

ISSUE 43



LAST WEEK IN TÜRKİYE

BY

MARCH 19 PLATFORM



FEBRUARY 21, 2026



FEBRUARY 21, 2026

PRESS FREEDOM UNDER ATTACK AGAIN

*JOURNALIST ALICAN ULUDAĞ ARRESTED FOR
“INSULTING THE PRESIDENT”*



Judicial reporter Alican Uludağ was arrested after covering a high-profile Court of Cassation ruling related to the 2016 İstanbul Atatürk Airport bombing, facing charges of “insulting the president” and “disinformation.” Rights groups warn that his detention reflects the deepening criminalization of independent journalism in Türkiye.



FEBRUARY 21, 2026

PUBLIC REJECTS PRIVATIZATION OF BRIDGES

*MAJORITY SAY PUBLIC ASSETS SERVE PRIVATE
PROFIT, NOT SOCIETY*



A majority in Türkiye oppose the privatization of public assets and believe previous sales benefited private interests rather than the public. As new bridge and highway transfers are planned, critics warn that billions in public revenue could shift from citizens to corporations.



FEBRUARY 21, 2026

UNPREPARED FOR THE NEXT EARTHQUAKE

*WIDESPREAD FEAR, BUT WEAK PREPAREDNESS
EXPOSES SYSTEMIC NEGLECT*



Despite widespread anxiety about earthquakes in Türkiye, most households remain unprepared, lacking emergency kits, insurance, and reliable safety information. The findings reveal a deep gap between awareness and action, underscoring ongoing structural failures and insufficient public preparedness for future disasters.



FEBRUARY 21, 2026

RAMADAN INFLATION DEEPENS ECONOMIC STRAIN

*RISING FOOD PRICES EXPOSE STRUCTURAL CRISIS AND
GROWING COST OF LIVING*



Ahead of Ramadan, rising food prices are worsening the cost-of-living crisis in Türkiye, reflecting deeper structural problems beyond seasonal demand. Analysts warn that without systemic change, households will continue to carry the burden of persistent inflation.



FEBRUARY 21, 2026

MIGROS WORKERS WIN AFTER STRIKE

*MIGROS WAREHOUSE WORKERS SECURE JOBS, RAISES,
AND UNION RIGHTS THROUGH COLLECTIVE STRUGGLE*



After a 23-day strike, Migros warehouse workers in Türkiye won permanent employment, wage increases, and expanded union rights, marking a significant labor victory. The outcome highlights the power of organized resistance amid worsening working and living conditions.



FEBRUARY 21, 2026

TEEN REMAINS JAILED OVER SOCIAL MEDIA POST

*COURT UPHOLDS DETENTION OF 16-YEAR-OLD CHARGED
WITH “TERROR PROPAGANDA”*



A court in İzmir refused to release a 16-year-old girl arrested over social media posts supporting hair-braiding protests, keeping her in pretrial detention on terrorism-related charges. The case has raised concerns about the criminalization of youth expression and alleged ill-treatment in custody in Türkiye.



FEBRUARY 21, 2026

MANDATORY ID VERIFICATION PLANNED FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

*NEW REGULATION RAISES CONCERNS OVER
SURVEILLANCE AND SELF-CENSORSHIP*



The government in Türkiye is preparing to require compulsory identity verification for all social media users, eliminating online anonymity. Freedom of expression advocates warn the move would deepen surveillance, encourage self-censorship, and further restrict digital rights.



FEBRUARY 21, 2026

NEW BILL TARGETS LGBTI+ RIGHTS

*PROPOSED LAW THREATENS QUEER EXISTENCE AND
DEEPENS CLIMATE OF FEAR*



A draft law in Türkiye proposes criminal penalties for queer activism and new restrictions on gender-affirming care, raising alarm among LGBTI+ communities. Activists warn the measure seeks to erase LGBTI+ people from public life but vow to resist through collective solidarity.



OUR NEXT PANEL WITH EFE ÇAKIR & BARIŞ ATAYMAN

*LIVESTREAMED ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL
AT 2:00 PM EST ON MARCH 1, 2026*

March 19 Platform

EFE ÇAKIR VE BARIŞ ATAYMAN'IN KATILIMIYLA

1 Mart 2026 Pazar

11:00 AM PST
2:00 PM EST
22:00 TSİ

Youtube Canlı Yayını

www.youtube.com/@March19Platform

İpek Elif Atayman
Former General Manager of
İBB's Medya A.Ş.

Pinar Aksoy
Moderatör

Alişan Kayabölen
Moderatör

Join our panel with Efe Çakır and Barış Atayman, son and brother of İpek Elif Atayman – former General Manager of İBB's Medya A.Ş., arrested in 2025 and currently imprisoned. The discussion will address her case and broader issues of justice and political repression in Türkiye, in solidarity with the Aile Dayanışma Ağı (Family Solidarity Network).

RESOURCES

- <https://bianet.org/haber/dw-turkce-journalist-alican-uludag-formally-arrested-for-insulting-the-president-316905>
- <https://turkishminute.com/2026/02/16/majority-of-people-in-turkey-oppose-bridge-highway-privatization-survey-finds/>
- <https://turkishminute.com/2026/02/13/turks-fear-earthquakes-but-lack-basic-preparedness-survey/>
- <https://bianet.org/haber/turkey-sees-surge-in-food-prices-once-again-ahead-of-ramadan-316705>
- <https://bianet.org/haber/migros-workers-end-strike-with-major-concessions-from-company-316753>
- <https://bianet.org/haber/court-denies-release-of-16-year-old-girl-detained-over-hair-braiding-protest-posts-316804>
- <https://bianet.org/haber/turkey-to-introduce-compulsory-id-verification-for-all-social-media-users-says-minister-316908>
- <https://bianet.org/haber/fear-will-not-isolate-us-it-will-lead-us-to-build-stronger-solidarity-316932>