gazete newspapers on a state agency responsible for agricultural loans.

**August 15:** The governor's office in Gaziantep [imposed](#) a ban on all outdoor gatherings for 15 days.

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

**August 11:** A member of a leftist party in Denizli was [detained](#) over his social media posts.

**August 12:** An İstanbul court ruled to [block](#) access to online news reports about a friend of President Erdoğan's son who won a public tender of more than €30 million.

**August 13:** Five people were [detained](#) in Bursa over their social media posts. One of the detainees were subsequently arrested by a court while four others were released.

**August 13:** A person in Diyarbakır was [detained](#) over his social media posts.

**August 14:** Turkey's Interior Ministry [released](#) a statement announcing that authorities launched investigations into 6,743 social media users over their posts.

**August 14:** Turkey's media regulator RTÜK [imposed](#) fines against KRT TV and Radyo Harman over their guests' comments criticizing the government's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Syria policy.

**August 14:** The Information and Communication Technologies Authority (BTK) [blocked](#) access to Jin News, a pro-Kurdish news outlet.

**August 14:** The Information and Communication Technologies Authority (BTK) [blocked](#) access to the website of Özgürüz Radyo led by exiled journalist Can Dündar.

**August 14:** The governor's office in Kırklareli [announced](#) that it launched an investigation into a family doctor who spoke to the Cumhuriyet newspaper about the Covid-19 cases in the province, alleging widespread cover-up of test results by private sector to keep their workers at workplace.

## HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

**August 13:** The police in Ankara [detained](#) seven activists known for their advocacy for reinstatement of thousands of people purged from public service in the aftermath of a failed coup in July 2016, including Acun Kardağ, Alev Şahin and Nazan Bozkurt.

## KURDISH MINORITY

**August 11:** A total of 14 women were killed by men, two inmates died in prison, and three law enforcement officers were found dead under suspicious circumstances in the Kurdish-majority southeast during the first six months of 2020, according to a [report](#) by the Human Rights Association's (İHD) Diyarbakır branch.

**August 15:** The police [detained](#) two co-chairs of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) in the provinces of Aydın and Muş.

**August 15:** The police in Şırnak [detained](#) 14 people including HDP executives.

## MILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD

**August 14:** Turkish forces in northeastern Syria reportedly [cut off](#) water from the Kurdish-held city of Hasakah.

**August 14:** A Turkey-backed armed group in Syria's Afrin [arrested](#) a Christian Kurdish man, according to Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW). The man was reportedly accused of apostasy by the rebel faction.

## OTHER MINORITIES

**August 12:** A group of trans women were reportedly [assaulted](#) in Antalya.

**August 13:** Reports said that some graves in an Armenian cemetery in the capital city of Ankara were [desecrated](#), a development that was interpreted as

another sign of a growing climate of hostility towards minority groups in the country.

## PRISON CONDITIONS

**August 15:** A report [claimed](#) that Turkish police deliberately put a political detainee in a cell with a suspected ISIS suicide bomber in an attempt to coerce the detainee into signing a self-incriminating statement.

## REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

**August 16:** Greece reportedly [pushed back](#) 17 Turkish political asylum seekers in the Aegean Sea, leaving them adrift in Turkey's territorial waters. The migrants were subsequently detained by Turkish authorities.