

# Breaking News from Türkiye

## Lawyers Kept Out, Judge Leaves in İmamoğlu Hearing

In İmamoğlu's "fake diploma" trial, lawyers and journalists were barred, the judge walked out after a dispute, and even a request for a larger hall was denied—showing how courts are weaponized against the opposition.



birgun.net

## İmamoğlu and Journalist Yanardağ Tied to Espionage Probe as Government Seizes Tele1 TV

Turkish authorities opened an espionage probe into Istanbul's suspended mayor, Ekrem İmamoğlu, his team, and journalist Merdan Yanardağ over alleged data-sharing with foreign actors. Hours after Yanardağ's arrest, the government seized his pro-opposition network Tele1, appointing a loyalist and taking it off air—a sharp blow to press freedom.

## Court Rejects Challenge to CHP Leadership

The lawsuit to annul CHP's 2023 congress was dismissed, upholding Özgür Özel's leadership. Seen as part of the government's effort to reshape the opposition, after even appointing a government-imposed administrator to the party's Istanbul branch, the move has now collapsed.

## AKP-era Corruption Files Closed without Statements

Prosecutors closed corruption files from the AKP era without questioning suspects while flooding CHP-run municipalities with new cases—a clear double standard shielding power and punishing the opposition.

## Seven CHP Mayors Named in 200-Person Indictment

Prosecutors listed 200 people in a 578-page indictment, jailing dozens based on one "remorse" witness—another case seen as punishing the opposition after its 2024 wins. CHP calls it political, and the sweeping raids and charges reinforce that view.



**MARCH 19 PLATFORM**

UNITED FOR DEMOCRACY IN TÜRKİYE

Instagram: @march19platform  
X: @March19Platform  
Bluesky: @march19platform.bsky.social  
Website: march19platform.com  
Youtube: @March19Platform



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

# Breaking News from Türkiye

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

- **Journalist jailed over reports on AKP-backed mayor:** Police detained Emin Aydın, editor of Aydın Denge, for news and posts critical of Mayor Özlem Çerçioğlu, who joined the AKP, and a court sent him to prison, sending another message to journalists to keep quiet.
- **Journalist sentenced for publishing expert findings:** Journalist Asuman Aranca was given a 10-month prison term (deferred) for publishing parts of an expert report, which was deemed a breach of secrecy, equating watchdog reporting with a crime, and warning other journalists to remain silent.
- **Court punishes journalists for reporting on Istanbul prosecutor:** A court fined three BirGün journalists for reporting public information about the city's chief prosecutor, criminalizing journalism and undermining press freedom.

## March 19 Platform DC Gathering and 7th-Month Protest

Our volunteers from Boston, Miami, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pittsburgh, and DC met at the Turkish Festival in Washington DC, marking İmamoğlu's 210th day behind bars. They interviewed attendees, boosted the CHP's signature drive, and handed out summaries of what has happened since March 19.



## 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.



**MARCH 19 PLATFORM**

UNITED FOR DEMOCRACY IN TÜRKİYE

Instagram: @march19platform  
X: @March19Platform  
Bluesky: @march19platform.bsky.social  
Website: march19platform.com  
Youtube: @March19Platform



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