

# Breaking News from Türkiye

## Beyoğlu Mayor Arrested on Baseless Charges

Istanbul's Beyoğlu District Mayor İnan Güney and 16 others were arrested on corruption charges, which opposition figures argue are baseless and politically motivated against CHP municipalities.

## CHP Leader Sued by Defecting Aydın Mayor

After joining Erdoğan's AKP, Aydın Metropolitan Mayor Özlem Çerçioğlu filed a criminal complaint against CHP leader Özgür Özel, claiming his remarks were unfounded defamation.

Özel had accused her of lacking courage and betraying imprisoned CHP colleagues, arguing she failed to show the same solidarity that other mayors have demonstrated under political pressure.

## Hatay Says No to Forced Expropriation

In Hatay's Samandağ district, one of the regions devastated by the 2023 earthquakes, villagers are resisting expropriation orders after TOKİ crews and police entered their private lands **without consent**, cutting down fruit trees vital to their livelihoods.

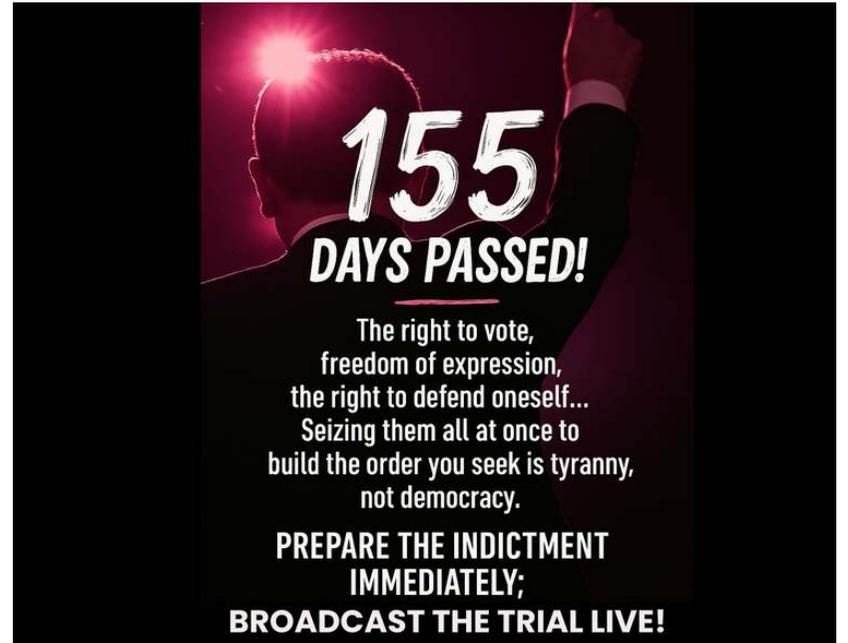
## Police Crackdown on Urban Transformation Resistance in Istanbul

In Istanbul's Ümraniye district, residents of the **Topağacı neighborhood** resisted forced evictions under an urban transformation project **after their utilities were cut off**, facing a **violent police crackdown** that left several detained.

Despite arrests, intimidation, and unsafe utility cuts that even caused a house fire, locals vowed to continue their struggle, denouncing **inadequate rent support and pressured consent agreements**.

## Scandal Over Foreign Minister's Fake Degrees'

Türkiye is facing a political crisis as Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan's **academic credentials come under scrutiny**, with opposition figures alleging **fake degrees and questioning the legitimacy of his education**. While the government dismisses the claims as a FETÖ-led smear campaign, **critics link the scandal to wider concerns over meritocracy and a broader fake diploma controversy involving dozens of state officials**.



Instagram: @ekremimamoglu

## Diyanet Sermon Undermines Girls' Inheritance Rights

On August 15, Türkiye's Religious Affairs Directorate (Diyanet) declared in a nationwide sermon that **daughters should not receive equal inheritance rights**—insisting that equal shares would violate "religiously ordained" rules.

**Women's rights groups condemned** the move, warning it effectively halves women's inheritance and entrenches legal discrimination.

## March 19 Platform: Protests for Democracy in Türkiye

On Saturday, August 16, the March 19 Platform organized a **protest in Boston** against **Ekrem İmamoğlu's arrest and the rising wave of anti-democratic attacks in Türkiye**. The protests continue this weekend in NYC and LA.

- August 24, 1:00 PM in Los Angeles (8400 Gregory Way)
- August 24, 3:00 PM in New York City (Union Square Park)

## Panel Announcement: Sep 14, 1 PM EST

**March 19 Platform** invites you to a special panel with journalist **İsmail Saymaz** on **Sunday, September 14**.

At a time when Türkiye's democracy is under attack, we will discuss political trials, government pressure on municipalities, the future of opposition, and how civil society at home and abroad can resist authoritarianism. Join us for an open debate with audience participation, streamed live on our [YouTube channel](#).



## MARCH 19 PLATFORM

UNITED FOR DEMOCRACY IN TÜRKİYE

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