

Breaking News from Türkiye

World Children's Day in Türkiye!

Criminalized Childhood: A new report from the İstanbul Bar Association's Child Rights Center shows over **29,000 lawyer** appointments in child sexual abuse cases and **246,000 children** dragged into the justice system in the past five years, turning minors into case files instead of rights-holders.

State-Made Child Workers: Through the MESEM scheme, the Ministry of Education boasts over **a million "apprentices"** working four days a week in workplaces for a fraction of the minimum wage, transforming poor children into state-subsidised cheap labour for capital.

School Year of the Dead: The Occupational Health and Safety Assembly reports that at least **72 child workers** were killed between September 2024 and August 2025, exposing how "vocational training" has become a cover for a lethal child labour regime.

Two Erens, One Deadly and Unchanging Systemic Reality

The workplace electrocution deaths of teenage apprentices Eren Eroğlu in 2013 and MESEM student Eren Dağ in 2024 show that Türkiye's labour regime has stayed fundamentally the same for a decade, continuing to sacrifice working-class children to poverty, deregulation, and employer impunity.

Stop Hiding the Truth: Women Are Being Killed

Women's rights groups rejected the minister's claim of declining femicides, noting that hundreds of suspicious deaths go uncounted and that independent data show even higher numbers. They say the government continues to mask the real scale of male violence after withdrawing from the İstanbul Convention.

İmamoğlu's Campaign Account Blocked Four Times; 'İstanbul Indictment' Page Also Banned

Türkiye has again blocked İmamoğlu's campaign account, now for the fourth time, along with the "İstanbul Indictment" site and X account on "national security" grounds. Critics say the bans under Law 5651 aim to silence key opposition voices ahead of 2028.



MARCH 19 PLATFORM

UNITED FOR DEMOCRACY IN TÜRKİYE

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Activists Probed for ‘Insulting the State’ Over Protest Slogans

Women and LGBTI+ activists face Article 301 probes for chanting “Get your hands off my body, state,” in protests against a judicial package seen as targeting LGBTI+ rights. Lawyers say the investigation is an act of intimidation meant to silence dissent.

Press Groups Urge Türkiye to End Media Repression

Eight international press freedom groups urged Türkiye to scrap restrictive laws, release jailed journalists, and end political prosecutions, warning that censorship and state pressure have driven the country’s press freedom ranking to one of the world’s lowest.

Türkiye Among World’s Worst Decliners in Internet Freedom

Freedom House ranked Türkiye near the bottom of 72 countries, citing one of the steepest long-term declines in internet freedom. The report highlights years of censorship, surveillance, and politically motivated shutdowns that have intensified under the current government.

Good (?) News

- Doğan Pehlevan, a cartoonist for Leman, a well-known Turkish satirical magazine, was jailed for “insulting the president” and has now been released under supervision — a case that press groups say reflects the ongoing crackdown on satire and critical media in Türkiye.
- Political scientist Emrah Gülsunar was freed after 36 days in jail over an X poll prosecutors said “incited crime,” a case his lawyers say criminalizes academic debate and further erodes free expression.

Our Next Panel with Müge İplikçi

Join our next Democracy Watch panel on **November 23, 2025**, featuring **Müge İplikçi**, writer, journalist, and academic, for a discussion marking the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women** and exploring how we can inform the public and foster dialogue to end gender-based violence in Türkiye. The discussion will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel at 1:00 PM EST.

March 19 Platform

TÜRKİYE'DE KADINA YÖNELİK ŞİDDETLE MÜCADELE

23 Kasım 2025 Pazar

10.00-11.00 PST
13.00-14.00 EST
21.00-22.00 TSİ

Youtube Canlı Yayını
Kanal: March 19 Platform

MÜGE İPLİKÇİ
Yazar



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