

ISSUE 46



LAST WEEK IN TÜRKİYE

BY

MARCH 19 PLATFORM



MARCH 28, 2026



MARCH 28, 2026

CRACKDOWN ON CHP MAYORS WIDENS

*UŞAK AND MARMARIS CASES SIGNAL
INCREASING PRESSURE
ON OPPOSITION MAYORS*



@HERKESICINCHP/X

Authorities detained an opposition mayor in Uşak as part of a bribery investigation, the latest in a widening campaign against CHP-run municipalities. The move follows similar cases in coastal towns like Kuşadası, where the mayor was arrested on bribery and extortion charges, and legal action against Marmaris Mayor Acar Ünlü over protest-related incidents—deepening concerns that judicial pressure is increasingly targeting opposition figures across Türkiye.



MARCH 28, 2026

PROBE TARGETS ACCESS TO THE NEW JUSTICE MINISTER'S ASSETS

*THREE ARRESTED OVER PROPERTY
RECORDS ACCESS*



Three land registry officials were arrested for allegedly accessing Justice Minister Akın Gürlek's property records without authorization. The probe follows opposition claims about the minister's extensive real estate holdings, which he denies, and comes amid heightened political tensions over corruption allegations and ongoing crackdowns on opposition figures.



MARCH 28, 2026

SOMA CASE DROPPED ON LIMITATIONS

*STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ENDS CASE AGAINST
OFFICIALS*



OZAN KOSE/AFP

An appeals court dismissed charges against public officials in the 2014 Soma mining disaster—the deadliest in Türkiye’s history, which killed 301 miners—after ruling that the statute of limitations had expired. The decision effectively ends a key part of the long-running legal process and has renewed concerns over accountability for public officials.



MARCH 28, 2026

TRIAL OPENS IN DEADLY FACTORY FIRE

FAMILIES DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR WORKER DEATHS



TURKISH MINUTE

A trial has begun over a 2025 factory fire in Kocaeli that killed seven workers, including minors. Investigators found the facility had only one exit and no emergency escape route, trapping victims inside. Families argue the case ignores the responsibility of public officials, renewing concerns over workplace safety and accountability in Türkiye.



MARCH 28, 2026

JOURNALISTS TARGETED UNDER DISINFORMATION LAW

AT LEAST 70 INVESTIGATED SINCE 2022



TURKISH MINUTE

Since the 2022 “disinformation law” was introduced, Turkish authorities have investigated at least 70 journalists, with 15 detained, four arrested and dozens indicted. Critics say the law’s vague definition of “false information” allows it to be used to target critical reporting, while officials argue it is necessary to combat misinformation.



MARCH 28, 2026

PRESS GROUPS RALLY FOR JAILED JOURNALISTS

PRESS GROUPS RALLY FOR JAILED JOURNALISTS



TURKISH MINUTE

Journalists, unions, and opposition figures gathered in Ankara to protest the arrest of reporters Alican Uludağ and İsmail Arı, calling for their immediate release. The rally highlighted growing concerns over press freedom, with critics warning that jailing journalists creates a chilling effect and restricts public access to information.

PAGE 6



MARCH 28, 2026

COURT LIFTS JOURNALIST FURKAN KARABAY'S HOUSE ARREST

RESTRICTIONS REMOVED AS TRIAL CONTINUES



BIANET

A court lifted the house arrest and travel ban imposed on journalist Furkan Karabay, who had been detained in January over his reporting and social media posts on the crackdown targeting Istanbul's opposition-led municipality. He still faces charges, including "spreading misleading information," and the case remains ongoing.



MARCH 28, 2026

KAVALA URGES COMPLIANCE WITH ECTHR

*IMPRISONED SINCE 2017, THE CASE RETURNS
TO STRASBOURG*



TURKISH MINUTE

At a new hearing before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, Osman Kavala argued that Türkiye must comply with binding court rulings ordering his release. His lawyers said he remains imprisoned on the same evidence previously deemed insufficient, despite earlier judgments finding his detention arbitrary and politically motivated.



MARCH 28, 2026

BROAD UNEMPLOYMENT NEARS 30%

RATE RISES TO 29.7% IN 2025



TURKISH MINUTE

Türkiye's broadly defined unemployment rate rose to 29.7% in 2025, up three percentage points from the previous year, according to official data. The measure includes not only jobless people actively seeking work but also discouraged workers and those underemployed, highlighting deeper labor market strain despite lower official unemployment figures.



OUR NEXT PANEL WITH KEMAL AYTAÇ

LIVESTREAMED ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL
AT 10:00 AM EDT ON MARCH 29, 2026



March 19 Platform
KEMAL AYTAÇ'IN KATILIMIYLA
TÜRKİYE'DE ADALET

 **29** Mart 2026 Pazar

07:00 AM PDT
 10:00 AM EDT
17:00 TSİ

 **Youtube Canlı Yayını**

www.youtube.com/@March19Platform



Kemal Aytaç
Avukat, Aktivist



Pinar Aksoy
Moderatör



Ceren Garner
Moderatör

Join our live conversation with lawyer and activist Kemal Aytaç on justice, rights, and the realities of today's legal system in Türkiye.

RESOURCES

- <https://www.turkishminute.com/2026/03/27/usak-mayor-detained-in-bribery-probe-amid-growing-crackdown-on-main-opposition/>
- <https://www.turkishminute.com/2026/03/25/3-land-registry-officials-arrested-in-probe-over-access-to-justice-ministers-property-records/>
- <https://www.turkishminute.com/2026/03/24/court-drops-cases-against-officials-in-turkeys-deadliest-mining-disaster-due-to-statute-of-limitations/>
- <https://www.turkishminute.com/2026/03/24/trial-begins-in-deadly-factory-fire-case-in-turkey-as-families-demand-full-accountability/>
- [turkishminute.com/2026/03/24/turkey-has-investigated-at-least-70-journalists-under-controversial-disinformation-law-since-2022/](https://www.turkishminute.com/2026/03/24/turkey-has-investigated-at-least-70-journalists-under-controversial-disinformation-law-since-2022/)
- <https://www.turkishminute.com/2026/03/26/press-groups-rally-in-ankara-call-for-release-of-jailed-journalists/>
- <https://bianet.org/haber/court-lifts-journalist-furkan-karabays-house-arrest-318081>
- <https://www.turkishminute.com/2026/03/26/kavala-says-turkey-must-comply-with-ecthr-rulings-after-new-hearing-in-strasbourg/>
- <https://www.turkishminute.com/2026/03/25/turkeys-broadly-defined-unemployment-rose-to-29-7-percent-in-2025-turkstat/>