

Breaking News from Türkiye

Türkiye's Deadliest Month for Workers Since 2011

Türkiye recorded 216 work-related deaths in November—the highest monthly toll since 2011—including 13 child workers. Nearly 35,000 workers have died in workplace accidents since the Justice and Development Party (AKP) came to power in November 2002.

Not Education — Child Slavery

Nearly 1.47 million children are outside formal education, including hundreds of thousands pushed into workplaces through MESEM instead of school. Rising child labor, declining preschool enrollment, and low high-school attendance among girls show a system failing to protect children.

Child Workers Die, Those Who Speak Out Are Arrested

Sixteen students, members of the Workers Party of Türkiye, were arrested in Istanbul for protesting deadly child labor under the MESEM program, even though at least 85 children have died and over 300 have been injured in workplace accidents this year. While the system that sends minors to dangerous jobs remains untouched, those demanding accountability are criminalized.

Children End Up in Graves or in Gangs

Crime networks used 74 minors in murders, shootings, and robberies, revealing how vulnerable children are pulled into gangs amid poverty and neglect. Instead of tackling the conditions pushing kids into crime, the state imposes long sentences while ignoring the root causes.

Türkiye's Youth See No Future at Home

Soaring living costs, scarce dorms, and limited job prospects are pushing students to consider emigration as daily survival replaces future planning. With brain drain accelerating—especially among young graduates and top-performing students—many believe they can only build a stable life abroad.

Children Abused — Government Neglected

War orphans evacuated to Türkiye were allegedly exposed to severe neglect and sexual abuse due to failures in government oversight. Despite two reported rapes resulting in pregnancies, investigations were closed, and lawmakers are now demanding answers.



MARCH 19 PLATFORM

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Pressure on the Opposition Continues

- **AKP and MHP** voted down an opposition proposal to have state broadcaster TRT air the trial of jailed İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu live—sparking backlash, as critics argue the government is trying to keep a case widely viewed as an attack on democratic representation out of public view.
- **Eleven İstanbul Municipality employees** who had just been ordered released in the İmamoğlu case were re-arrested within hours despite no charges against them, underscoring what critics call a blatantly political process detached from law and justice.

Journalism on Trial

- **Journalist Furkan Karabay** was sentenced to 4 years and 3 months but released after 201 days in detention, in a trial his lawyers say punished him simply for doing journalism.
- **Journalist Fatih Altaylı**, sentenced to over four years in prison for remarks about Erdoğan, has resumed the “empty chair” YouTube broadcasts he had paused due to health issues.
- **Journalist Tuğçe Yılmaz** went on trial under Article 301 for an interview with Armenian youth, a case her defense says is baseless, politically driven, and an apparent attempt to criminalize journalism and free expression.

Doctors Are Leaving, Healthcare Is Collapsing

Türkiye faces a deepening healthcare crisis as over **21,000 specialist doctors** have resigned from public hospitals since 2012, driven by brutal workloads, low pay, and rising violence, leaving patients with long waits, shrinking access to care, and entire regions without critical medical specialists.



March 19 Platform
GELECEK PANELİMİZ
MURAT BAKAN'IN KATILIMIYLA
7 Aralık 2025 Pazar
09.00-10.00 PST
12.00-13.00 EST
20.00-21.00 TST
Youtube Canlı Yayını
Kanal: March 19 Platform
Murat Bakan
CHP İzmir Milletvekili, MYK Üyesi,
İçişlerinden Sorumlu Genel Başkan Yardımcısı

Follow Our Democracy Watch Panel Series on YouTube

Join our next Democracy Watch panel on December 7, 2025, with **Murat Bakan**, a member of the Grand National Assembly and the deputy chairman of the Republican People's Party, for a discussion on the rule of law, institutional independence, trustee (kayyum) policies, the separation of powers, and the roadmap for responding to increasing political pressure. The discussion will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel at 12:00 PM EST.



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