

Breaking News from Türkiye

CHP Congress Lawsuit: Court Appeals to Constitutional Court

A legal dispute over which court should hear the case regarding alleged irregularities at the CHP's 38th Ordinary Congress has been taken to the Constitutional Court.

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İmamoğlu Defends Himself in Court, Decries Judicial Abuse

In a courtroom statement, Ekrem İmamoğlu delivered a critique of what he described as politically motivated prosecutions.

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İmamoğlu Sentenced Again

Ekrem İmamoğlu, the main rival to President Erdoğan, was sentenced to one year and eight months in prison for allegedly insulting and threatening Istanbul's chief prosecutor.

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CHP's Şile Mayor Arrested

Şile Mayor Özgür Kabadayı and four municipal officials have been arrested, while one person was released under judicial control.

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Corruption Investigation Targets Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

Among those detained were the drivers of Medya AŞ. Chair Murat Ongun, İBB Sports Club President Fatih Keleş, and İBB Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu's Chief of Staff Kadriye Kasapoğlu.

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Court's 'revolving-door' justice keeps CHP's Ahmet Özer locked up

A government-appointed trustee still runs Esenyurt, illustrating Ankara's tactic of piling indictments to sideline popular opposition figures.

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21 People Face Prison Sentences over Calls for Boycott

The indictment seeks prison sentences of up to 7 years and 6 months for allegedly attempting to disrupt economic activity across Türkiye.

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Polariser-in-chief offers slogans, opposition demands real peace

After the PKK's ceremonial weapon-burning, Erdoğan boasted of a "terror-free Turkey" yet announced no amnesty, Kurdish-rights reform, or prisoner releases.

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ekremimamoglu.com

Journalist Fatih Altaylı Indicted for 'Threatening Erdoğan'

While Altaylı insists that he was providing historical context, the court applied a rarely used article of the Turkish Penal Code, which carries a minimum five-year prison sentence.

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Bosporus Zoning Scandal Gagged with 'National Security' Fig-Leaf

The ban shields AKP-connected hotel and café owners now facing enforcement by the CHP-run city government.

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Selahattin Demirtaş's Request for Release Rejected

The Ankara 22nd High Criminal Court has rejected the release request submitted by the DEM Party for former HDP Co-Chairs Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ.

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"I Will Teach My 2.5-Year-Old Daughter Justice and Morality"

Mehmet Pehlivan, the imprisoned lawyer of Ekrem İmamoğlu, delivered his defense yesterday in a detention review hearing, standing accused of "membership in a criminal organization."

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Interview with Doruk Donucu, the Boğaziçi graduate who tore up his diploma in protest, is available on the March 19 Platform website.



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New Development in CHP Congress Lawsuit: Court Appeals to Constitutional Court

A legal dispute over which court should hear the case regarding alleged irregularities at the CHP's 38th Ordinary Congress has been taken to the Constitutional Court. The case involves 12 individuals, including Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, accused of procedural violations during the congress.

The Ankara 26th Criminal Court of First Instance declared itself not competent to hear the case and filed for constitutional review, arguing that Article 5, Paragraph 2 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CMK) is unconstitutional. This article allows appeals against court decisions declaring lack of jurisdiction within the judiciary.

The court contends that this provision violates the Constitution and submitted a formal request to the Constitutional Court to assess the matter. The outcome of the Constitutional Court's decision could influence not only the direction of this high-profile case but also set a precedent regarding the interpretation of jurisdictional challenges within Turkey's judicial system.



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Crackdown Deepens: İmamoğlu Sentenced Again

Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, Türkiye's top opposition figure and main rival to President Erdoğan, was sentenced Wednesday to one year and eight months in prison for allegedly insulting and threatening Istanbul's chief prosecutor. Already detained since March over separate corruption charges, İmamoğlu now faces mounting legal barriers—including a previous 2022 conviction for criticizing election officials, which could bar him from running in future elections. He has denied all charges, calling the judiciary a tool of political repression: "This is indeed an insult against our nation," he said. The crackdown on İmamoğlu and other officials from his Republican People's Party (CHP) has alarmed observers and investors. Over 500 people linked to CHP-run municipalities have been detained since October. The government claims judicial independence, but CHP and international analysts view the trials as efforts to neutralize electoral threats. Market instability followed İmamoğlu's arrest, prompting emergency central bank interventions to stabilize the lira.

İmamoğlu Defends Himself, Decries Political Targeting & Judicial Abuse

In a fiery and emotional courtroom statement, Istanbul Metropolitan Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu delivered a scathing critique of what he described as politically motivated prosecutions and judicial harassment. Speaking during his ongoing trial in Silivri, he stated that the legal actions against him are part of a broader pattern of repression targeting opposition figures. İmamoğlu highlighted irregularities in his case, including the revival of an investigation based on a 35-year-old transaction from when he was just 18. He warned that the fabricated charges—like forgery and the threat of a political ban—are designed to derail his political future, notably his potential presidential candidacy. He framed the situation as emblematic of a broader democratic and economic crisis engulfing Turkey, citing runaway inflation, record-high interest rates, and systemic injustice. He condemned the judiciary's role in political persecution and accused the government of misusing state institutions to silence dissent. "Either we will change this grim reality, or we will lose everything," İmamoğlu warned, calling for unity, justice, and an end to authoritarianism. He affirmed his continued commitment to democratic values and vowed to stand firm against intimidation.



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Şile Mayor Özgür Kabadayı arrested



Bianet

In the latest operation targeting CHP-run municipalities, Şile Mayor Özgür Kabadayı and four municipal officials have been arrested, while one person was released under judicial control. Kabadayı and the others are accused of “establishing and participating in a criminal organization,” “bribery,” “misconduct in office,” and “rigging public tenders.” Following a day of proceedings at the prosecutor’s office, Kabadayı and the four others were referred to the court with a request for their arrest. After midnight, the court completed the hearings and ruled for the arrest of Şile Mayor Özgür Kabadayı, Oğuz Kaçmaz, Tuncay Tolga Özçakmak, Evren Burçhan, and Ali Şafak. Aslı Kotan was released under judicial supervision. Kabadayı and the five others were detained on July 10.

With Kabadayı’s arrest, the number of jailed CHP-affiliated mayors has risen to 16.

Court’s ‘revolving-door’ justice keeps CHP’s Ahmet Özer locked up

Istanbul’s 14th High Criminal Court ordered the release of Esenyurt’s elected CHP mayor, Ahmet Özer, after 8.5 months on paper-thin “PKK membership” charges. Moments later, prosecutors activated a second warrant, this one alleging bid-rigging in an unrelated tender, ensuring he stayed in Silivri Prison. A government-appointed trustee still runs Esenyurt, illustrating Ankara’s tactic of piling indictments to sideline popular opposition figures.



Another corruption investigation launched targeting the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (İBB)

Among those detained were the drivers of Medya A.Ş. Chair Murat Ongun, İBB Sports Club President Fatih Keleş, and İBB Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu’s Chief of Staff Kadriye Kasapoğlu—all of whom are already under arrest—as well as an employee of İBB subsidiary Ağaç A.Ş. and several businesspeople. They were referred to the Istanbul Courthouse in Çağlayan yesterday.

Following their interrogation by the prosecutor, 8 individuals were referred to the Criminal Court of Peace for arrest, while 2 others were referred with a request for judicial control. After court proceedings concluded, the following were arrested: Hüseyin Yurddaş, Sabri Caner Kırca, Kadir Öztürk, Mustafa Bostancı, Fatih Yağcı, Murat Or, Ümit Polat, and Bulut Aydöner.

What happened earlier?

The investigation and detention operations targeting opposition-run CHP municipalities began with the arrest of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu on March 19. The probe later expanded to include the cities of Antalya, Büyükçekmece, Adıyaman, and Adana.

On the morning of July 5, four mayors were detained in coordinated operations. Among them were Antalya Mayor Muhittin Böcek, Adana Mayor Zeydan Karalar, and Adıyaman Mayor Abdurrahman Tutdere, all of whom were taken into custody as part of the investigation led by the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor.

By July 9, Böcek and Karalar were formally arrested, while Tutdere was placed under house arrest and judicial control measures.



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21 Charged Over Boycott Calls in Türkiye Amid Crackdown on Dissent



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The Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor has filed charges against 21 individuals, including actor Cem Yiğit Üzümoğlu and several social media influencers, for encouraging a nationwide boycott following the arrest of opposition figures, including Istanbul's former mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu. The indictment seeks prison sentences of up to 7 years and 6 months, alleging the group aimed to disrupt economic activity and incited hatred and discrimination.

The boycott calls, endorsed by CHP leader Özgür Özel, targeted companies and media outlets seen as close to the ruling party. Prosecutors claim the defendants acted with a political motive to harm the economy. Üzümoğlu, briefly detained in April, was later placed under judicial supervision and given a travel ban, which barred him from performing abroad. He criticized the restriction, stating, "If an artist is prevented from practicing their art, how can they be called an artist?" The case has raised concerns about freedom of expression in Turkey.

Özgür Özel: "Turks and Kurds Need Each Other"



T24

In a live interview with Habertürk, CHP Chair Özgür Özel strongly criticized President Erdoğan and the ongoing investigations into CHP-run municipalities, calling them politically motivated. Özel accused Erdoğan of orchestrating a "March 19 coup" against Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu and losing democratic legitimacy. He claimed Erdoğan has become increasingly authoritarian, having lost judgment and the capacity to govern democratically.

Reflecting on the 2016 coup attempt, Özel emphasized that the real fight against FETÖ must target its political connections, accusing the government of selective accountability. He also called for a peaceful, democratic resolution to Turkey's Kurdish issue, asserting that "Turks and Kurds need each other."

Addressing a bribery scandal involving Manavgat Municipality, Özel alleged it was a political setup, revealing that a suspect was planted to embarrass the CHP. He concluded that the government is manipulating institutions to suppress opposition, stressing that CHP, now Turkey's leading party, must be engaged as a serious political stakeholder.

Journalist Fatih Altaylı Indicted for 'Threatening Erdoğan'

Turkish journalist Fatih Altaylı—an independent media figure with over 1.5 million YouTube followers—was arrested and indicted by an Istanbul court for allegedly threatening President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in a video. Prosecutors cited comments he made referencing Ottoman sultans who were "drowned, killed, or assassinated" when discussing a poll that reportedly showed 70 percent of Turkish people oppose Erdoğan's ruling for life. While Altaylı insists that he was providing historical context, the court applied a rarely used article of the Turkish Penal Code, which carries a minimum five-year prison sentence. His arrest follows a broader pattern of government pressure on journalists and opposition voices, including the earlier detention of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu. The opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) decries these moves as politically motivated efforts to stifle dissent, although the government maintains the judiciary operates independently.



Turkish Minute



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Bosphorus zoning scandal gagged with 'national security' fig-leaf



Turkish Minute

An Istanbul court blocked access to reports on demolition orders against illegally expanded Bosphorus properties, citing "national security." The ban shields AKP-connected hotel and café owners now facing enforcement by the CHP-run city government. Journalists say the ruling follows Erdoğan's playbook: hide corruption, then quietly reverse penalties. It also undermines the opposition's transparency push by securitising a routine zoning dispute.

Selahattin Demirtaş's Request for Release Rejected



Sözcü

A Turkish court has rejected the DEM Party's request to release former HDP co-chairs Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ, despite the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) issuing its third ruling on July 8 recognizing violations of their rights. The court argued that the ECHR ruling's implementation is still ongoing and that Demirtaş is considered a "convicted detainee," not subject to limits on pre-trial detention. The DEM Party condemned the decision as a breach of international law and Turkey's Constitution, calling for their release as a legal and democratic necessity. Demirtaş, jailed since November 2016, has received previous ECHR and Turkish Constitutional Court rulings in his favor, yet remains imprisoned.

Lawyer of Detained Istanbul Mayor İmamoğlu Defends Himself: "I Will Teach My 2.5-Year-Old Daughter Justice and Morality"



Cumhuriyet

Mehmet Pehlivan, the imprisoned lawyer of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, delivered his defense yesterday in a detention review hearing, where he stands accused of "membership in a criminal organization." Pehlivan strongly rejected the charges, asserting that the accusations were based solely on the statements of two cooperating witnesses under "effective remorse" provisions and lacked corroborating evidence. He criticized the use of these statements as grounds for detention, saying, "When did testimony alone become sufficient reason for imprisonment?" Pehlivan denounced the investigation as politically motivated, stating that his only affiliation is with the Istanbul Bar Association. He vowed to uphold his professional and personal values: "I am 30 years old and will live the rest of my life by the principles of justice and morality taught by my parents. I will teach these values to my 2.5-year-old daughter." The court ruled to continue his detention.



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