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*Dilek Imamoğlu:
“300 precious days
that will never return
have been stolen from
our lives and
continue to be stolen”*

ADA NEWS



“Justice is not dispensed in palaces; it is dispensed in fair and impartial courts”

Dr. Imamoğlu condemns more than 300 days of ongoing detentions, describing them as stolen, irreplaceable time taken not only from detainees and their families but from society as a whole. She argues that these practices reflect the politicization of the judiciary, the erosion of judicial independence, and the normalization of pre-trial detention as punishment. Emphasizing that justice cannot be delivered through massive courthouse buildings, but only through fair, impartial, and transparent trials, she calls for respect for fundamental legal principles such as the presumption of innocence, the right to a natural judge, and open trials. Dr. Imamoğlu urges society to break its silence, stressing that this struggle is not personal but a collective fight for democracy, public conscience, and the future of Turkey's children.

Lawyer Mehmet Pehlivan: “While life continues outside, some things always remain half-finished.”

The letter of detained lawyer Mehmet Pehlivan, shared publicly by Dr. Imamoğlu, offers a quiet but devastating portrait of what prolonged detention truly means. Writing on the 200th day of his imprisonment, Pehlivan reminds us that detention does not measure time in days, but in absences—missed moments, unfinished sentences, and lives put on hold. His account of celebrating his young daughter's birthday in a prison visiting room, without candles or cake, exposes how punishment extends far beyond prison walls and leaves lasting marks on children and families. Detained solely for performing his professional duty as a lawyer, Pehlivan warns that when legal practice relies on secret witnesses, vague narratives, and retroactive accusations rather than concrete evidence, legal certainty collapses for everyone. His letter is not only a personal testimony but a warning to society: when the law becomes unpredictable, and fear replaces trust, silence spreads, families carry the heaviest burden, and justice ceases to protect life, it begins to disrupt it.



Istanbul Bar Association President Dr. Kaboğlu joined the gathering in solidarity!



Istanbul Bar Association President Prof. Dr. Kaboğlu emphasizes that the right to law belongs to all citizens and is guaranteed by the Constitution. Recalling the trial against the Bar Association leadership, which stemmed solely from the exercise of their legal duty, he stresses that insisting on the law and procedural justice ultimately led to acquittal, proving that independent judges still exist in Turkey. Kaboğlu frames the case not as a personal struggle but as a defense of society's rights and freedoms. He strongly criticizes violations of fair trial standards, particularly unlawful detention practices, and calls on judges and prosecutors to fully comply with constitutional requirements, including holding hearings on detention objections, ensuring the presence of lawyers, issuing individualized and reasoned decisions, and respecting the balance among prosecution, defense, and judgment. Concluding with a powerful appeal, he urges the judiciary to respect the Constitution not only for citizens but also for the integrity of their own legal authority.

**21th ADA Family Solidarity Network
Gathering at Çağlayan, İstanbul**