

Breaking News from Türkiye

Özgür Özel Sued Over Alleged Threats

CHP leader Özel is under investigation for allegedly insulting Erdoğan and inciting unrest over mayor detentions and calling for protests.

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Mayor Çalık Denied Release After Surgery

Despite battling cancer and signs of serious lymphoma, detained Mayor Murat Çalık was denied release; returned to prison after surgery.

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Yet Another Blow to Press Freedom

Türkiye's media watchdog RTÜK imposed a 10-day ban on Sözcü TV for opposition speeches, highlighting growing media pressure.

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Immunity Threat to 61 CHP Deputies

Türkiye's presidency has requested the removal of parliamentary immunity for 61 CHP deputies, including leader Özgür Özel.

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World Law Day, July 10

Since World Law Day's founding in 1967, Türkiye's rule of law score has plummeted from 0.67 to 0.18 by 2024.

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CHP Marches to Justice Ministry

CHP members marched from Parliament to the Justice Ministry to protest government raids on CHP-led municipalities.

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Grok Blocked in Türkiye

Grok was banned in Türkiye for allegedly insulting the president, another sign of the judiciary's growing role in censoring online dissent.

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Former MP Sparks Public Outrage

Ahmet Hamdi Çamlı, made social media posts targeting the Republic of Türkiye, Atatürk, the CHP, and Alawite citizens.

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Court Keeps Ayşe Barım Behind Bars

Ayşe Barım, a prominent talent manager facing Gezi-related charges, was denied release despite serious health risks.

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Privatization Blamed for Fire Crisis

TKP protested GDZ Elektrik over İzmir's wildfires linked to power lines, demanding nationalization and blaming privatization for the disaster.

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Zehra Ömeroğlu / LeMan

CHP's Şile Mayor Taken Into Custody

In a move targeting opposition-run municipalities, Şile's CHP Mayor Özgür Kabadayı and five others were detained in a corruption probe.

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12 Soldiers Died in Methane Tragedy

12 soldiers died from toxic gas in an Iraq cave, raising questions about military planning despite officials calling it an unforeseeable first.

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Peace Petition Academic Reinstated

Top court reinstated peace petition academic Hafize Öztürk Türkmen, citing lack of evidence; 118 similar cases remain pending.

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Özel Takes Over Martyr's Scholarship

CHP Chair Özel blamed negligence for 12 soldiers' deaths and promised parliamentary action and support for a martyr's orphans.

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ECHR Orders Türkiye to Compensate Demirtaş

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruled for Turkish government to pay compensation to HDP's Selahattin Demirtaş.

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OP-ED | Türkiye at a Crossroads: Ruşen Çakır on Democracy, Repression, & Refusing Despair

At a March 19 Platform panel, journalist Ruşen Çakır analyzed Türkiye's democratic decline and authoritarian tactics, urging citizens to resist despair and continue organizing for democracy.

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Özgür Özel Faces Compensation Lawsuit and Threat Accusations



BBC

Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office has launched an investigation against CHP Leader Özgür Özel on allegations of "insulting the President," "openly inciting to commit a crime," "insulting public officials due to their duties," and "threats." Following the detention of CHP mayors Zeydan Karalar, Muhittin Böcek, and Abdurrahman Tutdere, Özel reacted strongly, calling for early elections and directly criticizing President Erdoğan. President Erdoğan's lawyer filed a lawsuit demanding 500,000 TL (~\$12,500) in damages and submitted a criminal complaint to the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office.

Özel had previously challenged Erdoğan to call early elections, and emphasized public protests as a democratic right. He claimed Erdoğan had wrongly accused him of inciting the public to take to the streets. Government officials, including Presidential Communications Director Fahrettin Altun and AKP spokesperson Ömer Çelik, condemned Özel's remarks as threatening and targeting national unity.

In one of his most recent speeches, Özel said:

"You imposed a ten-day ban, yet a million people gathered every night. Now, I invite the public to join democracy demonstrations in squares where we have notified the authorities in advance and where security measures are in place. I will decide the day to call people to the streets. Think carefully about what will happen to you that day. But don't push me to invite this nation to the streets. Pull yourself together! This nation has fought for the ballot box to be placed, and if need be, it will fight again to have it placed! After that, just like you watched the square in Egypt on TV, you'll watch the squares of democracy! I am not threatening anyone with a coup, but if someone attempts a coup, if someone tries to take away the ballot box, this nation will bring the ballot box back with its own hands!"

Additionally, a parliamentary motion to lift Özel's immunity was submitted on July 2, tied to his criticism of a court decision regarding imprisoned MP Can Atalay. The process will proceed through parliamentary committees and may also involve a vote in the General Assembly.

The Jailed Beylikdüzü Mayor, Murat Çalık, Was Hospitalized

Mehmet Murat Çalık, the detained Mayor of Beylikdüzü and a cancer survivor, was hospitalized after his health worsened in prison. Arrested on March 23 in connection with an investigation into İstanbul Municipality, Çalık had recently undergone surgery for suspected lymphoma. On June 4, he was transferred 350 miles from Marmara Prison to İzmir Buca Kırklar Prison, away from his doctors and family. He was hospitalized on June 23 due to severe pain and underwent a bone marrow biopsy, which revealed signs of lymphoma, leading to surgery on July 4. Despite his condition and a medical report warning of leukemia relapse risk, the court rejected his lawyers' request for release and returned him to prison on July 11. Çalık has lost 18 kg in three months, raising serious concerns about prison conditions and healthcare access for seriously ill detainees in Türkiye.



T24

Follow the Ekrem İmamoğlu channel on WhatsApp

Gelin, bu süreci birlikte büyütelim. Sözünüz, fikriniz, yüreğiniz bu yürüyüşün en kıymetli parçası. Hep birlikte, omuz omuza geleceği inşa edeceğiz.

En çok da sizlerden gelen mektuplar bana güç veriyor.

Bundan böyle mektuplarınızı, "Cumhurbaşkanlığı Aday Ofisi" İstanbul birimine göndermenizi rica ediyorum.

CAO İstanbul adresi: Cumhurbaşkanlığı Aday Ofisi CHP İstanbul İl Başkanlığı Kat. 5



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Yet Another Blow to Press Freedom in Türkiye



Turkish Minute

Sözcü TV has been taken off the air for 10 days by Türkiye's media regulator RTÜK. Sözcü TV is accused of "inciting hatred" during live broadcasts covering reactions to the detention of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu. The station's only offense was airing speeches by opposition leaders, a fundamental journalistic duty now treated as a punishable act.

Journalist İpek Özbey, a broadcast journalist of Sözcü TV, called the blackout "a massive act of censorship." "We didn't commit a crime. We did our job. And we are being punished for it," she said.

The timing of the suspension is no coincidence. It comes amid sensitive developments: investigations into CHP-run municipalities, revived debate over the Kurdish peace process, and the Kartalkaya Hotel fire trial. The government appears determined to mute independent coverage at crucial political moments.

Despite the ban, Sözcü TV's newsroom will remain active, producing content and publishing a daily page in the Sözcü newspaper as a form of resistance.

BBC reports that in today's Türkiye, journalism that challenges power is increasingly treated as a threat. As Özbey put it, "No censorship effort has ever succeeded. The more you try to suppress, the greater the public's curiosity becomes."

Ankara Moves to Strip Immunity from 61 CHP Deputies Amid Escalating Crackdown

Türkiye's presidency has asked parliament to revoke the immunity of 61 Republican People's Party (CHP) deputies—almost half the caucus, including leader Özgür Özel—by forwarding 240 case files on 3 July. Each dossier lists the relevant court and allegations. The memorandum is signed by Serap Yazıcı Özbudun, once elected on a CHP ticket but now chairing the Constitutional Committee for the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), a switch critics say exposes political motives.

Journalist Ali Deniz Çakır noted on X that the signer owed her seat to CHP votes. At the same time, CHP whip Gökhan Günaydın argued the move shows President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan—also AKP leader—can weaponize prosecutions against the main opposition. If parliament's Constitution-Justice Joint Committee advances any file, the deputies could be tried and jailed, mirroring tactics used against pro-Kurdish HDP lawmakers since 2016.

The request widens a year-long crackdown that intensified after the CHP's landslide in the March 2024 local elections and the March 2025 arrest of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, seen as the party's likely 2028 presidential hopeful. Dozens of CHP officials are already imprisoned; three more mayors were picked up in pre-dawn raids just before the new memorandum. Prosecutors continue reopening old corruption or terror cases to dislodge elected opposition figures.

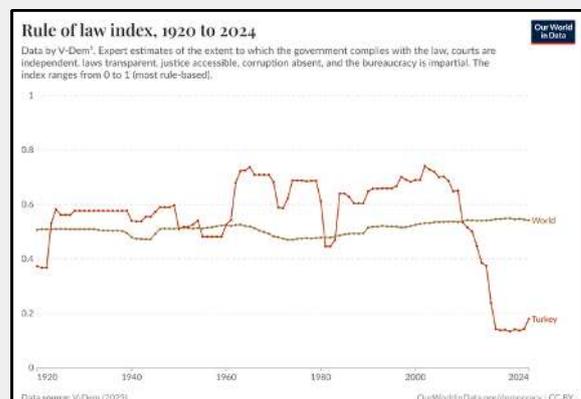
Ironically, today's assault relies on a 2016 constitutional change the CHP itself backed, stripping deputies of blanket immunity. Observers warn that removing protections on this scale will chill dissent, erode parliamentary oversight, and mark the most aggressive legal offensive against Türkiye's secular opposition during the AKP era. International rights groups say the proposal would further damage Türkiye's battered judicial credibility.

World Law Day, July 10



Doç. Dr. Buğra Gökce @gokcebuğra · Jul 10

In 1967, **World Law Day (July 10)** was proclaimed to advance the rule of law. Back then, Türkiye's score was 0.67, comfortably above the 0.5 global average. By 2024, the world edged up to 0.54 while Türkiye collapsed to 0.18, worse than in 1908. From 2012–2024, 650,443 individual petitions reached the Constitutional Court; 78,003 exposed at least one rights violation, chiefly excessive trial delays, unfair proceedings, and attacks on free expression. I, myself, have spent 110 days in custody without an indictment, unable to mount an effective defense, and even denied adequate healthcare, as media leaks erode my presumption of innocence. Türkiye urgently needs genuine justice.



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CHP Marches to Justice Ministry Over Mayor Crackdown

Members of Türkiye's main opposition party, the Republican People's Party (CHP), marched from the Grand National Assembly (TBMM) to the Ministry of Justice in Ankara to protest the government operations targeting municipalities led by the CHP. The march was led by CHP Parliamentary Group leaders Gökhan Günaydın and Ali Mahir Başarır, party vice chairpersons, and other deputies. During the protest, CHP lawmakers chanted slogans such as "Erdoğan resign," "Our mayors are our pride," and "No salvation alone, either all together or none."

In response, lawmakers from the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) countered with chants of "Recep Tayyip Erdoğan," escalating tensions in an unusual public showdown between parliamentarians of opposing parties.

During the street march, CHP lawmakers carried an extensive banner reading "Sovereignty Belongs to the Nation" and displayed photos of mayors who had been detained or imprisoned. They marched to the Ministry of Justice chanting anti-government slogans, including "The government will answer to the people," and "Mayors will return, the struggle will continue."

This protest marks a significant moment in Türkiye's political climate, with open, slogan-driven confrontation between rival lawmakers occurring publicly, something rarely witnessed in the country's recent parliamentary history.



Haber Sol

Former MP Sparks Public Outrage with Comments About The Republic

Former AKP MP Ahmet Hamdi Çamlı, known as "Yeliz," has once again sparked public outrage with controversial social media posts targeting the Republic of Türkiye, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the CHP, and Alawite citizens. In one post, he referred to the founding of the Republic in 1923 as a "bloody coup". Çamlı has previously referred to the Republic as "Çamuriyet" (a derogatory twist on "Cumhuriyet"), and claimed Türkiye needs to confront the "bloody 1923 coup" to move forward. These remarks have been widely condemned as offensive, revisionist, and divisive.

CHP leader Özgür Özel announced that his party will file criminal complaints in all 81 provinces against Çamlı for hate speech and defamation. Many on social media argue that Çamlı, once mocked for impersonating a reporter under the name "Yeliz," has become more than a joke — he is now seen as a threat to social harmony and democratic values in Türkiye.



Haber Hürriyeti

Turkish Court Bans Musk's AI Chatbot Grok in Türkiye



X: Cyrus_Intel9

A Turkish court ordered a ban on access to Elon Musk's artificial intelligence chatbot Grok in Türkiye, after the platform allegedly disseminated content insulting to Türkiye's president and others.

That prompted an Ankara court to file for the imposition of restrictions under Türkiye's internet law, citing a threat to public order. A criminal court approved the request early on Wednesday, ordering the country's telecommunications authority to enforce the ban.

The incident is part of a broader controversy surrounding a recent update to Grok, which resulted in more "politically incorrect" and unfiltered responses.

In response to mounting controversy, X stated that it was aware of the recent posts and had taken immediate action to remove any inappropriate content. "Since being made aware of the content, xAI has taken action to ban hate speech before Grok posts on X," the company said in a statement. "xAI is training only truth-seeking, and thanks to the millions of users on X, we can quickly identify and update the model where training could be improved," it said.



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Court Keeps Celebrity Manager Ayşe Barım Behind Bars Despite Life-Threatening Ailments



Turkish Minute

A Turkish court on July 7 ruled to keep Ayşe Barım, one of the country's best-known talent managers, in pre-trial detention despite doctors' warnings that her life is at risk behind bars. Arrested in January and now facing up to 30 years for "attempting to overthrow the government," Barım is accused of encouraging her actor clients to join the 2013 Gezi Park protests; a 171-page indictment was accepted in May by Istanbul's 26th High Criminal Court. She denies any political role, saying she visited the park only once and has never belonged to a party. The next hearing is set for October 1.

Barım suffers from a brain aneurysm, heart arrhythmia, and valvular disease, conditions that an expert report says could cause sudden death in prison. She has repeatedly fainted and been hospitalized in recent weeks, yet judges again rejected her request for release on medical grounds. Dozens of high-profile supporters—including actors Halit Ergenç, Serenay Sarıkaya, Birce Akalay, and Bergüzar Korel—packed the courtroom, joined by opposition politicians Baran Seyhan (CHP) and Sera Kadıgil (TİP). Critics, among them EU rapporteur Nacho Sánchez Amor, say the case exemplifies Ankara's renewed crackdown on dissent and its willingness to revisit Gezi-era accusations more than a decade later.

CHP's Şile Mayor Özgür Kabadayı Taken Into Custody

As part of an investigation launched by the Istanbul Anatolian Chief Public Prosecutor's Office into Şile Municipality, six people, including Mayor Özgür Kabadayı, have been taken into custody. The investigation involves allegations of "establishing a criminal organization," "malfeasance," "bribery," and "rigging public tenders." Police conducted an operation at the municipality early this morning. Among those detained is also Ali Şafak, a former executive board member of the Progressive Lawyers Association (ÇHD).

"The Fire Disaster Is a Direct Result of Market Policies and Privatization"

The TKP İzmir Provincial Organization protested in front of the GDZ Elektrik headquarters in Bornova over fires reportedly caused by power lines. During the demonstration, they called for the immediate nationalization of Gediz Elektrik and dumped ashes from the fire sites at the company's entrance. In İzmir, where wildfires have broken out in various locations for days and remain uncontrolled, new fires followed in Çeşme and Ödemiş after the initial blaze in Seferihisar. Fires were also reported in Buca Kaynaklar, Gaziemir, and Torbalı. İzmir Governor Süleyman Elban stated that electrical lines caused fires in Çeşme, Seferihisar, Ödemiş, and Foça. At the same time, GDZ Electricity, the company responsible for the city's energy distribution, claimed "no concrete evidence" exists.

Responding to the crisis, residents gathered outside the GDZ Electricity Headquarters in Bornova. They marched with slogans like "Gediz Must Be Held Accountable" and "Nature Destroyed by Corporate Greed."

Speaking on behalf of the group, TKP Central Committee member Savaş Sarı recalled protesting a year ago after two citizens died from electric shocks. He argued that Gediz Holding, profiting from privatized distribution services, bears responsibility for these fires.

Sarı emphasized that forest and agricultural lands are being sacrificed for profit, and that the state views citizens and nature as commodities. "This disaster is the result of market-driven policies and privatization," he said. After the speech, ashes collected from fire zones were dumped in front of the building.



Cumhuriyet



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12 Soldiers Lost Their Lives Exposed to Methane Gas

The National Defense Ministry said last week's fatal gas exposure that killed 12 soldiers during a cave search in northern Iraq was the first of its kind since the cross-border operations began in the region. The ministry emphasized that more than 3,700 caves and shelters had been located and neutralized in the area over the years, with no previous record of troops being affected by toxic gases. "This was an exceptional, unforeseeable event," officials said. The fatal exposure took place during a mission to recover the body of Infantry Lieutenant Nuri Melih Bozkurt, who was killed in a 2022 operation in the same area. Soldiers entered the cave in groups after reconnaissance efforts, but began to collapse while searching its lower level, according to the officials. Subsequent rescue attempts led to additional personnel being affected, despite efforts to extract them. The ministry has requested technical support from disaster and mining agencies. Tests detected carbon monoxide, methane, and hydrogen sulfide inside the cave, with oxygen levels dropping below safe thresholds. Officials denied reports circulating on social media that soldiers lacked gas masks or proper equipment, and refuted claims of a cave collapse or the presence of chemical weapons or explosives.

Özgür Özel Takes Over Scholarship Provided by Martyr Özkan Özkan



Haberet

CHP Leader Özgür Özel stated that many questions remain unanswered and suggested negligence regarding the 12 soldiers martyred due to methane gas poisoning in the Claw-Lock Operation zone. He emphasized the need for lessons that should have already been learned and said the matter would be brought to parliament after burials are complete. He also announced that the CHP would take over the scholarship support of a martyr who had helped orphaned students.

Council of State Rules for Reinstatement of Peace Academic Hafize Öztürk Türkmen



Fotoğraf: X hesabı

With this ruling, the Council of State announced that there are still 118 academics whose cases are pending before it. An essential legal decision has been issued regarding academic Hafize Öztürk Türkmen, who was dismissed from her position at Akdeniz University under Emergency Decree Law No. 677 for signing the Peace Petition.

Although Türkmen was reinstated by court order in 2023, the 13th Administrative Chamber of the Ankara Regional Administrative Court overturned this decision. However, the 5th Chamber of the Council of State reversed that ruling, ordering her reinstatement. This marks the first time the Council of State has ruled on a case involving a peace-signing academic, making it a significant precedent.

The Council of State found no concrete evidence that her actions violated constitutional loyalty or neutrality. It also emphasized that no documents or information linked Türkmen to the PKK/KCK. Therefore, it ruled that the State of Emergency Commission's rejection of her application was unlawful.

The decision mandates her reinstatement with complete restoration of financial and professional rights, including back pay with legal interest. The Council also declared the previous rejection by the Ankara court legally flawed.

Additionally, the Council of State noted that 118 academic cases remain under its review, and 263 other peace academics are awaiting decisions from lower courts and appeals.



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ECHR Rules on Demirtaş's Detention for Türkiye to Pay Compensation



YeniArayis

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has ruled that the detention of former HDP Co-Chair Selahattin Demirtaş was politically motivated and ordered Turkey to pay €55,000 in compensation.

According to Bianet, the high court stated that information from cases brought against Demirtaş over the 2014 Kobani protests was reused under "different criminal charges," constituting political manipulation. The ECHR also noted that his detention amounted to a violation of rights due to the Constitutional Court's failure to provide adequate oversight. The ruling stated: "The measures taken by the authorities were poorly justified, and the true aim was to suppress political pluralism and restrict democratic debate."

As per the decision, Türkiye must pay €35,000 in moral damages to Selahattin Demirtaş, along with €20,000 in court expenses. Stating that these political detentions have been considered unjust and unlawful from the very beginning, İHD emphasized that they must be ended immediately: "Mr. Demirtaş and all politicians who are unlawfully imprisoned must be released without delay."

March 19 Platform

19 MART'TAN SONRA TÜRKİYE'Yİ NELER BEKLİYOR

📅 6 Temmuz 2025 Pazar

🕒 10.00-11.30 PST
13.00-14.30 EST
20.00-21.30 TSİ

📍 Zoom - Linki websitemizde







Ruşen Çakır
Gazeteci



OP-ED: Türkiye at a Crossroads: Ruşen Çakır on Democracy, Repression, & Refusing Despair

In a wide-ranging discussion hosted by the March 19 Platform, veteran journalist Ruşen Çakır provided a penetrating analysis of Türkiye's democratic backsliding and the authoritarian strategies being employed to dismantle opposition power. Yet amid the concern, his message was ultimately one of sober determination and civic faith.

Çakır began by noting the "deliberate legal chaos" targeting key opposition figures, such as Ekrem İmamoğlu and Tunç Soyer. "This is not about individual cases," he argued. "It is a campaign to criminalize the entire opposition ecosystem." From delayed court cases to mass detentions in İzmir, Çakır pointed to a calculated attempt to demoralize and fragment dissent.

"Now it's Soyer, before that it was Yavaş, tomorrow maybe it is someone else. If we ask 'who is next?' we've already accepted the logic of repression," he said. "We must reject that frame. That is exactly how authoritarianism wins, not just through force, but through fear and normalization."

But the most resonant part of Çakır's remarks came when he turned the focus from powerholders to the public. "Erdogan's regime still fears elections," he emphasized. "Because they remember Gezi. They know the people haven't forgotten how to resist."

Despite the systemic weakening of institutions and media, Çakır underscored that the key battleground remains psychological and civic. "The real danger is not arrests or dismissals. It is despair. It is believing that nothing we do matters."

In response, he advocated for a strategy of relentless democratic insistence. "We do not need to wait for a savior. We need to act from where we are, with our words, with our platforms, with solidarity." For the diaspora, this means "keeping the light on" by amplifying suppressed voices and refusing to let repression fade from international view.

He called particular attention to the role of digital media, which, despite mounting censorship, remains "the last open square" in Turkish public life. "They're trying to shut it down because it's working," he said. "But every post, every video, every voice adds up."

In closing, Çakır offered a reminder both sobering and defiant: "The story of Türkiye is not finished. Authoritarianism thrives on hopelessness. The most radical thing we can do right now is to hope and to organize."



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