

# Breaking News from Türkiye

## Attacks on Türkiye's Main Opposition Continue

- **CHP Congress Trial Postponed:** An Ankara court has postponed a case accusing Türkiye's main opposition party (CHP) of vote-buying during its November 2023 congress — a trial that could overturn the election of its current leader, Özgür Özel, and restore former leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu — until October 24.
- **CHP's Bayrampaşa Mayor Arrested:** Hasan Mutlu, mayor of İstanbul's Bayrampaşa district from the CHP, was arrested in a corruption investigation and immediately suspended from his post. He argues his detention is purely political—punishment for refusing to join the ruling AKP and resisting threats, without any legal or evidentiary basis.
- **Warnings of a 'New Parallel Structure':** An advisor to Devlet Bahçeli, leader of the far-right Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) and President Erdoğan's governing partner, warned of a "new parallel structure" within the state, likening it to FETÖ's infiltration before the 2016 coup attempt. Former AKP official Metin Külünk backed the warning, calling the threat imminent and urging a purge to protect state institutions.
- **Şişli Mayor Kept in Jail Amid Contractor Complaints:** Şişli Mayor Resul Emrah Şahan, an urban planner, was detained on March 24, 2025, under the *kent uzlaşısı* (urban reconciliation) probe; later, as release loomed, authorities also moved to detain him on a corruption case. In that second case, prominent contractors who clashed with his stance on mega-projects served as complainants, a move portrayed as aimed at keeping him in jail.

## Targeting Artists: Songs and Scripts on Trial

- **Screenwriter Detained Over Past Remarks:** Turkish screenwriter Merve Gönem, known for the hit TV drama *Kızılıcak Şerbeti* about clashes between conservative and secular families, was detained in İstanbul over a 4-year-old interview; after a smear campaign and threats, she was released under judicial supervision with a travel ban.
- **Singer Targeted Over 'Obscene' Song:** Turkish singer Mabel Matiz faces a criminal probe after the Interior Ministry labeled his song "Perperişan" "obscene" and sought its removal from streaming platforms. Matiz rejects the accusations, saying the lyrics are metaphorical, rooted in folk tradition, and deliberately distorted.



Adapted from BirGün

## Our Past Panel with Journalist İsmail Saymaz

In the March 19 Platform's *Democracy Watch* panel, journalist **İsmail Saymaz** highlighted the politicization of the judiciary, government pressure on the CHP, and the imprisonment of Ekrem Imamoglu. He warned that future elections in Türkiye risk resembling those in Venezuela or Russia, lacking fairness. Panelists also addressed diaspora protests, the stalled peace process, and media takeovers, stressing that sustaining democratic struggle is vital for Türkiye's future.

## Our Next Panel with Ahmet Şık

Join our next *Democracy Watch* panel on **September 28, 2025**, featuring Ahmet Şık—one of Türkiye's most courageous investigative journalists and a Member of Parliament with the Workers' Party of Türkiye (TİP). **The discussion will be livestreamed on our [YouTube channel](#) at 1:00 PM EST.**

## Protests on the Streets: September 21, Sunday

- **Boston: 2 PM**, Park St. T Station, Tremont St & Park St
- **New York: 3 PM**, Union Square
- **Washington: 1 PM**, 2525 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
- **Miami: 4 PM**, Hollywood Boardwalk
- Photo exhibit in collaboration with our LA group, @GünBugündür.LA
- The exhibition documents worldwide protests sparked by the arrest of İstanbul Mayor Ekrem imamoğlu in March 2025.



**MARCH 19 PLATFORM**

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