

## Violations of Freedom of Expression, Assembly and Association in April 2026

Şanar Suzan (IfoX- Initiative for Freedom of Expression-TR))

Hello,

What happened in Turkey in April 2026?

**ATTENTION:** All of this data is "AT LEAST". Because what can be reflected in the media is only the tip of the iceberg.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERVENTIONS

- Detentions: 298
- Administrative/police intervention: 11
- Home Raids: 4
- Injuries: 2
- Provincial general ban decision: 1

### INVESTIGATION - PROSECUTION

- Detentions: 298
- Arrests: 131
- Judicial control / house arrest / ban on leaving the country: 76
- Newly opened investigations: 47
- Newly opened / indicted cases: 34
- Prison sentence: 16

### OTHER PRACTICES

- Access block / content removal: 13

The pressures on CHP municipalities have not decreased, they have increased. The information provided by secret witnesses and *those who want to benefit from "Effective Repentance"* does not match, but corruption investigations and mass detentions continue.

In such events, the usual wheel works in reverse. First, an investigation is opened, and many related or unrelated people are detained. These people are threatened and *forced to benefit from "Effective Remorse"* and to testify against CHP Municipalities in order to achieve this. In other words, evidence and witnesses **are "manufactured"**.

The CHP's well-attended and enthusiastic meetings, which are held in a different province every weekend and in a district of Istanbul every Wednesday, continued this month as well. Meanwhile, Ankara Chairman. Bel. President Mansur Yavaş made an important outburst *by saying, "We cannot watch what is happening, we must watch it actively."* We do not yet know what this exit may lead to.

The work of the "National Solidarity, Brotherhood and Democracy Commission", *which started with the initiative of Devlet Bahçeli*, ended and a joint report was published. But he got stuck there. The ball is in the state's court. There is no leaf moving yet for the necessary legal changes.

## 1- Prohibitions, Police Interventions

- 02: Ankara** Relatives of prisoners on hunger strike in well-type prisons started a sit-in protest after submitting a petition in front of the Ministry of Justice. The police intervened in the protest, detained the families and released them after a health check. The families say that the prisoners' health condition is critical and they want their transfer requests to be met.
- 04: Istanbul** The police intervened in the picnic organized by the Democratic Institutions Platform in Küçükçekmece for Abdullah Öcalan's birthday and detained 4 people including TJA activist Sebahat Tuncel.
- 06: Izmir** The police intervened in the crowd gathered in front of the Vocational Factory due to the building transfer crisis between the Metropolitan Municipality and the General Directorate of Foundations. In the morning, the building was blockaded, entrances and exits were closed and the exit of the municipal administrators inside was blocked. In the brawl that took place after the CHP deputies were not allowed into the area, the crowd broke down the barriers and the police intervened with tear gas.
- 09: Bursa** After the municipality passed to the AKP with the operation carried out on the Metropolitan Municipality, the police intervened with tear gas in the march organized by the CHP.
- 12: Ankara** CHP Provincial Chairman Ümit Erkol was arrested as part of the Izmir-based "cooperative investigation". The court ruled that Erkol and eight people with him "*embezzlement*" and "*Forgery of official documents*" He issued an arrest warrant on charges. After the decision, the police intervened in the march of the party members gathered in Ankara with tear gas.
- 13: Ankara** The families who lost their relatives in the February 6 earthquakes were prevented by the police from marching to the Ministry of Justice in Ankara. Families, in lawsuits "*possible intent*" He called for justice by demanding that it be implemented and that those responsible be prosecuted.
- 16: Ankara:** Teachers who marched to Güvenpark to protest the school attacks in Şanlıurfa and Kahramanmaraş were prevented by the police. Teachers blocked the street and started a sit-in protest.
- 18: Mersin** Teachers, students and citizens who came together with the call of Eğitim-Sen organized a march to protest the attacks on schools. The police prevented the march with barricades set up in Yenışehir. The demonstrators reacted by shouting slogans, then marched to the Directorate of National Education in groups of two and demanded the resignation of Minister Yusuf Tekin.
- 19: Ankara** Students organized a protest on Yüksel Street for İlayda Zorlu. The police intervened and detained 9 people.
- 19: Istanbul** The police surrounded the students who gathered in Kadıköy for İlayda Zorlu and detained 79 people.
- 20: Ankara** Eskişehir Doruk Mining workers, whose receivables were not paid, came to Ankara on foot. They wanted to march to the Ministry of Energy. The police intervened in the march in Ümitköy and detained 35 people, including union executives.
- 21: Ankara** The police intervened in the protest of Doruk Mining workers in front of the Ministry of Energy, who marched from Eskişehir to Ankara to demand their rights, and

- detained 110 miners. The workers started a march for their unpaid receivables and organized a protest when their demands were not met.
- 21: Ankara** Women's Platform organized a protest for İlayda Zorlu at Kızılay. The police prevented the march and intervened with tear gas. 2 people were detained.
- 24: Ankara** Eskişehir Doruk Mining workers wanted to march to the Ministry of Energy. The police blockaded the workers in Kurtuluş Park and intervened with tear gas against the miners who tried to break through the barricade. Two workers fell ill.
- 24: İstanbul** 20 people were detained in operations carried out in 4 provinces based in İstanbul. 8 people were arrested, 12 people were released under judicial control.
- 27: Ankara** During the protest of Doruk Mining workers, Independent Maden-İş Chairman Gökay Çakır and organization expert Başaran Aksu were detained. Workers wanted to march to the Ministry of Energy for their unpaid wages and compensation, but the police prevented the march.
- 27: İzmir** House raids were carried out on Dokuz Eylül University students and many students were detained. Officials told students "*inciting the public to hatred and hostility*" and "*Obstructing education*" He made the accusations.
- 28: İstanbul** Many houses were raided before May 1. The prosecutor's office issued a detention order for 62 people, and the police detained at least 39 people. The detentions include members of trade unions, political parties and student organizations.
- 30: İstanbul** The governor's office banned demonstrations and events in Beşiktaş, Beyoğlu, Fatih and Şişli for May 1, and allowed applications only in Kadıköy and Kartal. The decision was announced to be valid throughout the day.

## **2- Investigations and Trials**

- 01: Ankara** After the protest of the People's Houses against the allegations of suspicion in LGS, an investigation was opened against the administrators. The prosecutor's office summoned Chairman Nebiye Merttürk and GYK member Berna Demirdaş to testify on charges of inciting the public to hatred and hostility and insulting a public official. The administrators of the People's Houses stated that they criticized the education policies and that this was within the scope of freedom of expression. The lawyer of the People's Houses explained that it was not specified which statements were considered a crime and that the investigation had no legal basis.
- 01: Ankara** A disciplinary investigation was initiated against the academics who enabled students to take the exams at Ankara University Cebeci Campus. The university administration summoned the faculty members who acted together with the students who were prevented from entering the campus to testify. The students stated that they had previously been subjected to threats and attacks by a fascist group and were not allowed on campus. Within the scope of the investigation, academics 50. He testified at the Yıl Campus.
- 01: Ankara** A university student was sentenced to death due to social media posts against the NATO Summit, "*inciting the public to hatred and hostility*" He was detained on the charge. University students, who supported the student who was released after the statement, called for a protest on Yüksel Street on April 2.

- 01: Bursa** 57 people, including Metropolitan Mayor Mustafa Bozbey, were detained. The prosecutor's office accuses the suspects of bribery, establishing a terrorist organization and money laundering. Trustees were appointed to 7 companies. The allegations are carried out over zoning transactions and money transfers during the Nilüfer Municipality period.
- 01: Istanbul** The 26th Criminal Court of First Instance accepted the indictment prepared against journalist Alican Uludağ. The court ruled for lack of jurisdiction due to the fact that the defendant's address and posts were in Ankara, sent the file to the Ankara Criminal Court of First Instance and ruled for the continuation of detention. The lawyers requested the return of the indictment on the grounds that it was submitted to the court without authorization, but the court rejected this request. It made a contradictory decision by both giving a decision of lack of jurisdiction and accepting the indictment.
- 01: Izmir** The Chief Public Prosecutor's Office examined the Bornova Municipality leg of the bribery and bid rigging investigation against Uşak Municipality. The prosecutor's office claims that a person associated with the Mayor of Uşak was hired in Bornova Municipality and received a salary without going to work. About A.A. and related municipal officials, "*qualified fraud*" and "*Forgery of official documents*" crimes.
- 02: Ankara** BirGün reporter İsmail Arı during his holiday visit in Tokat "*Publicly disseminating misleading information*" He was arrested in Ankara after being detained on the charge.
- 02: Ankara** Journalist Mehmet Murat Yıldırım was charged with social media posts and news reports "*Insulting the President*" A lawsuit was filed on the charge. In the indictment prepared by the Chief Prosecutor's Office, political articles and critical evaluations were cited as evidence. The first hearing is on September 8.
- 02: Bursa** 57 people, including Metropolitan Mayor Mustafa Bozbey "*Establishing an organization, bribery and money laundering*" The detention period was extended. The SDIF appointed trustees to 7 companies in the same investigation.
- 02: Eskişehir** A university student for sticking a sticker against the NATO Summit to be held in Ankara in July "*inciting the public to hatred and hostility*" He was detained from the room where he was staying in the dormitory. A day earlier, another student was detained in Ankara on the same charge for posting an anti-NATO social media post.
- 02: Istanbul** Upon the complaint of the Ministry of Family and Social Services about the Children and Women First Association "*publicly disseminating misleading information*" An investigation was launched on the charge of ". Association President Müjde Tozbey testified at the Bakırköy Courthouse and stated that her statements were within the scope of criticism in the public interest. Tozbey said that they are on trial for the statements they made regarding the suspicious deaths of Fatma Nur Çelik and Hifa İkra Şengüler and announced that they will continue the struggle.
- 02: Izmir** Five people from the Lever Movement, the Free University Movement and the Socialist Women's Movement were raided in the morning "*Terrorist organization propaganda*" He was detained on the charge.
- 04: Bolu** As part of the "extortion" investigation carried out by the Chief Prosecutor's Office, the gendarmerie searched the municipality building and detained three more people.

- Previously, 13 people, including Mayor Tanju Özcan, were detained, and Özcan and his deputy were arrested.
- 04: Ankara** The Ministry of Interior suspended Bursa Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Mustafa Bozbey. The Ministry's decision is Bozbey's "*Establishing an organization and bribery*" After his arrest on charges, it was based on the provisions of the Constitution and the Municipal Law.
- 04: Istanbul** Upon the complaint of the Ministry of Family and Social Services, an investigation was launched against Gülben Ergen for her statements about the suspicious death of Fatmanur Çelik and her daughter Hifa. It was known that Çelik and his child had previously come to the fore with allegations of abuse and called on the public to demand justice.
- 04: Istanbul** 7 of the 12 people detained in the operation carried out by the Chief Prosecutor's Office on March 31, 2026, against the members of the Pensioners Council, who protested to demand that pensions be updated according to real inflation and that the lowest pension be increased to the poverty line, were sentenced to "*membership in an organization*" 5 of them were released under judicial control. Pensioners' marches, press statements and social media calls were the subject of accusations. Within the scope of the investigation, Ekrem İmamoğlu's name was also included in the file and a relationship was made through the interview records.
- 06: Bolu** For the municipality "*extortion by way of extortion*" Cihan Tural, Naim Ayhan and Ali Sarıyıldız, who were previously released under judicial control within the scope of the investigation, were detained again upon the objection of the prosecutor and were arrested by the judge on duty and sent to prison.
- 06: Istanbul** The trial of journalist Evrim Deniz is held at the 2nd Criminal Court of First Instance for the news about the company owners who undertook the construction of the police station in Kulp, Diyarbakır. A lawsuit was filed at the Criminal Court of First Instance. The prosecutor's office stated that the information in the news "*personal data*" He accuses Deniz. Deniz stated that he received the information from the Turkish Trade Registry Gazette and that it was publicly available. The first hearing is on June 23.
- 07: Agri** 21 people, including children, were detained in the raids carried out in the center and districts on the grounds of Newroz celebrations.
- 07: Ankara** The objection to the detention of journalist İsmail Arı was rejected. The 18th Criminal Court of First Instance ruled that the arrest warrant was in accordance with the procedure and the law. His lawyers announced that they would make an individual application to the Constitutional Court after the decision.
- 07: Antalya** 3. Criminal Court of Peace, within the scope of the investigation against the ALDAŞ company affiliated to the Metropolitan Municipality, after his statement was taken via SEGBİS, about Mayor Muhittin Böcek "*embezzlement*" and issued an arrest warrant within the scope of the relevant charges.
- 07: Hakkari** While 6 young people were detained in the center due to Newroz celebrations, 5 people who were detained in Çukurca and Yüksekova were released after their statements.

- 07: Istanbul** An operation was carried out within the scope of the investigation carried out over building and occupancy permits against Üsküdar Municipality. 20 people, including a deputy mayor, were detained. The prosecutor's office claimed that illegal income was obtained through the municipal subsidiary; The municipality denied the accusations.
- 07: Istanbul** The case against journalists Esra Solin Dal, Mehmet Aslan and Erdoğan Alayumat was heard at the 25th High Criminal Court. It continues in Ağırceza. The prosecutor cited the news reports made by the journalists "*membership in a terrorist organization*" demanded a sentence on the charge. The next hearing is on June 9.
- 07: Istanbul** A new indictment has been prepared against journalist Mehmet Aslan on the allegation of "*membership in a terrorist organization*". In the indictment, Aslan's news reports were made the subject of the accusation, and secret witness statements were included. The indictment, 25. It was accepted by the Heavy Penalty.
- 08: Agri** 13 of the people detained in the operations carried out after the Newroz celebrations were arrested. The court rejected the arrests as "*resistance to the police*" He cited his claim; Families reacted to the decision in front of the courthouse.
- 08: Istanbul** Former Vice President of MASAK Ramazan Başak, was detained on the charge of "*publicly disseminating misleading information*."
- 08: Istanbul** The reasoned decision of the 12 years and 6 months prison sentence given to manager Ayşe Barım, who was tried within the scope of the Gezi trial, was announced. The court stated that Barım was involved in planning and directing activities in the protests "*Facilitating the execution of the crime*" He claimed that he was punished within the scope of the
- 09: Ankara** CHP Provincial Chairman Ümit Erkol was detained as part of the Izmir-based "*cooperative investigation*".
- 09: Diyarbakir** In the case where 19 journalists were tried, the court "*membership in a terrorist organization*" and "*propaganda*" decided to continue the travel ban imposed on the journalists on the charges and adjourned the hearing to July 9.
- 09: Istanbul** Singer Yusuf Güney was arrested as part of an investigation. Details were not shared.
- 09: Istanbul** Comedian Tuba Ulu was detained due to a joke she made about Suleiman the Magnificent on social media.
- 09: Izmir** Within the scope of the investigation against Bornova Municipality, Mayor Ömer Eşki and three municipal officials were detained. While the investigation was initiated on the allegations that salaries were received without actually working in the municipality, he was detained. "*qualified fraud*" for those who are taken and "*Forgery of official documents*" accusations were made.
- 10: Bolu** Within the scope of the investigation against the municipality, Deputy Mayor Leyla Beykoz and CHP Council Member Aydan Özdemir were detained. Operation "*Extortion*" It was stated that the file included allegations regarding donations collected through the foundation affiliated to the municipality.
- 10: Diyarbakir** An investigation was launched against journalist Ömer Tur for reacting to the insults against Leyla Zana. It was stated that the investigation was opened on the grounds of social media posts.
- 10: Istanbul** Within the scope of the bribery and irregularity investigation carried out in Üsküdar Municipality, 9 people, including Deputy Mayor Filiz Deveci, were arrested. While some suspects were released under judicial control, the number of detentions increased to 22.

- 10: Istanbul** In the case filed against Yunus Kılıç, who participated in the protest in support of Palestine held in Şiřhane, the prosecutor said, *"Insulting the President"* demanded a sentence on the charge. The next hearing is on June 18.
- 10: Istanbul** In the indictment prepared against social media phenomenon Mika Raun, due to his posts *"publicly humiliating a segment of the public based on gender difference"* was charged.
- 10: Istanbul** The Chief Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation against journalist Bahadır Özgür upon the criminal complaint of MASAK. The investigation was based on the allegation that Özgür disclosed the confidential report in a news article he published four years ago. Özgür denied the accusations, stating that the information in question was included in a public court file and that there was no confidentiality order in the file.
- 10: Istanbul** An indictment was prepared against BİRTEK-SEN Chairman Mehmet Türkmen for his press statement in support of the workers. The prosecutor's office has arrested Türkmen *"Publicly disseminating misleading information"* He also asked for a political ban.
- 10: Istanbul** *"We Defend Secularism Together"* On April 10, 2026, many people gave statements in Istanbul as part of the investigation against the signatories of the declaration titled. In the investigation initiated upon the criminal complaint of the Ministry of National Education, the signatories rejected the accusations against them, emphasizing that defending secularism is not a crime.
- 10: Izmir** Bornova Mayor Ömer Eřki and three people who were detained within the scope of an investigation were banned from leaving the country. The court rejected the arrest request, and the suspects were released on judicial control conditions.
- 10: Mersin** Within the scope of the investigation initiated against Yeniřehir Municipality, nearly 30 people, including deputy mayors and staff, *"bid rigging"* and *"bribery"* He was detained on allegations.
- 11: Ankara** Dođukan Akan, an organizing expert of the Independent Maden-İř Union, was arrested for his support for Bařaran Aksu.
- 11: Bolu** Imprisoned Mayor Tanju Özcan was arrested for the second time while in prison on charges of "fraud". Özcan denied the accusations, stating that the donations were collected by the municipality and the money was blocked.
- 11: Bolu** Within the scope of the investigation against the municipality, four people, including Deputy Mayor Leyla Beykoz and Council Member Aydan Özdemir, *"qualified fraud"* He was arrested on the charge. The investigation was expanded upon allegations that the sacrifice donations were used for different purposes through the foundation.
- 11: Istanbul** Academics for Peace Elif Çongur's application for reinstatement to the university, 14. It was rejected by the Regional Administrative Court.
- 11: Izmir** Bornova Mayor Ömer Eřki was banned from leaving the country. The court rejected the arrest request. The investigation continues with allegations of fraud to the detriment of the public and forgery of official documents.
- 13: Ankara** Gökhan Gülyurt, the driver of the bus carrying CHP deputies, allegedly drove the bus into the police and *"Resistance to prevent the execution of duty"* He was sentenced to 7 months and 15 days in prison for the crime. The court acquitted him of some charges

- in the incident and considered the act against a complainant a crime.
- 14: Ankara** Former CHP Chairman Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu was sentenced to 11 months and 20 days in prison on charges of insulting the President. The announcement of the verdict was deferred.
- 14: Ankara** An investigation was given permission for Metropolitan Mayor Mansur Yavaş for allegedly using municipal vehicles during an election rally. The municipal administration announced that they would appeal the decision and that there was no concrete evidence.
- 14: Istanbul** Two people who took a video by opening a flag in the Hagia Sophia Mosque after the images were shared on social media, "*inciting the public to hatred and hostility or humiliation*" He was detained on the charge.
- 14: Diyarbakir** The trial of journalist Berivan Kutlu on charges of "making propaganda for a terrorist organization" will be held at the 4th High Criminal Court. It continues in Ağırceza. The next hearing is on July 16.
- 15: Istanbul** ESP Deputy Co-Chair and lawyer Sezin Uçar was detained at Istanbul Airport on April 13, 2026, on her way back from abroad. "*Being a member of an armed terrorist organization*" was referred on the charge Court on April 15 on suspicion of escaping and concealing evidence.
- 15: Istanbul** Trans activist Iris Mozalar was sentenced to "*Insulting the President*" The case filed on the charge continues. While Mozalar rejected the accusation, the court adjourned the hearing to June 15 to eliminate the deficiencies in the file. Within the scope of the case, the ban on leaving the country and the obligation to sign continued to be applied to the Mozas.
- 15: Izmir** In the investigation carried out against İZBETON, a subsidiary of the Metropolitan Municipality, an arrest warrant was issued for the second time for former Mayor Tunç Soyer, Şenol Aslanoğlu and Heval Savaş Kaya. The three names in prison were summoned by the prosecutor's office to testify again.
- 15: Mersin** 12 of the 33 people detained in the investigation against the CHP's Yenişehir Municipality said, "*bid rigging*", "*bribery*" and "*Extortion*" He was arrested on charges. 19 people were released under judicial control. Within the scope of the investigation, many immovable properties and vehicles were also confiscated.
- 15: Tunceli** The first hearing of the case of journalist Cihan Berk, who was arrested on charges of "membership in a terrorist organization", was held. In his defense, Berk denied the accusations and stated that his activities were within the scope of journalism. The court decided to continue Berk's detention. The next hearing is on June 3.
- 16: Bursa** 3 more people were detained within the scope of the investigation against Nilüfer Municipality.
- 16: Istanbul** Former CHP Provincial Chair Canan Kaftancıoğlu for her social media post "*Insulting the President*". In the indictment prepared by the Chief Prosecutor's Office, a prison sentence of up to 4 years and 8 months was demanded. The first hearing is on May 21.
- 16: Şanlıurfa** Journalist Lütfü Yağlı, who was reporting on an armed attack on a high school in Siverek district, was detained in the morning. Dicle Fırat Journalists Association announced that the detention was due to a direct report.
- 17: Ankara** An investigation was launched against journalist Tolga Şardan for his news about the Libyan plane that crashed in Ankara. The prosecutor's office asked Şardan about the source of the news;

- Şardan did not answer this question. The prosecutor's office charged with "violation of confidentiality"; Şardan stated that the investigations suppress the public's right to information.
- 17: Antalya** A 47-year-old citizen said in his social media posts, "*Insulting the President*" He was arrested on the charge.
- 17: Bolu** Two people who were detained as part of the bribery investigation were arrested. One suspect was released under judicial control.
- 17: Istanbul** An indictment was prepared against social media phenomenon Merve Taşkın on the charge of "encouraging prostitution". The prosecutor's office demands a prison sentence of up to 10 years for Taşkın.
- 17: Istanbul** At least 5 people were detained in house raids in the morning. Members and supporters of the Federation of Socialist Assemblies are accused of "terrorist financing". The detainees were restricted to a lawyer for 24 hours and a confidentiality order was imposed on the file.
- 17: Izmir** Journalist Turgay Kılıç was detained due to his social media posts and "*publicly disseminating misleading information to the public*" He was referred to the court with a request for arrest. Kılıç denied the accusations, stating that he made his posts within the scope of journalistic activities.
- 17: Izmir** Workers on strike at the Temel Conta factory in the Pancar Organized Industrial Zone were detained in raids on their homes in the morning. "*disturbing peace and tranquility*" Proceedings were initiated against 12 of the 16 workers accused of this.
- 17: Tunceli** Members and supporters of the Federation of Socialist Assemblies, accused of financing terrorism, were detained in house raids in the morning.
- 17: Uşak** Within the scope of the investigation against Eşme Municipality, 5 people, including Mayor Yılmaz Tozan, were detained.
- 18: Bursa** 3 people who were detained on April 16 within the scope of the investigation against Nilüfer Municipality were arrested and the number of detainees increased to 38. Previously, many people were released under judicial control and house arrest.
- 18: Istanbul** An operation was carried out against Ataşehir Municipality. 18 people, including Mayor Onursal Adıgüzel, were detained on charges of bribery, establishing an organization and bid rigging.
- 18: Istanbul** A high school student said, "*Yusuf Tekin resign*" He was detained in a night raid on his house on the grounds that he hung a banner written on it. The police killed the student with the "*Insulting a public official*".
- 18: Şanlıurfa** Journalist Mehmet Yetim was arrested on the same day after being detained in a raid on his house. Due to Yetim's reporting on the child abuse allegation against the school principal "*Spreading misleading information to the public*" accusation.
- 20: Istanbul** IHD Dersim Branch executive Yaprak Kurban was arrested by the court. 4 people on trial in the same file are released under judicial control.
- 20: Diyarbakir** A new lawsuit has been filed against JINNEWS News Director Öznur Değer. The prosecutor's office accused Değer of "*do not resist to prevent the duty from being done*" and "*Insult*" He accuses them of this. A lawsuit has also been filed against his mother and sister for the same incident, the first hearing is scheduled for July 14.
- 20: Istanbul** The police detained 79 people in the protest for İlayda Zorlu in Kadıköy. 22 of the detainees were referred to the courthouse, judicial control orders were issued for 5 people, and 2 people were arrested. The lawyers stated that police violence was used in custody and their lawyer visits were prevented.
- 20: Uşak** As part of the investigation carried out by the Istanbul Chief Prosecutor's Office

- against Uşak Municipality, the police detained 25 people, including municipal employees and business people, on charges of bribery and bid rigging. The mayor and some executives were previously arrested as part of the investigation.
- 21: Antalya** 21 people were detained as part of the corruption investigation carried out in Manavgat. The gendarmerie carried out operations at the addresses of municipal employees, tourism professionals and business people. The investigation is being carried out on charges of bribery and bid rigging against the former mayor and executives.
- 21: Istanbul** The trial against journalist Tuğçe Yılmaz continues. The prosecutor filed a lawsuit against Yılmaz for his interview with Armenian youths "*humiliating the state*" demanded a sentence on the charge. The next hearing is on October 20.
- 21: Istanbul** At the second hearing of the boycott case, the court rejected the defendants' requests for acquittal. 21 defendants, including actor Cem Yiğit Üzümoğlu, said that they were mistreated in custody and that their right to defense was restricted. The court also rejected the requests for criminal complaints regarding the allegations of ill-treatment and adjourned the hearing to June 17.
- 21: Mugla** The appeal for Esra Işık, who was arrested after the Akbelen protests, was rejected. The first hearing of Işık's case will be held on April 27.
- 21: Zonguldak** Journalist İbrahim Tığ, who was fired by Devrek Municipality, was not reinstated despite winning the lawsuit he filed. The court and the appeal decided to reinstate Tığ, but Mayor Özcan Ulupınar did not implement the decision. Tığ filed a criminal complaint against the mayor who did not comply with the decision.
- 21: Istanbul** Many people, including Grup Yorum workers, were detained in house raids.
- 21: Istanbul** Ataşehir Mayor Onursal Adıgüzel was referred to the judge with a request for arrest. The prosecutor's office requested arrest for 19 people along with Adıgüzel within the scope of the bribery investigation.
- 22: Istanbul** DEM Party, CHP, TİP and other opposition parties made a joint statement in front of Marmara Prison. The representatives demanded the implementation of the judgments of the Constitutional Court and the ECtHR and the release of political prisoners, including Selahattin Demirtaş, Osman Kavala and Can Atalay.
- 22: Istanbul** Social media phenomenon Murat Övüç was sentenced to "*insulting religious values*" He was sentenced to 11 months in prison for the crime.
- 22: Istanbul** Journalist Neşe İdil was sentenced to 1 year and 3 months in prison again. The court ruled that despite the Constitutional Court's decision of violation, "*propaganda for a terrorist organization*" repeated the previous verdict with the accusation.
- 22: Uşak** 19 people were referred to the courthouse within the scope of the investigation against the municipality. The court arrested 16 people, including CHP Provincial Chairman and Uşakspor President, and released 3 people under judicial control. The investigation is being carried out on allegations of bribery and bid rigging.
- 23: Istanbul** An investigation was launched against Avesta Publications Editor-in-Chief Abdullah Keskin. The prosecutor's office announced Keskin's social media posts in Kurdish between 2021 and 2025 as "*propaganda for a terrorist organization*" He justified his claim.
- 24: Ankara** The Governor's Office launched an investigation into the social media posts of the Ayaş District Governorate. District Governor Muharrem Eligül's statement about the

- April 23 ceremonies drew reaction.
- 24: Batman** A lawsuit was filed against journalist Mahir Bağış on April 24 for his news about the Governor of Batman. The prosecutor's office asked Bağış "*inciting the public to hatred and hostility*", "*spreading misleading information*" and "*Insult*" He made the accusations.
- 24: Batman** Journalist Mehmet Üçar was sentenced to 1 year, 6 months and 11 days in prison on the charge of "making propaganda for an illegal organization".
- 24: Tekirdag** 2 academics working at the university were arrested, 2 people were released under judicial control.
- 25: Ankara** The Constitutional Court rejected the individual application regarding the October 10 Ankara Massacre case. The court stated that there was no clear violation of the right to life. The applicants and their lawyers explained that the decision was based on incomplete examination and ignored the responsibility of public officials.
- 27: Ankara** About Prof. Dr. İzzet Özgenç for his social media posts "*Insulting a public official*" A lawsuit was filed on the charge. 2 years in prison is requested.
- 27: Ankara** Indictment against imprisoned journalist Alican Uludağ 57th Criminal Court of First Instance It was accepted by. The first hearing is on May 21, and a prison sentence of 19 years and 4 months is demanded for Uludağ.
- 27: Istanbul** 69. At the Criminal Court of First Instance In the Boğaziçi case, journalist Can Öztürk and students said that they were subjected to violence and ill-treatment in the police circle during their detention. The court rejected the requests and adjourned the hearing to July 3.
- 27: Mugla** Within the scope of the Akbelen protests in Milas, Esra Işık, Milas 3. In Ağırceza "*Resisting to prevent the execution of duty*". The court decided to continue Işık's detention. The case was adjourned to June 1.
- 28: Istanbul** People's Liberation Party (HKP) Chairman Nurullah Efe Ankut was detained in a raid on his house and "*Insulting the President*". Ankut was previously released under judicial control and house arrest.
- 28: Istanbul** In the Beykoz Municipality case, the court decided to continue the detention of Mayor Alaattin Köşeler and adjourned the hearing to June 5.
- 28: Istanbul** An indictment was prepared against 8 people in the incident in front of the Israeli Consulate. The prosecutor's office demanded a prison sentence of 1 year and 6 months to 5 years for the suspects for allegedly mocking the police.
- 28: Şanlıurfa** In the investigation against Halfeti Municipality, the Court arrested 29 people, including former trustee Şeref Albayrak, and released 14 people under judicial control. The investigation is being carried out on allegations of corruption and bid rigging.
- 29: Gaziantep** The request for release of BİRTEK-SEN Chairman Mehmet Türkmen was rejected. Türkmen is on trial for "disseminating misleading information" due to the statement he participated in the workers' protest.
- 29: Hakkari** About former co-mayor Mehmet Siddik Akış "*Organization management*" He was sentenced to 19 years and 6 months in prison. The decision was protested in front of the courthouse.
- 29: Istanbul** The Chief Prosecutor's Office is about writer Mine Kırıkkanat. In a social media post "*inciting the public to hatred and hostility*" He launched an investigation on the charge. Kırıkkanat had previously made an apology statement for his words.

- 29: Istanbul** Two separate lawsuits were filed against Metropolitan Municipality employee Nuri Başkan due to a letter he sent from prison. The prosecutor's office asked Başkan "*insulting a public official*" and "*Targeting people involved in the fight against terrorism*" He made the accusations. Also "*Insulting the President*" A second indictment was prepared on the charge.
- 29: Mersin** About conscientious objector Mahmut Elkuş "*Opposition to the Military Penal Code* He was sentenced to 5 months in prison. Elkuş stated that he used his right to conscientious objection, and the decision was appealed.
- 30: Antalya** A detention order was issued for 34 people in the investigation against the ANSET company affiliated with the municipality. The prosecutor's office charged the suspects with bribery and extortion.
- 30: Antalya** Zuhal Böcek was also detained, the daughter-in-law of Metropolitan Mayor Muhittin Böcek. Accusation "*money laundering*". The investigation is being carried out in connection with corruption allegations against the municipality.
- 30: Istanbul** A person who allegedly took photos during the IMM case was detained. The prosecutor's office launched an investigation against him on the grounds that he recorded unauthorized footage in the courtroom.
- 30: Istanbul** The prosecutor's office claimed that there was obscene content in the lyrics and demanded a prison sentence of up to 3 years for singer Mabel Matiz.
- 30: Istanbul** Journalist Tolga Şardan was sentenced to 5 months in prison, and writer and lawyer Nurcan Kaya was sentenced to 6 years and 3 months in prison. He acquitted Şardan of one charge. Kaya "*membership in a terrorist organization*" He was convicted on the charge.
- 30: Kırıkkale** In the Yahşihan Municipality case, Mayor Ahmet Sungur and some defendants were sentenced to 6 years and 8 months in prison, and one defendant was sentenced to 3 years and 4 months in prison. The other defendants were acquitted.
- 30: Muğla** 10 people who participated in the İmamoğlu protest were sentenced to 5 months in prison each. The announcement of the verdict for 9 defendants was deferred.

### **3- Other Practices**

- 01: Antalya** IHD, ÇHD and ÖHD Antalya representatives made a statement in front of the Courthouse against the violations of rights in well-type prisons, stating that the severe isolation conditions threaten the health of prisoners and that the hunger strikes have reached a critical stage. Tahsin Sağaltıcı, Gürkan Türkoğlu and Hüseyin Özen have been on hunger strike for hundreds of days and have serious health problems. The institutions called on the Ministry of Justice and relevant institutions to meet the transfer requests of prisoners and to end the isolation practices.
- 01: Istanbul** Four students at Medeniyet University were reprimanded for unfurling a flag while protesting an anti-LGBT event on December 6, 2025. The university administration claimed that the students protested without permission and disrupted the order. The students will appeal the decision to the administrative court.
- 01: Istanbul** Journalist Can Öztürk is on trial this time for his news that was previously given a non-prosecution "*Unlawful Acquisition of Personal Data*" He testified with the claim. In the

investigation initiated upon Ahmet Akın's complaint, Öztürk rejected the accusations, stating that the news was made within the scope of public interest and was based on open sources.

**01: Kayseri** Rojhat Babat, who was held in Kırşehir S Type Closed Prison, died at Kayseri City Hospital. The prison administration claimed that Babat was transferred to the hospital on psychiatric grounds and committed suicide. The family announced that they were not informed about their pre-death health status and that they had previously seen an emergency response record on E-Nabız. DEM Party Deputy Nevroz Uysal Aslan stated that the information was hidden in the process and demanded that all aspects of the death be explained and those responsible be revealed.

**01: Kocaeli** A transgender student at Kocaeli University has been subjected to threats and harassment by the management of KYK Gazi Süleymanpaşa Dormitory since the beginning of 2026. The dormitory management forced the student to leave the dormitory on the grounds of her clothes and asked her to rent a house. The student asked which rule he violated, but did not receive a concrete answer. The student's health information was shared without permission and his room was entered unannounced. Students and the Queer Kozgun community reacted to the dormitory management, stating that the practices were discriminatory and unlawful.

**01: Sakarya** Access to the news about the meat import from the company in which an AKP member is a shareholder was blocked. The 1st Criminal Court of Peace took this decision on the grounds of national security and public order. In the news, it was stated that the Meat and Milk Authority made most of its imports from the Polonia Beef company and that the names associated with the company were related to the AKP.

**03: Ankara** On April 3, 2026, the X account of the Kurdish-language news platform Nûpel Kurdî was blocked in Turkey by a court order. In its statement, the platform stated that the decision was an interference with freedom of expression and announced that they would continue their broadcasting activities.

**07: Adana** The content of media outlets covering the protest of the People's Houses in front of the Incirlik Base on April 4, 2026, was restricted on digital platforms. Images of the US flag being burned "*violent content*" Advertising restrictions were applied to the videos on the grounds that they were counted.

**07: Ankara** DEM Party member Nevroz Uysal Aslan called for urgent intervention on April 7, 2026, for the health condition of İlyas Bulut, who is being held in Kırşehir High Security Prison. It was stated that Bulut had severe psychiatric problems, was kept in a solitary cell and had attempted suicide in the past. Aslan emphasized that prison conditions pose a serious risk to the right to life.

**07: Ankara** The People's Liberation Party announced that access to the official X accounts of Chairman Nurullah Efe and the party was blocked from Turkey. In the statement, it was stated that the decision was taken upon the application of the Information and Communication Technologies Authority and that legal proceedings would be initiated.

**07: Istanbul** It was claimed that workers working at Ar Leder company operating in Karabük were subjected to pressure on the grounds that they were members of the union. Öz İplik İş Union made a press statement in front of the company headquarters in Istanbul,

- announcing that the workers were forced to resign and calling for respect for union rights.
- 08: Sirnak** The banners hung by shopkeepers and citizens in support of Amedspor in Cizre district were removed by the police. It was stated that the banners were removed without justification despite the municipality permit, and it was stated that the shopkeepers were threatened with detention.
- 08: Istanbul** After the attack near the Israeli Consulate, on social media 8 people were detained due to a shared video. The prosecutor's office launched an investigation on the grounds of the statements against the police in the video; Some employees who allegedly recorded the video were also terminated.
- 09: Ankara** RTÜK imposed administrative fines on four broadcasters. A fine was imposed on Ulusal 1 for broadcasting unverified allegations, beIN Sports for broadcasting abusive chants on the screen, Beyaz TV for violating privacy, and Radio Lider İzmir for program content.
- 09: Artvin** Umut-Sen Organization Coordinator Başaran Aksu was arrested in Hopa for his posts about the environmental struggle in Milas. About Aksu "*inciting the public to hatred and hostility*" and "*Disseminating misleading information*" While the accusations were directed, the reason for his arrest was his union activities and the allegation that he would not comply with the judicial control conditions.
- 10: Ankara** The X account and YouTube channel of comedian Tuba Ulu, who was investigated for a joke in her stand-up show, were blocked. The decision is within the scope of Article 8/A of Law No. 5651 "*National Security and Public Order*" It was stated that it was taken for the reason.
- 10: Istanbul** It was claimed that Oktay Kelebek, who is on hunger strike in Marmara L Type Prison No. 6, was not given sugar and herbal tea. Kelebek's fiancé stated that her health condition worsened and she experienced serious weight loss on the 33rd day of the hunger strike against the surveillance practice in prison. It was stated that the practice continued despite the decisions of the Constitutional Court.
- 13: Antalya** It is reported that three prisoners on hunger strike in Döşemealtı High Security Prison were taken to hospital and there was concern about the possibility of forced intervention. The police intervened in the sit-in protest started by the relatives of the prisoners in Ankara, there are detentions.
- 14 Ankara** RTÜK gave TELE2 Haber, which broadcasts on YouTube, 72 hours to apply for a license. It was reported that if the application was not made within the deadline, an access ban would be requested and a criminal complaint would be filed.
- 14: Batman** It is reported that Mehmet Çevirien, who was kept in Beşiri Closed Prison, died under suspicious circumstances. The family insists that Translator could not have committed suicide. The Human Rights Association wants the incident to be investigated effectively and independently.
- 14: Şanlıurfa** News about the armed attack in a high school in Siverek district, "*National Security and Public Order*" access was blocked on the grounds of
- 15: Ankara** Journalist Erk Acarer's X account (@seddesizesek) was blocked on the grounds of national security and public order.
- 15: Ankara** About the social media accounts that shared images of the high school attack in the

- Siverek district of Şanlıurfa, "*public order and national security*" An access ban was requested on the grounds of the
- 16: Ankara** Two people were detained for sharing images of the armed attack at a school in Kahramanmaraş in violation of the broadcast ban. The prosecutor's office initiated proceedings on the grounds that the posts violated the confidentiality of the investigation and disrupted public order.
- 16: Ankara** RTÜK to TV8 "*ageism*" It imposed a 2 percent administrative fine on the grounds that it contained. TLC was fined 3 percent and suspended once for violent broadcasting.
- 16: Ankara** The Human Rights Association, the Association of Lawyers for Freedom and the Urfa Bar Association called for an effective investigation into the increasing suspicious deaths in prisons. In the statement, it was stated that isolation and ill-treatment practices led to violations of the right to life and demanded that judicial and administrative processes be initiated against those responsible.
- 17: Istanbul** The Attorney General's Office launched an investigation into the YouTube channel "Minecraft Parodies" after the school shootings. For allegedly directing children to violence "*incitement to commit a crime*" and "*praising crime*" While the accusations were directed, an access ban decision was made against the account.
- 17: Antalya** News reports about AKP Provincial Chair Ali Çetin regarding the use of a public immovable property, 1. With the decision of the Criminal Judgeship of Peace, "*violation of privacy*" access was blocked on the grounds of
- 17: Antalya** News reports containing allegations about AKP Provincial Executive Zihni Kilit and his family, 1. Access was blocked by the decision of the Criminal Judgeship of Peace. Decision *Violation of privacy* It was announced that it was given for the reason.
- 18: Hatay** Human Rights Association made a statement in front of the juvenile prison. The association announced that a mentally unstable child born in 2008 could not access health services and his right to life was violated. He stated that the child could not access medication and treatment, that suicide attempts were not reported, and asked for immediate transfer to the hospital.
- 19: Tunceli** IHD Dersim Branch made a statement for its executive Yaprak Kurban, who was detained in a raid on his house on April 17, stating that the detention was not based on concrete evidence and was carried out with the statements of his confessors, and demanded the immediate release of Kurban.
- 20: Ankara** Students at Ankara University Cebeci Campus protested against the rental of the gymnasium to a club. The students said that the hall became unusable due to privatization and that the public spaces were transferred to the capital. After the statement, fascist groups attacked the students, private security watched.
- 20: Antalya** Prisoners on hunger strike in Döşemealtı Prison were taken to the hospital on April 13 when their health conditions worsened. According to lawyers, authorities forcibly intervened in Gürkan Türkoğlu in the hospital on April 20 and kept him handcuffed in intensive care. The other detainee, Tahsin Sağaltıcı, stopped drinking fluids in response to this intervention.
- 20: Istanbul** The Free Speech Association announced its new legal regulation plan for VPN services. The proposal requires VPN providers to establish a company in Turkey and obtain authorization from BTK. Those who do not comply with the rules will be fined between 1 and 30 million TL, and those who do not fulfill their obligations will be

- narrowed or access blocked.
- 20: Istanbul** TİP Chairman Erkan Baş announced that his application to the Ministry of Justice to visit Selahattin Demirtaş on April 20 was rejected without justification. Demirtaş has been held in prison for about 10 years despite the ECtHR decisions.
- 20: Istanbul** The Taşoda Music Festival, which has been held at Boğaziçi University for 32 years, was canceled by the rectorate. Students and alumni stated that the decision was linked to club activities and protests.
- 21: Adana** CHP's Yüreğir Mayor Ali Demirçalı was suspended from office by the decision of the Ministry of Interior.
- 22: Ankara** RTÜK imposed administrative fines and program suspension sanctions on TV8, TLC and Kanal 26. The Board claimed that its broadcasting principles were violated due to violent content and derogatory expressions.
- 24: Ankara** The Regional Administrative Court has reinstated the ban on the screening of the film "Rojbash". The court accepted the objection of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and upheld the ban on the grounds that the film did not take into account social sensitivities and could lead to division.
- 26: Antalya** Cypriot academic Senih Çavuşoğlu was not allowed into Turkey at the airport. The authorities did not allow Çavuşoğlu to enter under the "N-82" restriction code. Çavuşoğlu stated that he learned that the ban was imposed in 2020 and argued that the decision was political.
- 27: Adana** Access to the "Habere Güven" website was blocked. The decision of the 1st Criminal Court of Peace was implemented through BTK and the site was suspended.
- 27: Ankara** The Ministry of Interior launched an investigation against Ayaş District Governor Muharrem Eligül and dismissed him. The Ministry appointed a civil inspector due to his social media posts and appointed Eligül to the legal consultancy of the Edirne Governorship.
- 27: Şırnak** Some village headmen in Uludere have set new rules for weddings. It forbade women to take part in the halay and imposed restrictions on wedding organizations.
- 28: Adana** Labor and professional organizations protested the prison sentences given for calling for the October 10 rally. In the statement made in İnönü Park, it was emphasized that the call for peace could not be considered a crime and demanded the withdrawal of the decision.
- 29: Istanbul** Former interior minister Süleyman Soylu physically intervened in the journalist who asked a question about Gülistan Doku, blocked the reporter's camera and stopped the shooting.
- 30: Ankara** The police banned BirGün and Evrensel newspapers from entering the May 1 area.

### **3- Other Reports**

- 02: Ankara** In the report announced by CHP's Utku Çakırözer, it was stated that the censorship law increased investigations and arrests against journalists. In the same period, the police prevented the journalists' protests and the trial was restricted.
- 02: Diyarbakir** Dicle Fırat Journalists Association DFG announced in its report that the number of

journalists imprisoned in Turkey increased to 31 in March. According to the report, 5 journalists were detained, 2 journalists were arrested, and 53 social media accounts and 75 content were blocked. Security forces prevented journalists from following the news in many incidents and "*disinformation law*" put pressure on journalistic activities.

**03: Ankara** The Human Rights Association has published a report on the protests held across Turkey against the Rojava attacks. According to the report, police prevented more than 70 demonstrations in at least 22 provinces and used tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannons in the interventions. At least 930 people were detained, 123 people were arrested and one person died in Mersin. The report also included allegations of detentions, access bans and torture against journalists.

**18: Ankara** CHP published its March freedom of expression report. The report stated that arrests and investigations against journalists have increased, access barriers have widened, and the right to protest has been targeted. The CHP emphasized that the disinformation regulation was interpreted broadly and led to self-censorship on journalists.

**20: Antalya** The Association of Lawyers for Freedom ÖHD announced its violation report regarding the 2026 Newroz process. According to the report, at least 253 people were detained, 63 people were arrested, and judicial control was imposed on 112 people. Authorities banned symbols in many places, intervened in participants, and there were beatings and ill-treatment during the detention processes.

**21: London** Amnesty International has published its 2025-2026 human rights report. The report states that human rights violations have increased in the world and that problems continue in the fields of judicial independence, freedom of expression and the right to protest in Turkey. The institution called on states to comply with international law.

**30: Paris** Reporters Without Borders RSF "*2026 World Press Freedom Index*"He explained. According to the report, Turkey ranked 163rd among 180 countries and decreased compared to last year. RSF stated that press freedom in the world has fallen to its lowest level in the last 25 years.