

## Violations of Freedom of Expression, Assembly and Association In May 2026

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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.

### POLICE INTERVENTIONS

- Detentions: 837
- Administrative/police intervention: 10
- Home raids: 3
- Injuries: 4
- Provincial general ban decisions: 1

### INVESTIGATION - PROSECUTION

- Detentions: 837
- Arrests: 110
- Judicial control / house arrest / ban on leaving the country: 31
- Newly opened investigations: 20
- Newly opened / indicted cases: 11
- Prison sentences: 18

### OTHER PRACTICES

- Access block / content removals: 8

The pressures on CHP municipalities have not decreased, they have increased. The information provided by the secret witnesses and *those who want to benefit from "Effective Remorse"* does not match each other, and most of them withdraw their statements in court, saying that they were taken under pressure, but corruption investigations and mass detentions continue.

The most serious event of this month was the 'absolute nullity' decision of the 36<sup>th</sup> Civil Chamber of the Ankara Regional Court of Justice in the lawsuit filed for the annulment of the 38<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Congress and the 21<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Congress, in which Özgür Özel was elected as the chairman of the Republican People's Party (CHP). Not satisfied with this, the court also took an injunction and appointed former president Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu as a kind of trustee. The approvals given by the Supreme Election Board regarding both congresses and their results – whose decisions could not be appealed – were somehow ignored and the YSK rejected the objection made to it. Chaos continues.

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

- 01: Istanbul** During the May 1 protests, the police intervened in many groups around Taksim, Beşiktaş, Şişli and Mecidiyeköy. They attacked those who wanted to march to Taksim with tear gas and detained many people. The Governor's Office announced that 575 people were detained as of 18.00. Among those detained were Halkevleri Chairman Nebiye Merttürk, Umut-Sen Organization Expert Başaran Aksu, TİP Deputy Chairman Doğan Ergün and various union and party executives.
- 01: Istanbul** Lawyers who are members of the Lawyer's Voice Initiative, who wanted to follow the health checks of people detained during the May 1 protests, faced police intervention at the hospital. The lawyers recorded that they were prevented from seeing the detainees, that they were forcibly removed from the hospital garden and that they were subjected to physical intervention. It was also stated in the minutes that the intervention increased when the lawyers wanted to record the video.
- 04: Diyarbakir** After the Iğdır FK-Amedspor match, Amedspor's Senegalese footballer Mbaye Diagne unfurled the Senegalese flag during the Süper Lig celebrations. The police tried to intervene against Diagne, mistaking the flag for the PKK flag. People around told the police that the flag was the Senegalese flag. During the incident, some police officers tried to prevent the footage from being taken.
- 04: Istanbul** 4 people celebrating Amedspor's promotion to the Super League were detained in house raids in the morning. About the people referred to the Küçükçekmece Courthouse, "*preventing the movement of the land transportation vehicle*". *The court arrested 1 person.*
- 04: Istanbul** At least 10 people who participated in Amedspor's championship celebrations in Avcılar district were arrested in the morning. He was detained in house raids. It was stated that the detentions were made on the grounds of a fight that allegedly took place during the celebrations. While the detainees were expected to be transferred to the Küçükçekmece Courthouse, it was announced that they were subjected to ill-treatment at the police station.
- 07: Istanbul** 11 people were detained in the operation against DAES. The police claimed that the suspects had established connections with members of the organization in the conflict zones and made DAESH propaganda on social media. A large number of digital materials and organizational documents were confiscated.
- 08: Istanbul** 29 people were detained in the new investigation against the Metropolitan Municipality. IMM Deputy Secretary General Oktay Özel and Head of Parks and Gardens Department Tuğba Ölmez Hancı are among those detained in the operation. The prosecutor's office announced that the operation was organized with the allegation of bid rigging through Ağaç ve Peyzaj A.Ş.
- 09: Istanbul** It was stated that it provided ammunition to Israel at the SAHA EXPO Defense Industry Fair. Two people protesting the companies were detained. Protesters reacted to the participation of companies such as BAE Systems, Leonardo and Repkon at the fair.
- 17: Istanbul** Organized in Kadıköy under the leadership of DEM Party, "*Take steps for peace*" At least 3 people were detained after the march. During the march, demands for the

release of political prisoners, the end of trustee practices and the guarantee of the right to mother tongue were expressed, and the police intervened in some slogans.

- 17: Istanbul** During the SOL Party's "Independence March" in Istanbul, the police blocked the march and prevented members of the press from filming. Party members overcame the police obstacle and marched to Dolmabahçe. Anti-NATO and anti-US slogans were shouted at the action.
- 20: Izmir** Students at Ege University wanted to unfurl the LGBTI flag on May 20. The university administration and security guards prevented students from unfurling flags. During the intervention, there was tension between the students and the security guards.
- 22: Istanbul** With the decision published with the signature of President Erdoğan, the operating license of Istanbul Bilgi University was revoked. The decision was taken within the scope of the Higher Education Law after the appointment of a trustee to the founding foundation of the university. The students and archive of the university will be transferred to Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University. The employment contracts of academic and administrative staff will end. The door of Bilgi University's Santral Istanbul campus was locked. Students and academics protested the decision in front of the Santral Istanbul Campus. The police sent riot police and TOMA to the campus. Students marched to the rectorate with slogans.
- 22: Amasya** Gümüşhacıköy District Directorate of National Education prevented the performance of the play "Aşık Mahsuni Şerif" on May 24. The directorate cited the fact that the play included titles such as Deniz Gezmiş, Maraş Massacre and Madımak Massacre. EMEP Deputy İskender Bayhan brought the decision to the agenda of the Parliament and evaluated it as censorship.
- 23: Istanbul** On the second day of the vigil started by Bilgi University students, which was closed by the decision of the President, the university administration did not allow union representatives to the campus. The police blockaded the front of the school. During the intervention, Private Sector Teachers' Union representative Eylül Deniz Tutas was injured.
- 24: Ankara** The police forcibly entered the CHP Headquarters after the court's absolute nullity decision and evacuated the building. The police took action upon the application of Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu's lawyer. He broke the iron door and entered the building and intervened with pepper spray against the party members inside, and took out the party members who were trying to barricade themselves inside the building.
- 24: Istanbul** The police intervened in the vigil of Bilgi University students at Santral Istanbul Campus, evacuated the campus using tear gas and detained some students. Some people were injured during the intervention. Students were keeping watch against the closure of the university and demanding that the blockade on the campus be lifted.
- 26: Izmir** Before Özgür Özel's rally, the police used tear gas and pressurized water on citizens. intervened. 3 people were detained during the intervention. Except for one lawyer, 2 people were referred to the courthouse.
- 31: Istanbul.** On the 13th anniversary of Gezi Park events, Beyoğlu District Governor's Office organized all actions and banned demonstrations for 24 hours. The district governor's office claimed that the gatherings planned to be held in Taksim and Tünel Square could disrupt public order. Taksim Square was closed with barriers. Taksim Metro Station, İstiklal Street exit of Şişhane Station, Taksim-Kabataş Funicular Line and

Maçka-Taşkişla Cable Car Line were also closed.

## **2- Investigations and Trials**

- 01: Istanbul** 14 people who were detained before May 1 were arrested. No information about the arrests was shared
- 04: Antalya** 14 people were arrested in the investigation carried out by the Chief Prosecutor's Office against ANSET, a subsidiary of the Metropolitan Municipality. Prosecutor's Office, "*bid rigging*", "*bribery*" and "*Laundering proceeds of crime*". The police detained 27 people. In the investigation, it was claimed that 113 million 426 thousand liras of public damage occurred.
- 04: Antalya** A person in Alanya district said, "*Insulting the President*" He was arrested on the charge. Detailed information about the incident was not shared.
- 04: Istanbul** The 31st day hearing of the IMM case, in which Ekrem İmamoğlu was also tried, was postponed due to tension. After the hearing, the lawyers stated that they saw journalist Ferhat Murat, who is close to the government, in the corridor used by prosecutors and judges and took a report. The lawyers noted that Murat made threatening gestures towards the defendants and lawyers and that the gendarmerie prevented the lawyers from passing into the corridor. Ekrem İmamoğlu, the court panel "*trying to create a perception*" said.
- 04: Zonguldak** The Chief Public Prosecutor's Office has prepared an indictment against 30 suspects regarding allegations of embezzlement, bribery and bid rigging that allegedly took place in Devrek Municipality between 2019 and 2024. The prosecutor's office demanded a prison sentence of up to 177 years for former Mayor Çetin Bozkurt. The indictment alleges that municipal funds were transferred to personal accounts through fake payrolls, irregular tenders and bribes.
- 05: Istanbul** The trial of journalist Sedef Kabaş lasted about 5 minutes. The court decided to did not make a new decision and adjourned the hearing.
- 05: Istanbul** An investigation has been launched against Ahmet Güneş, the Editor-in-Chief of Yeni Yaşam newspaper, for his news posts on North and East Syria. Güneş said that his posts were within the scope of journalistic activities and did not accept the accusations.
- 06: Antalya** Cansel Tuncer, Secretary General of the Metropolitan Municipality and former General Manager of ANSET, who was detained within the scope of the investigation against ANSET, a subsidiary of the Metropolitan Municipality, was arrested. In the investigation carried out by the Chief Prosecutor's Office, a detention order was issued for 34 people. 14 people were previously arrested as part of the investigation.
- 06: Antalya** The assets of Metropolitan Mayor Muhittin Böcek and his family were confiscated within the scope of the investigation. The prosecutor's office imposed an injunction on movable and immovable properties, bank accounts and crypto assets belonging to the Böcek family. Muhittin Böcek was arrested in July 2025.
- 06: Istanbul** The first hearing of the case regarding the murder of journalist and life defender Hakan Tosun started at the Bakırköy Courthouse. The police tried to prevent the march of the life defenders who gathered in İncirli before the hearing. In the corridor of the courthouse, the police walked on journalists and lawyers and threatened them. Two defendants in the case "*intentional killing*" He is being tried in pre-trial detention on the charge.
- 06: Izmir** Karabağlar Municipality CHP Council Member Kadir Dalgıç was detained due to his social media post. Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, Diver "*insulting the President*", "*inciting the public to hatred and hostility*", "*threat*" and "*Insulting a public official*" He launched an investigation on the charges.

- 07: Istanbul** Bilal Erdoğan's 45th Criminal Court of First Instance against journalist Furkan Karabay. The lawsuit for non-pecuniary damages of 250 thousand liras, filed at the Civil Court of First Instance, was postponed to December 17, 2026. Karabay's lawyer requested that the outcome of the ongoing criminal case regarding the same post be awaited. The court accepted the request.
- 07: Istanbul** Swedish journalist Joakim Medin's "*membership in a terrorist organization*" and "*Propaganda for a terrorist organization*" The third hearing of the case was held in Istanbul. The hearing, which started with a delay of about an hour, lasted three minutes. The court adjourned the case to October 1, 2026, to complete the deficiencies.
- 07: Istanbul** Umut-Sen Organization Coordinator Başaran Aksu was summoned to testify due to his speech on the anniversary of the fire in Gayrettepe in which 29 workers lost their lives. Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, Aksu "*insulting the President*" and "*insulting a public official*" He launched an investigation on the charges. Aksu denied the accusations, stating that she stood by her speech in her statement.
- 07: Izmir** The prosecutor has changed once again in the cooperative investigation against the Metropolitan Municipality. Defne Soyer, the lawyer of former Metropolitan Mayor Tunç Soyer, who has been detained for about 10 months, announced that 3 prosecutors and 3 court committees changed during the process. Defne Soyer stated that there was no finding against Tunç Soyer in the MASAK report and requested his release.
- 07: Malatya** 23 people were detained in the FETÖ operation carried out in 17 provinces based in Malatya. In the operation carried out under the coordination of the police and MIT, it was claimed that the suspects were operating within the security secret structure of the organization.
- 08: Ankara** After the events that took place during the Spring Festival at METU, students were detained in house raids. The students were aware of the conscious "*attack on the flag*" and that the main purpose was a provocation against the festival. The students also stated that they will continue to defend METU culture and the festival.
- 08: Diyarbakir** 3 people were arrested in the investigation into the celebrations after Amedspor's promotion to the Super League. The prosecutor's office announced that 11 people were injured during the celebrations and that there were incidents caused by firearms, sharp objects and fireworks.
- 08: Edirne** 4 former judges and the driver of the vehicle, who were dismissed on charges of FETÖ membership, were arrested in Keşan district.
- 09: Istanbul** The Bakırköy Chief Prosecutor's Office launched an ex officio investigation against CHP Chairman Özgür Özel for his statements about Minister of Justice Akın Gürlek. The Chief Prosecutor's Office stated that Özel's words on the television program "*Suitable for disrupting public order and peace*" He claimed that it was. Özel claimed that Gürlek listened to President Erdoğan and committed various irregularities.
- 10: Ankara** The Ministry of Interior has given permission for an investigation against Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Ahmet Akın due to allegations of "irregular tenders". Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality announced that no payment was made from the municipal budget and that there was no public damage and that they would object to the investigation permission at the Council of State.
- 10: Istanbul** In the investigation against IMM subsidiary Ağaç ve Peyzaj A.Ş., Orhan Yıldırım, the owner of Han İnşaat, was detained. The prosecutor's office claims that the tender was rigged through the company. Within the scope of the investigation, 29 people were previously detained, and

some suspects were released on judicial control conditions.

- 11: Ankara** After the events that took place during the Spring Festival at METU, "*publicly insulting the signs of the state's sovereignty*" of the 6 people detained on the charge of " were arrested. Four people were released on judicial control conditions.
- 11: Ankara** 47. The Civil Court of First Instance decided that CHP Chairman Özgür Özel should pay 10 thousand liras for non-pecuniary damages in the lawsuit filed by Süleyman Soylu. Soylu claimed that Özel had insulted and slandered him, while Özel's lawyer argued that the statements were within the scope of freedom of expression.
- 11: Istanbul** In the investigation against IMM subsidiary Ağaç ve Peyzaj A.Ş., the prosecutor's office demanded the release of 24 of the 4 detained people under judicial control and the arrest of the other 20 suspects.
- 11: Istanbul** About comedian Tuba Ulu for her words against Suleiman the Magnificent "*inciting the public to hatred and hostility*" A lawsuit was filed with a request for up to 3 years in prison. Ulu, who was previously detained, was released on judicial control condition.
- 11: Istanbul** About Eylem Sıla Bayram, who was detained and arrested during the police intervention against the May 1 Taksim commemoration, "*damage to property*" was charged. The reason for the accusation was that Bayram's blood during detention was smeared on the police uniform. Bayram's lawyer Serhat Alan said that the accusations were aimed at covering up the allegations of torture.
- 11: Izmir** In the investigation against the Metropolitan Municipality subsidiaries İZBETON and İZDOĞA AŞ, 4 people, including former company executives, were arrested "*qualified fraud*" and "*Abuse of trust*" He was detained on charges.
- 12: Aydin** 3 people in the investigation against CHP's Germencik Municipality "*rigging the tender*" and "*Abuse of office*" He was detained on charges. The municipality announced that the transactions were carried out in the public interest due to the urgent need for transportation.
- 12: Batman** Koray Kesik, the cinematographer of the Bakur documentary, said, "*making propaganda for an illegal organization*". He was sentenced to 2 years and 1 month in prison on the charge. 2. Heavy Penalty evaluated documentary shootings, social media posts and the book "Bakur Notes" as evidence. Kesik's lawyer said that the documentary was shot during the resolution process and that his client was part of the technical team.
- 12: Manisa** Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Advisor Demirhan Gözaçan was detained. In the investigation carried out by the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, Gözaçan's name was named after the imprisoned Uşak Mayor Özkan Yalım "*effective remorse*" It was mentioned in his statement.
- 13: Ankara** 4 more university students who were detained after the events during the Spring Festival at METU were arrested. Students "*publicly insulting the signs of the state's sovereignty*" He was detained on the charge. Thus, the number of students arrested within the scope of the investigation increased to 6.
- 13: Ankara** The indictment prepared against imprisoned journalist İsmail Arı was accepted. The prosecutor's office asked Arı "*Publicly disseminating misleading information*" and "*Violation of confidentiality*" He demanded a prison sentence of up to 6 years. The accusations were cited as the reason for Arı's YouTube program and social media posts.
- 13: Antalya** 25 people were detained in the investigation against ANSET, a subsidiary of the Metropolitan

Municipality. The prosecutor's office is investigating the allegation that there were irregularities in the tenders and that 113 million liras of public damage was caused.

- 13: Artvin** The arrest request for Fikret Merttürk, who is alleged to be the instigator in the case of the murdered life defender Reşit Kibar, was rejected. The lawyers of the case said that the evidence was blacked out and those responsible were tried to be protected.
- 13: Bolu** An indictment was prepared against the imprisoned Mayor Tanju Özcan. The prosecutor's office filed a lawsuit against Özcan and 18 people "*bribery*", "*extortion*", "*fraud*" and "*Opposition to the Law on Foundations*" made the accusations. Case 3. It will be held in the Heavy Penalty.
- 13: Bursa** In the case filed by 4 young people who said they were tortured in custody, the court rejected the demands to send the file to the high criminal court and to arrest the defendant police officers. The lawyers said that the police officers should be tried for torture and that it is unacceptable that they are still on duty.
- 13: Istanbul** In the "espionage" case, in which four defendants, including Ekrem İmamoğlu, were tried, the court decided to continue their detention. The prosecutor's office requested a letter to be written to the MIT and Anti-Terrorism Branch Directorate to examine the access records to IMM systems. The hearing was adjourned to July 6.
- 13: Istanbul** The 2nd Commercial Court of First Instance decided that academic and journalist Ceren Sözeri should pay a total of 20 thousand TL in compensation to Serhat Albayrak and Turkuvaz Media Group due to her criticism of the "Pelikanist media". Sözeri argued that his article was within the scope of freedom of expression.
- 13: Şanlıurfa** On the grounds that they reacted to the court at the hearing of the Suruç Massacre case, the 17th Criminal Court of First Instance Feti Aydın and Mehmet Özkan were sentenced to 1 year and 6 months in prison each. The announcement of the verdict was deferred. 6 people tried in the same case were acquitted.
- 13: Sirnak** The trial of 28 people, including 3 journalists, for the peace watch planned to be held in Silopi district in 2024 has begun. The defendants said they were in Tilqebin to demand peace and to carry out journalistic activities.
- 13: Van** JINNEWS News Director Öznur Değer for her news and social media posts "*making propaganda for an organization*" An investigation was opened with the allegation. Öznur Değer testified with her lawyer and said that her posts were within the scope of journalistic activity.
- 14: Eskisehir** In the investigation against Tepebaşı Municipality, 20 people were detained and proceedings were initiated against a total of 60 people. The prosecutor's office investigated the "*embezzlement*", "*forgery of documents*", "*money laundering*" and "*Abuse of office*" accusations. The assets of some suspects were also confiscated.
- 14: Istanbul** The Governor's Office announced that the books on the list shared on social media were not included in the official lists in the investigation it started regarding the book list allegedly prepared in an imam hatip secondary school in Pendik. The school principal, who said that his signature was forged, was suspended.
- 14: Istanbul** In the "Aziz İhsan Aktaş criminal organization" case, the prosecutor announced his opinion and demanded sentences for Ahmet Özer, Zeydan Karalar, Rıza Akpolat and some CHP mayors on various charges. The case was adjourned to June 15.

- 14: Istanbul** Anadolu 2. Civil Court of Intellectual and Industrial Rights, The lawsuit filed against food engineer Bülent Şık due to public health warnings about pollen products partially accepted; Şık and the publisher in the case were ordered to pay 50 thousand liras in financial compensation and to remove the posts in question from the social media environment.
- 14: Tunceli** Erhan Doğru, the manager of the Munzur Environmental Association, who lives in the village of Eşeler in the Pertek district, was detained in the morning. No official statement was made regarding the reason for detention.
- 14: Van** Journalist Reyhan Hacıoğlu was sentenced to 4 years and 2 months in prison on the charge of "aiding a terrorist organization". The 2nd High Criminal Court decided to continue the judicial control in the form of a ban on leaving the country.
- 15: Antalya** In the "bribery" investigation against Manavgat Municipality, former Mayor Niyazi Nefi Kara was sentenced to "*establishing an organization*", "*bribery*", "*embezzlement*" and "*Money laundering*". He was sentenced to a total of 46 years and 10 months in prison for the crimes.
- 15: Artvin** In his social media posts about Şükrü Mısırlıoğlu, a retired worker living in Hopa district, he said, "*violation of the ban on advertising alcoholic beverages*". An investigation was opened with the allegation. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry stated that millions of liras of administrative fines could be imposed on Mısırlıoğlu. Mısırlıoğlu said that his posts did not have commercial purposes.
- 15: Aydın** Journalist Yelis Ayaz was arrested for her news report on AKP MP Seda Sarıbaşı's claim that her son went to school with a gun. The prosecutor's office accuses Ayaz of "publicly disseminating misleading information".
- 15: Burdur** The indictment prepared in the zoning investigation against the municipality was accepted. About 49 people, including Mayor Ali Orkun Ercengiz "*Abuse of office*" A prison sentence of up to 3 years and 6 months was requested. The first hearing is on July 13.
- 15: Denizli** 13 people were detained in the operation against Merkezefendi Municipality. No detailed explanation was given regarding the reason for the operation.
- 15: Istanbul** In the investigation against the Metropolitan Municipality, 12 people, including department heads, engineers and company officials, were detained. The prosecutor's office claims that irregularities were made in some tenders in the Road Maintenance and Electronic Systems branch directorates.
- 15: Istanbul** 7 more people were detained in the investigation against Üsküdar Municipality. The prosecutor's office claims that financial benefits are demanded from the contractors in the occupancy permit procedures. Some municipal administrators who were previously detained within the scope of the investigation were arrested.
- 15: Istanbul** Writer Yıldız Çakar, who came to Istanbul from Germany to go to Diyarbakır, was detained at Istanbul Airport. Çakar was released after his statement to the prosecutor's office.
- 15: Manisa** Demirhan Gözaçan, advisor to Metropolitan Mayor Besim Dutlulu, was arrested. Gözaçan was detained as part of the investigation carried out by the Istanbul Chief Prosecutor's Office.
- 15: Tunceli** In the investigation into the destruction of sacred areas in Düzgün Baba Visitation, action is being taken against 4 people, including a village headman.
- 16: Şanlıurfa** The prosecutor's office objected to the release decision of journalist Mehmet Yetim, who was accused of "disinformation". The court re-evaluated the file and decided to continue Yetim's detention.
- 18: Istanbul** A total of 37 people who were detained in the operations against Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and Eskişehir Tepebaşı Municipality were referred to the courthouse. In its

investigation against IMM, the Chief Prosecutor's Office detained 13 of the 12 people for whom a detention order was issued for alleged tender irregularities.

- 18: Istanbul** The police detained 57 people in the investigation against the Metropolitan Municipality. Within the scope of the operation, many addresses were raided.
- 18: Manisa** Demirhan Gözaçan, the advisor to Metropolitan Mayor Besim Dutlulu, who was detained within the scope of the investigation carried out by the Istanbul Chief Prosecutor's Office, was arrested.
- 19: Denizli** 12 of the 13 people detained in the bribery and bid rigging investigation carried out by the Chief Prosecutor's Office against Merkezefendi Municipality were arrested. Deputy Mayor Emrah Karan is among those arrested.
- 19: Eskisehir** 15 of the 25 people detained in the corruption investigation against Tepebaşı Municipality were arrested. Police found a room buried in the ground and 9 cryptocurrency mining devices in the garden of the house of one of the municipal administrators.
- 19: Istanbul** In the investigation carried out by the Chief Prosecutor's Office against Beşiktaş Municipality, the police detained 5 people on charges of accepting bribes and laundering asset values.
- 20: Ankara** 32<sup>th</sup> Civil Court of First Instance ruled that CHP Chairman Özgür Özel pay 300 thousand TL for non-pecuniary damages in the lawsuit filed by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.
- 20: Istanbul** The police detained 5 people in the investigation carried out by the Chief Prosecutor's Office against Beşiktaş Municipality. The prosecutor's office is conducting the operation with allegations of accepting bribes and laundering asset values. Former Beşiktaş Deputy Mayor Cevdet Çalı and municipal council members were among those detained. The police confiscated digital materials as part of the operation.
- 20: Istanbul** The Chief Public Prosecutor's Office initiated a lawsuit against BirGün newspaper executives Sefer Selçuk Özbek and Gökay Başcan due to a news report published on August 24, 2025, which covered investigations, scholarship cuts, and dismissals from students after Ekrem İmamoğlu's detention. But don't blame "*Insulting the President*"???
- 20: Izmir** The gendarmerie detained 3 people in the Chief Prosecutor's Office's investigation into bid rigging against Egeşehir Yapı Planlama Müşavirlik ve Teknoloji A.Ş. The prosecutor's office also issued an arrest warrant for İZBETON General Manager Hüseyin S.
- 21: Ankara** Regional Court of Justice 36. The Law Department ruled that the CHP's 38th Parliamentary Assembly in 2023. It ruled that the Ordinary Assembly and subsequent congresses be canceled due to absolute nullity. The court suspended CHP Chairman Özgür Özel and the party management as a precautionary measure and decided to reinstate Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu's administration. The chamber cited the allegations that delegates were offered money, jobs and candidacy during the congress process. The way to the Supreme Court is open against the decision.
- 21: Istanbul** In the investigation carried out by the Chief Prosecutor's Office, the court confiscated the bank accounts and safe deposit boxes of 18 people, including Ekrem İmamoğlu's son Mehmet Selim İmamoğlu. The investigation is being carried out by the Bureau of Investigation of the Crime of Prevention of Financing of Terrorism and Laundering.
- 21: Istanbul** The 53<sup>rd</sup> Criminal Court of First Instance decided to bring former CHP Provincial Chair Canan Kaftancıoğlu, who was on trial for allegedly insulting President Erdoğan but did not attend the hearing, accepted the request of Erdoğan's lawyer to participate in the case and adjourned the hearing to September 15.
- 21: Istanbul** The Chief Prosecutor's Office issued a re-arrest warrant for three children who were arrested

after Newroz events and released on April 24. The prosecutor's office accuses the children of propaganda because of the flags, pennants and photographs in the Newroz area.

- 21: Istanbul** An investigation was launched against 13 SOL Party members for the slogans shouted at the Independence March held on May 17. The prosecutor's office called the party members "*praising the crime and the criminal*" and "*Propaganda of illegal Organization*".
- 21: Mardin:** JINNEWS News Director Öznur Değer and journalist Osman Akin The prosecutor's office announced its opinion in the case filed against him, about two journalists "*Targeting people who took part in the fight against terrorism*" demanded a sentence on the charge. The case was filed due to a news report about torture allegations.
- 22: Duzce** In the extortion investigation of the Chief Prosecutor's Office, CHP's Akçakoca Mayor Fikret Albayrak was detained. The prosecutor's office accuses Albayrak of obtaining financial benefits from contractors and businesspeople in exchange for settlement and construction permits.
- 22: Istanbul** Cevdet Çalı, Bülent Karakaş and İlker Uluer, who were detained in the investigation carried out by the Chief Prosecutor's Office against Beşiktaş Municipality, "*taking bribes*" and "*laundering asset values*" He was arrested on charges of ".
- 22: Istanbul** 60 people who were detained in the investigation carried out by the Chief Prosecutor's Office against Boğaziçi Facility Management Services Inc., one of the subsidiaries of IMM, were referred to the courthouse. The prosecutor's office accuses the suspects of bid rigging, violation of legislation and laundering proceeds of crime and wants 33 people to be arrested.
- 23: Ankara** The Supreme Election Board rejected the CHP's objection to the Ankara Regional Court of Justice's decision of absolute nullity. YSK President Serdar Mutta announced that the boards of civil courts do not have the duty and authority to execute their decisions. However, the congresses and their results, which were based on the Absolute Butlan decision, were approved by the YSK and certificates were given. YSK decisions cannot be appealed.
- 23: Istanbul** The Chief Prosecutor's Office announced that the CHP's 38. It detained 13 people in the investigation into the Ordinary Congress. The police carried out operations in Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Şanlıurfa, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis and Malatya. The prosecutor's office described the suspects as "*Opposition to the Law on Political Parties, bribery and laundering the value of assets arising from crime*".
- 23: Izmir** 4 people in the investigation against Egeşehir A.Ş., a subsidiary of the Metropolitan Municipality "*rigging the tender*" He was arrested on the allegation.
- 24: Ankara** The Ministry of Interior has arrested CHP's Akçakoca Mayor Fikret Albayrak, who was arrested as part of the extortion investigation. "*Provisional disposition*" as suspended from duty.
- 24: Ankara** The Chief Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into the march from CHP Headquarters to the Parliament under the leadership of CHP Chairman Özgür Özel. Party members "*Opposition to the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations*", "*resisting the officer in charge*" and "*intentionally injuring*" He accuses them of this.
- 25: Istanbul** CHP's 38. 9 of the 13 people who were detained in the operations carried out in Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Şanlıurfa, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis and Malatya within the scope of the investigation into the Ordinary Congress were arrested. The Istanbul Chief Prosecutor's Office announced that the suspects "*Opposition to the Law on Political Parties*", "*laundering the assets arising from bribery and crime*" accuses.

- 25: Izmir** The Governor's Office prevented the rally that CHP Chairman Özgür Özel wanted to hold in Cumhuriyet Square. He wanted the rally to be held in Gündoğdu Square, on the grounds that the square could accommodate a limited number of people. The CHP administration, on the other hand, accepted the proposal because it was clear that the crowd would not fit in Cumhuriyet Square.
- 26: Izmir** In the investigation carried out by the Chief Prosecutor's Office, Güzelbahçe Mayor Mustafa Günay and Director of Zoning and Urbanization Özgür Bayraktar were arrested. The prosecutor's office described the suspects as "*establishing an organization, bribery, abuse of office and causing zoning pollution*". The police searched the municipality building on the same day.
- 27: Istanbul** Bilgi University student Hafize Çetin, who was detained for the interview she gave to Medyascope, was released on judicial control conditions, including a ban on leaving the country. The prosecutor's office *publicly disseminating misleading information*.
- 28: Izmir** Deniz Yolcu, who climbed on top of the TOMA during the police intervention before Özgür Özel's rally, whose nose was broken during the police attack and was stated to be at risk of head trauma, said, "*Opposition to the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations, damaging property and resisting to prevent the execution of duty*" He was arrested on charges. The Istanbul Governor's Office suspended the teacher, who was on trial on charges of damaging public property and resisting to prevent duty, on the same day.

### **3- Other Practices**

- 02: Bursa** A disciplinary investigation was opened against the students of Gürsu Bursa Istanbul Anatolian High School due to the sit-in protest they held in the school yard on April 20 to protest the attacks in Urfa and Maraş. Students, during the action "*Barricade for gangs, not students*" he chanted. Eğitim Sen and TÖB-SEN announced that they will hold a press statement in front of the school on May 5 to protest the investigation. The unions stated that students were asked oppressive and leading questions.
- 02: Istanbul** An investigation has been launched against Tuba Torun, the wife and lawyer of former CHP Deputy Aykut Erdoğan, who is detained in the IMM case. Torun made a statement in front of the Bakırköy Courthouse "*If Aykut Erdoğan is not released, this is a declaration of war*" said. Following the statement, the Bakırköy Chief Public Prosecutor's Office initiated proceedings within the scope of the Attorneyship Law and applied to the Ministry of Justice for permission to investigate.
- 03: Ankara** After Bosch's vacuum cleaner advertisement was targeted on social media, RTÜK launched an investigation. In the ad, a woman referred to her pet dog as "my son". Minister of Family and Social Services Mahinur Özdemir Göktaş stated that the concept of motherhood "*that it has been made ordinary for the sake of communication strategies*." he defended. RTÜK criticized the symbolization of the mother-child relationship for commercial purposes. Bosch removed the ad from the X platform.
- 04: Ankara** Access to the X account of former MASAK Vice President Ramazan Başak was blocked. Başak,

known for her financial analyzes and political posts, announced that her account was closed after "complaints". Başak stated that she sees the situation as a social issue, not a personal one, and said, "*I am very sorry for my country*" said.

**04: Bursa** The Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Services opened an investigation against 4 KESK members who participated in the work stoppage. The investigation was launched after the two-day work stoppage decision taken by the KESK to protest the school raids in Urfa, Siverek and Maraş. In the letter sent to the workers, the directorate stated that on April 16-17 "*without permission and excuse*" stated that they did not come to work. Hasan Toprak, who worked at the same institution, was previously suspended from his job after Yeni Akit targeted him.

**04: Kayseri** Artist Mustafa Keser was targeted by AKP and MHP deputies because of a joke he told on stage. AKP Kayseri Deputy Şaban Çopuroğlu targeted Keser on social media. MHP Kayseri Deputy Baki Ersoy threatened that Keser would not be able to take the stage in Kayseri. Keser stated that there was no need for him to apologize and announced that his Kayseri concert on May 15 was canceled.

**05: Ankara** In the General Assembly of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, the group proposals of the CHP, DEM Party, İYİ Party and Yeni Yol Party on internet infrastructure, child policies, freedom of the press and inflation were rejected by AKP and MHP votes. Opposition MPs criticized the government on child poverty, freedom of expression and the economic crisis.

**05: Ankara** Access to 90 websites was blocked on the allegation of "terrorist propaganda". A detailed list of blocked sites was not shared.

**05: Ankara** Access to the X accounts of Özgür TV, Yeni Demokrasi Newspaper, Kızıl Bayrak Newspaper, SGDF, Revolutionary Youth Union and Independent Revolutionary Class Platform was blocked. Account holders called for solidarity against censorship by opening new accounts.

**06: Ağrı** DEM Party Deputy Sırrı Sakık reacted to the ban on giving Kurdish sermons in mosques in Diyadin district. Sakık said that the ban is a continuation of the understanding that rejects the Kurdish language.

**07: Ankara** DEM Party Diyarbakır Deputy Serhat Eren brought to the agenda of the Parliament the allegations that disciplinary proceedings were initiated against prisoners who chanted "Champion Amedspor" in Diyarbakır Open Prison. Approximately 150 prisoners were prosecuted and at least 15 people were investigated.

**07: Ankara** Middle East Technical University ODTÜ Rectorate launched an investigation into the events that took place during the Spring Festival. During the İlkay Akkaya concert, a group of students unfurled the Turkish flag and shouted slogans by making the gray wolf sign. Then there was a brawl between right-wing and left-wing students. The Rectorate announced that action will be taken against people involved in violence.

**07: Istanbul** In the case of Boğaziçi University faculty member Prof. Dr. Tuna Tuğcu, it was revealed that audio and video recordings were taken during the hearing, although it was forbidden. At the hearing at the 19th Administrative Court, the court adjourned when it was determined that the lawyer of the former Head of the Information Technologies Department, against whom the complaint was filed, had taken a recording. Tuğcu's lawyer Hüseyin Ersöz evaluated what happened as a "projection of hostility".

**08: Istanbul** Access to the "akpden.com" website announced by CHP Chairman Özgür Özel was blocked. Ankara 1. The Criminal Judgeship of Peace has banned the site that publishes content on tax injustice and the sale of public assets. "*National Security*" and "*public order*" He blocked it on

the grounds.

- 09: Ankara** Human rights defenders have taken the decision on detainees with serious health problems. *"He can stay in prison"* reacted to the reports. During the demonstrations in Ankara and Istanbul, attention was drawn to the health conditions of Cengiz Sinan, Halis Çelik and Şefika Kandar. Activists demanded the release of sick detainees, stating that the reports of the Forensic Medicine Institute complicate the release processes.
- 10: Istanbul** It is claimed that prisoners who turned off their ward cameras in Silivri L Type Prison No 6 were put in solitary cells without disciplinary investigation. Grup Yorum members Cem Dursun and Tacettin Erol Şahin started an indefinite hunger strike against the practices. The prisoners' lawyer, Naim Eminoğlu, said that the Ministry of Justice turned a blind eye to the isolation and rights violations in the prison.
- 11: Uşak** SOL Party Uşak Provincial Spokesperson Mahmut Uludağ was attacked by 5 people in front of his workplace. Uludağ, whose nose was broken in the attack, received a battering report from the hospital and filed a criminal complaint against the attackers. Uludağ said that the attack was an intimidation against the opposition.
- 12: Ankara** Access to the X account of Tamar Tanrıyar, who shared posts targeting the CHP and some CHP figures, was blocked. Tanrıyar shared allegations about the private life of Muhittin Böcek and the Böcek family. A separate investigation was opened against Tanrıyar.
- 20: Istanbul** KRT TV owner Fırat Bozırat filed a criminal complaint against 17 journalists who quit their jobs in 2025 because they could not receive their wages. Bozırat targeted journalists with threats, slander and inciting the public to hatred and hostility. Journalists said that the boss was trying to criminalize the struggle for rights. KRT employees started a work stoppage on June 4, 2025, after they were not paid their salaries and meal fees for two months.
- 20: Istanbul** The 69th Criminal Court of First Instance sentenced three Boğaziçi University students who participated in the Ekrem İmamoğlu protests to 3 months and 10 days in prison each. The court sentenced the students for damaging public property for writing slogans on the lockers of Birlik Park and Türk Telekom in Beşiktaş. Beşiktaş Municipality and Türk Telekom reported to the court that there was no damage and that they did not complain about the students. The court deferred the announcement of the verdict.
- 21: Istanbul** Bakırköy 31. The Criminal Court of First Instance sentenced Kıymet İlğaz to 1 year in prison on the grounds that he had Abdullah Öcalan's book in prison. The prosecutor's office had previously decided not to prosecute the book, determining that there was no confiscation or ban order for the book, and the Police Department had informed the court that the book was not banned. Despite this, the court sentenced İlğaz on the charge of bringing prohibited items into the prison, and the court of appeal upheld the decision.
- 22: Ankara** Access to the Booking platform was blocked.
- 26: Ankara** After the investigations carried out under the coordination of the Directorate of Communications, access to 93 social media accounts was blocked. The General Directorate of Security's Anti-Cyber Crimes Department and prosecutor's offices accused the accounts of disrupting public order and posting insulting content, and launched a judicial investigation against the account owners.
- 28: Ankara** Many personnel working at the CHP Headquarters were dismissed by the management that took office after the absolute nullity process. The dismissed employees claim that Code-29-like justifications were used in the exit procedures and that their compensation rights were prevented.
- 29: Ankara** While the congress discussions continued in the CHP, it was claimed that the Kılıçdaroğlu administration applied to the governor's office against the program that CHP Chairman Özgür

Özel will attend in Ankara on May 30. Allegedly, the CHP Headquarters described the organization as a "pirate rally" and demanded that the program not be allowed. The CHP front did not make an official statement about the news.

**31 Ankara** The management of the CHP's official Facebook and Instagram accounts was transferred to the Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu team. In the first post made from the accounts, Kılıçdaroğlu's statements regarding the holiday program at the CHP Headquarters were included.

#### 4- Other Reports

**02: Istanbul** "The quarterly media and freedom of expression report published by bianet compiled the detentions, arrests, lawsuits, attacks and censorship practices against journalists in Turkey. In the report, the investigations carried out against journalists Alican Uludağ, İsmail Arı, Merdan Yanardağ and Furkan Karabay and the investigations against many journalists "disinformation", "propaganda for a terrorist organization" and "Insulting the President" cases took place. According to the report, hundreds of news and social media content were blocked in the first three months of the year, and many journalists were detained and physically attacked.

**03: Ankara** According to CHP Eskişehir Deputy Utku Çakırözer's press freedom report, journalists appeared before judges 75 times in April. In the report, "publicly disseminating misleading information" It was stated that the accusation was used extensively in investigations and arrests against journalists. It was reminded that journalists İsmail Arı and Alican Uludağ were detained. The report also stated that many journalists were prosecuted, access blocks were imposed and RTÜK fined television channels.

**03: Ankara** The Human Rights Association, in its report published on May 3, World Press Freedom Day, announced that freedom of expression and press are under heavy pressure in Turkey. The association stated that according to RSF data, Turkey has fallen to 163rd place among 180 countries in the press freedom ranking. IHD, "Disinformation Law" is used to silence journalists, that the pressure on the Kurdish press and opposition media institutions continues, and that the non-implementation of the decisions of the Constitutional Court and the ECtHR is a clear unlawfulness.

**05: Ankara** Ramazan Başak, former Vice President of MASAK, announced that reports of suspicious transactions due to fraud increased to 65.3 percent in 2025. Başak said that he was first detained due to his criticism of black money and the criminal economy, and then his X account was restricted. Başak stated that the detention was carried out in the presence of his grandson and evaluated what happened as "unlawful".

**07: Diyarbakir** According to the April report of the Mesopotamia Women Journalists Association, at least 34 journalists were tried, 2 journalists were investigated and 2 journalists were sentenced to a total of 7 years and 6 months in prison. The report also stated that access to 16 digital platforms was blocked and at least 3 digital media accounts were closed. MKG emphasized that journalism is being targeted through the judiciary and digital censorship.

**09: Texas USA** According to data from the Fredericksburg-based Internet Society, internet outages and access blocks caused approximately \$997 million in damage to the Turkish economy in 2025. In the report, it was stated that BTK's access restrictions on social media platforms increased

the economic loss. Journalists and publishers said that access blocks led to loss of income and self-censorship.

**13: Istanbul**

According to data compiled by BBC Turkish, since the March 31, 2024 local elections, mayors in more than 30 provinces and districts have been arrested, dismissed or replaced by trustees. According to the compilation, 22 of the mayors who were processed are from the CHP and 11 are from the DEM Party. In the report, investigations and trustee practices against many municipalities, especially Istanbul, Izmir, Bursa, Antalya and Van, were listed.

**28: Ankara**

In its report on the March 19 protests, the Turkish Medical Association announced that there were widespread health problems and rights violations due to the chemical agents and interventions used by the security forces. According to the report, cough, shortness of breath and burning eyes were the most frequently reported health problems in the study, in which more than 2 thousand people participated. The TTB demanded that the officials who used disproportionate force be prosecuted and that chemical agents be banned.