

# Breaking News from Türkiye

## Özgür Özel leads 200th “Black Night” rally in İstanbul

CHP leader Özgür Özel addressed crowds in Şişli at the 200th rally marking the March 19 detentions, condemning politically motivated judicial actions against CHP mayors and vowing to continue the fight against authoritarianism and economic hardship in Türkiye.



Bianet.org

## Former CHP Mayor Detained in Politically Charged Bribery Probe

Former Nilüfer Mayor Turgay Erdem and 20 others were detained in a Bursa-based bribery and money laundering investigation, with raids across three provinces. The case deepens the climate of political pressure on the opposition CHP, whose mayors and affiliates have faced a wave of politically charged arrests in Türkiye.

## Ex-AKP Lawmaker Arrested After Accusing AKP of patronage

Former AKP lawmaker Hüseyin Kocabıyık was arrested after accusing President Erdoğan and the ruling party of corruption and favoritism, following an interview comparing Ekrem İmamoğlu’s jailing to Erdoğan’s own in 1998.

## Families Mark 10 Years Since Ankara Bombing

Families and civil groups gathered outside Ankara’s train station to commemorate the 104 victims of Türkiye’s deadliest terrorist attack, the 2015 ISIS bombing at a peace rally. Protesters demanded justice, criticizing authorities for failing to hold officials accountable despite prior intelligence warnings and ongoing trials.

## Textile Worker Sentenced for Throwing Phone at Erdoğan

Textile worker N.K. was sentenced to four years and two months for “assaulting the President” after throwing his phone and displaying protest banners at an İstanbul event. He was released under judicial supervision after 171 days in detention, stating that he only wanted to make his voice heard about the economic hardships in Türkiye.



**MARCH 19 PLATFORM**

UNITED FOR DEMOCRACY IN TÜRKİYE

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## Celebrities Taken for Questioning in Drug Probe Without Detention Orders

Istanbul prosecutors launched a narcotics investigation involving several celebrities who were escorted from their homes for questioning and blood tests without formal detention orders. Lawyers criticized the operation as a violation of due process and human rights safeguards under Turkish and European law.



Turkish Minute

## Crackdown on Press and Media: Courts Tighten Grip in Türkiye

- Imprisoned journalist Fatih Altaylı has announced a pause in his YouTube program, Empty Chair, due to health issues and fatigue following a court extension of his detention, which has ended months of symbolic broadcasts he continued from prison in Türkiye.
- Members of the music group Manifest face charges of "obscene acts" and up to one year in prison over dance performances at their İstanbul concert, amid growing scrutiny and censorship of artists in Türkiye.
- In September, Turkish authorities brought 56 journalists to court and expanded media restrictions, reflecting intensified pressure on press freedom and dissenting voices in Türkiye.

## Our Next Panel with Barış Terkoğlu

Join our next **Democracy Watch** panel on **October 26, 2025**, featuring **Barış Terkoğlu**, investigative journalist and columnist for *Cumhuriyet* newspaper.

The discussion will explore judicial independence, press freedom, and democratization in Türkiye, and will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel at 1:00 PM EST.

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