

5 DEC 2025

Dilek Imamoğlu: we are not witnesses of an era; we are the ones who hold the will to change this order!



ADA NEWS



Unlawful Detentions and Family Resilience: The Keleş Family Story

Zeynep Keleş, daughter, sister, and niece of individuals detained in the ongoing political crackdown in Turkey, shared the harrowing story of her family. Her father, Fatih Keleş, was arrested on 19 March, with all his assets confiscated, and transferred between Silivri and Kandıra prisons without proper legal notification. Her 63-year-old uncle, her brother Mustafa, and her cousin Murat have also been imprisoned, some after voluntarily appearing for testimony.

Zeynep highlighted the collapse of legal principles, stating that “innocent until proven guilty” has been replaced with “guilty until you prove your innocence.” Her brother, just 26 years old, has been detained for 169 days, enduring harsh conditions in overcrowded wards, minimal hygiene, and extreme isolation.

Beyond the physical hardships, Zeynep emphasized the psychological and emotional toll on her family, describing relentless media defamation, pressure from authorities, and the trauma inflicted on loved ones. She quoted a Human Rights Association report to underline how such conditions create “learned helplessness,” compounding the injustice.

Despite these challenges, Zeynep spoke of her family’s extraordinary resilience and courage. She described her father as the strongest man, her mother as the strongest woman, and her brother Mustafa as a young man forced to endure extreme adversity. Their story is a testament to the power of solidarity, endurance, and the unwavering pursuit of justice in the face of systemic oppression.

‘We are the ones who hold the will to change this order’

Dr. Imamoğlu Presents 10 Demands for Justice and Democracy in Turkey

Dilek Imamoğlu addressed the ongoing political oppression in Turkey, presenting 10 clear demands to protect justice, democracy, and citizens’ rights. Speaking on behalf of families, detainees, and millions seeking fairness, he criticized unlawful detentions, media persecution, and the erosion of the presumption of innocence.

His demands include trial without detention for elected officials and their families, respect for the presumption of innocence, fair and transparent trials, and immediate implementation of court rulings. He also called for protection of families, freedom of expression, social harmony, and fair political competition, emphasizing that prosperity cannot exist without justice.

Dr. Imamoğlu warned that political repression harms both individuals and the nation, highlighting the enormous social and financial costs of unlawful imprisonment. His speech underscores the urgent need for accountability, equality, and rule of law in Turkey.



“These 10 demands represent the nation’s conscience, not a political side. If you believe in justice, care about the law, or your children’s future, this struggle concerns us all. We call on political parties, civil society, academics, journalists, and citizens to defend democracy, justice, and freedom.”



16th ADA Family Solidarity Network Gathering at Saraçhane