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Özgür Özel :

“They perpetrated this oppression until today to artificially produce the evidence they could not find”



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CHP leader Özgür Özel says indictments are deliberately delayed to pressure detainees, calling the practice “execution before judgment.”

CHP Chair Özgür Özel sharply criticized the prolonged pre-trial detentions of elected mayors, municipal officials, and their families, arguing that the judicial process has been deliberately delayed for political reasons. Speaking alongside families gathered under the Family Solidarity Network, Özel said indictments that are normally prepared within weeks have been withheld for eight or nine months to exert pressure on detainees and their relatives, force false confessions, and sustain a public perception of guilt. He emphasized that many detainees would not even serve prison time if convicted, yet remain incarcerated without indictments, while figures accused of leading criminal organizations are tried without arrest.

CHP Leader Özgür Özel Calls for Live Broadcast Trials, Slams Prolonged Detentions

Özel accused the government of turning the judiciary into a political weapon, citing misleading state-media broadcasts, selective law enforcement, and unequal treatment based on political affiliation. He called for all trials to be broadcast live, stating that transparency would expose the lack of evidence behind the accusations and restore public trust. “This is not a legal struggle, it is a political one,” Özel said, warning that prolonged detention without trial amounts to punishment before judgment. He concluded that accountability is inevitable, declaring that those responsible for what he called systemic injustice will eventually face both political and moral consequences.



Dilek İmamoğlu: “Justice cannot exist where the judiciary is used as a political tool.”



Dr. İmamoğlu said the prison has become a symbol of injustice and human rights violations in Türkiye, criticizing what he described as the politicization of the judiciary. She argued that elected mayors are being held in prison without concrete evidence while individuals accused of leading criminal organizations are tried without arrest, raising serious concerns about equality before the law. According to İmamoğlu, recent arrests, dawn raids, and prosecutions based on secret witness statements demonstrate that the judicial process is being used as a political tool, particularly to prevent Ekrem İmamoğlu’s presidential candidacy. She said prolonged detentions, violations of the presumption of innocence, and restrictions on media and public access to trials have eroded public trust in justice.

İmamoğlu also warned that democratic institutions are being systematically weakened through trustee appointments, pressure on municipalities, censorship of the media, and the suppression of protests. She linked judicial injustice to broader social and economic crises, including poverty, inflation, violence against women, child labor, unsafe working conditions, environmental destruction, and the lack of accountability after major disasters. Calling for an immediate return to the rule of law, she stressed that broadcasting trials live is no longer optional but essential for transparency and accountability. “The will belongs to the nation,” she said, urging Parliament and political actors to take responsibility and restore justice, democracy, and social unity.

23rd ADA Family Solidarity Network
Gathering at Silivri, İstanbul