

MARCH 14, 2026

İSTANBUL MAYOR AND ERDOĞAN'S RIVAL FACES 2,000 YEARS

CRITICS SAY THE CASE IS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND MEANT TO WEAKEN THE OPPOSITION AND DEMOCRACY IN TÜRKİYE



THETIMES.COM

Ekrem İmamoğlu, the mayor of İstanbul and a key opponent of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, has gone on trial with 402 co-defendants on corruption charges, with prosecutors seeking a long prison sentence. Critics say the case is politically motivated and part of broader efforts in Türkiye to weaken the opposition and limit democratic freedoms ahead of future elections.

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TÜRKİYE: SIEGE OF INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM

PRESS FREEDOM IN TÜRKİYE IS WORSENING



ARTICLE19.ORG

A 2025 report says press freedom in Türkiye is worsening, with journalists facing legal, economic, and digital repression. It links the crackdown to democratic decline following the detention of Ekrem İmamoğlu.



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ÖZGÜR ÖZEL SAYS İMAMOĞLU TRIAL IS PURELY POLITICAL

*İMAMOĞLU HAS BEEN HELD NEARLY A YEAR, POLLS
SHOW HIM PERFORMING STRONGLY AGAINST
ERDOĞAN*



REUTERS.COM

Türkiye's opposition leader says the trial of jailed İstanbul mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu is politically motivated to prevent him from challenging Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in an early election, amid a broader crackdown on the CHP and democratic institutions.



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SIX DETAINED ON MARCH 8 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

*WOMEN IN SIRASELVİLER WITH SLOGANS:
"IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING, REBELLION; IN SPITE OF
EVERYTHING, FREEDOM!"*



AGOS.COM

On International Women's Day, women in İstanbul defied police barricades blocking Taksim Square to hold the 24th Feminist Night March in nearby streets, chanting slogans, raising demands for rights and freedom, and highlighting global and local gender based oppression.



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AN INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN LAUNCHED OVER ÇERÇİOĞLU'S POSTERS

CHP YOUTH BRANCH LEADERS WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY



EGEDESONSÖZ.COM

CHP Nazilli District Youth Branch President Mustafa Kemal Koç and three others were taken into custody as part of an investigation into banners reportedly targeting President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Aydın Metropolitan Mayor Özlem Çerçioğlu. CHP officials argued that the banners contained no insults, stating that the phrases were taken from previous statements made by Mayor Çerçioğlu.

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AHMET ÖZER WON HIS LAWSUIT AGAINST ESENYURT TRUSTEE ADMINISTRATION

ÖZER'S UNPAID SALARY WILL BE PAID WITH INTEREST



T24.COM

Suspended Esenyurt Mayor Ahmet Özer won a court case forcing the trustee-run municipality to pay his unpaid salaries with interest.



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SHOCKS KEEP HITTING İSTANBUL UNIVERSITY ONE AFTER ANOTHER

*EUROPE HAS ALSO TAKEN ACTION OVER İMAMOĞLU'S
DIPLOMA FILE*



HALKTV.COM

The cancellation of 28 degrees at Istanbul University's Business Faculty, including that of Ekrem İmamoğlu, has put the university's international accreditations at risk, prompting formal reviews by the U.S.-based AACSB and Germany-based AQAS, closely monitored by academics from the 19 March Platform. This process could seriously damage the faculty's and the university's international reputation and credibility.



To Say “YOU ARE NOT ALONE ...”



**We are meeting in New York
City on March 15!**



**12:00
Union Square**

Solidarity Event

We meet at Union Square in solidarity with İmamoğlu, Atalay, Kavala and Demirtaş.

**15:00
Drom NYC**



Can Atalay Documentary

Join us to watch the documentary about the journey of Can Atalay in serve of justice.



OUR NEXT PANEL WITH BERKAY GEZGIN

*LIVESTREAMED ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL
AT 1:00 PM EST ON MARCH 22, 2026*



March 19 Platform

BERKAY GEZGIN'İN KATILIMIYLA

 **22** Mart 2026 Pazar

10:00 AM PST
 1:00 PM EST
20:00 TSİ

 **Youtube Canlı Yayını**

www.youtube.com/@March19Platform



Berkay Gezgin
CHP Parti Meclisi Üyesi

Join our panel with Berkay Gezgin, CHP Party Assembly Member, a young symbol of courage and justice, inspired millions with the slogan “Everything Will Be Fine” a message of hope, solidarity, and a fairer future. His legacy continues to remind young people to stay resilient and keep fighting for what’s right.



RESOURCES

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