

**ISSUE 40**



# LAST WEEK IN TÜRKİYE

**BY**

**MARCH 19 PLATFORM**

**JANUARY 30, 2026**



JANUARY 30, 2026

# DIPLOMA COUP

*EP WARNS: TURKEY'S COURTS AS POLITICAL WEAPONS*



The European Parliament's rapporteur Nacho Sánchez Amor calls the annulment of Ekrem İmamoğlu's diploma "purely political," exposing how Turkey's judiciary is openly used to eliminate democratic opposition.



JANUARY 30, 2026

# THE PRICE OF POLITICAL OBEDIENCE

*DIPLOMA CASE PUTS İSTANBUL UNIVERSITY  
UNDER GLOBAL SCRUTINY*



After annulling Ekrem İmamoğlu's diploma in a politically charged move, İstanbul University now faces investigation by the AACSB, risking international accreditation and exposing how anti-democratic interference in Türkiye carries global consequences.



JANUARY 30, 2026

# NO TO POLITICAL PROSECUTION

*SWEDEN REJECTS TÜRKIYE'S ATTEMPT TO CRIMINALIZE  
JOURNALISM*



Sweden refused Türkiye's request to interrogate journalist Joakim Medin, stating it will not assist proceedings that threaten freedom of expression and expose how terrorism charges are used to silence independent journalism.



JANUARY 30, 2026

# TRIALS AS THREATS

*OPPOSITION ON TRIAL, POWER UNTOUCHED*



TURKISHMINUTE.COM

As dozens of CHP mayors and officials face mass prosecution, opposition leader Özgür Özel calls the Silivri trial another example of how the judiciary in Türkiye is weaponized to intimidate elected local governments and suppress political dissent.



JANUARY 30, 2026

# YOUR NUMBERS LOOK JUST LIKE YOU

*THEY ARE FULL OF LIES*



TURKISHMINUTE.COM

While official figures claim falling unemployment in Türkiye, mass joblessness, shrinking labor participation, and widespread distrust of TurkStat reveal how statistics are used to mask economic collapse rather than explain it.



JANUARY 30, 2026

# STOLEN CHILDHOODS

*POVERTY RAISES CRIMINALS, NOT CHILDREN*



GETTY IMAGES

As poverty deepens in Türkiye, children are pushed into crime by gangs that offer money and belonging, exposing a state that punishes minors instead of protecting their futures.



JANUARY 30, 2026

# THE SHIP THAT DOESN'T EXIST

*DENIAL ON STAGE, RECORDS ON FILE*



As Bilal Erdoğan publicly denies involvement in maritime trade, corporate records reveal his board membership in a family-owned shipping firm, highlighting how power, profit, and denial intertwine at the top of Türkiye's political order.



JANUARY 30, 2026

# SURVIVING THE SILENCE

*MEDIA & JOURNALISM UNDER PRESSURE IN TÜRKIYE*



Independent journalism in Türkiye has shifted from building sustainable models to simply surviving amid political pressure, economic precarity, censorship uncertainty, and algorithmic dependence.

The repeated detention and prosecution of journalist Sedef Kabaş shows how these pressures are enforced, using legal intimidation and speech charges to silence critical voices.



# OUR NEXT PANEL WITH YILMAZ POLAT

*LIVESTREAMED ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL  
AT 12:00 PM EST. ON JANUARY 25, 2026*



March 19 Platform

YILMAZ POLAT'IN KATILIMIYLA

08 Subat 2026 Pazar

09.00-10.00 PST  
12.00-13.00 EST  
20.00-21.00 TSI

Youtube Canlı Yayını

[www.youtube.com/@March19Platform](http://www.youtube.com/@March19Platform)

YILMAZ POLAT  
Gazeteci

Yılmaz Polat is a veteran investigative journalist and writer with over 55 years of experience, specializing in Türkiye–U.S. relations and international lobbying. He began his career at TRT in 1970 and later represented the Turkish press in Washington for many years. An award-winning author, Polat has written influential books on lobbying and foreign policy and was honored with the Journalists' Association Professional Honor Award in 2025 for his contributions to press freedom and ethical journalism.

# RESOURCES

- <https://turkishminute.com/2026/01/26/eu-rapporteur-slams-ruling-in-imamoglu-diploma-case-as-court-rejects-appeal/>
- [https://www.instagram.com/p/DUKbW\\_XDFxF/?igsh=ZTFxazVndmd3d3g1](https://www.instagram.com/p/DUKbW_XDFxF/?igsh=ZTFxazVndmd3d3g1)
- <https://turkishminute.com/2026/01/30/sweden-rejects-turkeys-request-to-question-journalist-facing-terror-charges/>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2RBsO\\_BWGc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2RBsO_BWGc)
- <https://turkishminute.com/2026/01/28/chp-leader-vows-to-hold-erdogans-govt-to-account-as-mayors-go-on-trial-over-tenders/>
- <https://turkishminute.com/2026/01/29/turkey-sees-broadly-defined-unemployment-at-28-6-percent-in-december-turkstat/>
- <https://turkishminute.com/2026/01/27/poverty-gangs-push-more-children-into-crime-in-turkey/>
- <https://www.bbc.com/turkce/articles/c5y3p75y51do>
- <https://turkishminute.com/2026/01/29/erdogans-son-denies-involvement-in-shipping-as-company-records-list-him-as-board-member/>
- <https://bianet.org/haber/report-highlights-survival-struggle-of-independent-media-in-turkey-amid-pressure-uncertainty-316099>
- [https://bianet.org/haber/tv-anchor-sedef-kabas-detained-overnight-over-social-media-posts-316088#google\\_vignette](https://bianet.org/haber/tv-anchor-sedef-kabas-detained-overnight-over-social-media-posts-316088#google_vignette)