

# Breaking News from Türkiye

## European Mayors Honor İmamoğlu with Democracy Award

European mayors from major cities awarded jailed Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu a "Special Democracy Award" in recognition of his struggle for democracy in Türkiye. His wife accepted the award on his behalf, as İmamoğlu declared that it symbolizes the will of citizens resisting authoritarianism.

## 2024 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Türkiye

The U.S. State Department's 2024 **report** highlights serious abuses in Türkiye, including arbitrary detention, torture, and press censorship. Analysts say the findings read like an indictment of the government's erosion of democratic norms.

## Opposition Says Erdoğan Took Board Fees as Istanbul Mayor

Opposition figures claim Erdoğan collected monthly board fees from seven city-linked companies during his time as Istanbul Mayor in 1995, citing an official municipal letter. The payments equaled about 24 times the minimum wage of that period.

## Ex-Arms Industry Chief Arrested in Organized-Crime Probe

A former chairman of Türkiye's state-owned arms manufacturer MKE, İsmet Sayhan, has been arrested amid a widening organized-crime investigation tied to a nationalist figure close to the MHP, Erdoğan's nationalist ally, with prosecutors accusing him of mishandling or fraudulently obtaining state-security documents.

## TIFF 2025: Students Shine Light on Istanbul and Murat Çalık

"How I Remember Istanbul," a short film by Toronto Film School students, will be screened at TIFF's Art Market Pop-Up Cinema (Sept 4-7). Dedicated to imprisoned urban planner Murat Çalık, the film uses raw VHS footage to capture the resilience of Istanbul while raising awareness of his struggle for health and the right to life.

## Germany Awards Goethe Medal to Jailed Osman Kavala

Jailed businessman and rights advocate Osman Kavala received Germany's 2025 Goethe Medal for promoting cultural dialogue. His wife, Ayşe Buğra, accepted the award in Weimar, seen as a tribute to civil society in Türkiye.



Bianet.org

## Yet Another Investigation Into Opposition Leader

Authorities have opened another investigation into CHP leader Özgür Özel, accusing him of "insulting and threatening a public official," echoing charges from just two months ago. It is the latest in a series of legal actions against opposition figures in Türkiye.

## Majority of Households Classified in Lower Socioeconomic Tiers in Türkiye

New data from TurkStat reveal that 51.8% of households fall into the lower three socioeconomic categories ("C2," "D," and "E"), despite education accounting for half of the index score, underscoring persistent economic inequality in Türkiye.

## Human Rights Violations Against Journalists in July

- 33 — Journalists in prison as of August 4, 2025
  - 8 — Journalists arrested
  - 5 — Journalists jailed
- 84 — Journalists who stood trial in July
- 7 — Journalists sentenced (total 8y 4m 25d prison)
  - 64 — Social-media accounts blocked
  - 45 — Websites blocked (closed)
  - 10 — News articles with access blocked
  - 2 — Channels with screen blackout, 10 days

## **Panel Announcement: Sep 14, 1 PM EST**

**March 19 Platform** invites you to a live [YouTube](#) panel discussion with journalist **İsmail Saymaz** on **Sunday, September 14**.

Join us as journalist **İsmail Saymaz** examines the escalating judicial crisis since March 19, the challenges facing the opposition, and the impact of regional tensions on the future of Türkiye's democracy.



I want to see my candidate free and the ballot box in front of me!

**SIGN HERE:**  
**BENİMİZAM.NET**



**MARCH 19 PLATFORM**

UNITED FOR DEMOCRACY IN TÜRKİYE

**Instagram:** @direnamerika

**X:** @direnamerika

**Bluesky:** @direnamerika.bsky.social

**Website:** march19platform.com

**Youtube:** @March19Platform

Want to help? Spread the word on social media, be our voice.