

TURKEY RIGHTS MONITOR



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ARBITRARY DETENTION AND ARREST

August 27: Jailed lawyer Ebru Timtik who was sentenced to more than 13 years on terror charges [died](#) after 238 days of hunger strike aimed at demanding a fair trial.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

August 27: A group of people who gathered in front of the residence of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to hold a press statement in solidarity with jailed lawyers Ebru Timtik and Aytaç Ünsal were [blocked and detained](#) by the police.

August 28: The police [attacked](#) mourners gathered at an Alevi cultural center in İstanbul to pay respects to jailed lawyer Ebru Timtik who died on Thursday night after 238 days of hunger strike.

August 28: An anti-drug manifestation in Ankara was [blocked](#) by the police who briefly detained three people.

August 30: A gathering organized by main opposition CHP in Kırşehir was [blocked](#) by the police who reportedly assaulted CHP deputy Metin İlhan during the incident.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA

August 24: An İstanbul court [rejected](#) the request for the release of journalists Barış Pehlivan, Murat Ağirel and Hülya Kılıç; who are standing trial on espionage charges over their reporting of the death of a Turkish intelligence officer killed in Libya.

August 24: The Evrensel newspaper's Diyarbakır correspondent Cengiz Anıl Bölükbaş was [detained](#) by three people who introduced themselves as police

officers. Bölükbaş further claimed that the officers tried to convince him to become an informant for them.

August 25: The residence of Yakup Kocabaş, a local journalist based in Antalya, was [attacked](#) by an armed group.

August 25: A man named Arif Kocabıyık was briefly [detained](#) in Maraş over his social media posts for allegedly “provoking hate and enmity among public.”

August 26: A vehicle belonging to a local journalists' association in Nevşehir was reportedly [set on fire](#) while parked in front of the association's building.

August 26: A person identified by his/her initials H.B. was [detained](#) in Muğla for allegedly insulting Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu on social media.

August 26: Gerger Fırat, a local journalist based in Adıyaman, was [arrested](#) and sent to prison after his prison sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court of Appeals (Yargıtay).

August 27: Media reports [claimed](#) that İstanbul prosecutors drafted an indictment against journalist Can Ataklı in which they sought up to 4 years, 8 months in prison for allegedly insulting the president.

August 28: Media watchdog RTÜK [imposed](#) a fine against TELE 1 TV broadcaster for allegedly praising terrorism, over an ad for the leftist Evrensel newspaper depicting a girl holding a scarf colored red, yellow and green.

August 28: Writer Musa Dinç was [detained](#) and arrested in Aydın over a children's book he wrote in which he allegedly told “obscene stories about bodies of children, animals and dead people.”

KURDISH MINORITY

August 24: Fatma Kavmaz, a local HDP politician in Diyarbakır was [detained](#) and arrested the next day (Aug. 25) for alleged “membership in a terrorist group.”

August 25: A report [claimed](#) that two out of Turkey’s top three cell phone carriers, Türk Telekom and Vodafone, do not offer services in any Kurdish dialects despite having millions of Kurdish-speaking clients.

August 26: A court in Muş [ruled](#) to arrest local Kurdish politician Abdulbari Yiğit.

August 27: Three members of the pro-Kurdish HDP [claimed](#) to have been briefly abducted by people who introduced themselves as intelligence operatives. The HDP members alleged that the abductors took them to a remote location where they were tortured and coerced to become informants.

August 30: One of pro-Kurdish HDP’s district headquarters in Ankara was [attacked](#) by two people. One of the alleged perpetrators were reportedly detained by the police afterwards.

PRISON CONDITIONS

August 26: Media reports [claimed](#) that female inmates in the Sincan prison in Ankara were prevented from receiving their letters and that the prisoners’ petitions were not treated properly.

August 26: Media reports [claimed](#) that a prisoner named Tenzike Acar in İstanbul was prevented from receiving treatment for Hepatitis B because she refused to undergo treatment in handcuffs.

WOMEN’S RIGHTS

August 26: A court [ruled](#) to release sergeant Musa Orhan, who was arrested on August 19 following public outrage over the death of an 18-year-old woman who committed suicide after allegedly being raped by him.