

ISSUE 52

JULY 19, 2026



LAST WEEK IN TÜRKİYE



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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



JULY 15 2016

A military faction attempted a coup, killing over 250 people. Erdoğan used its aftermath to launch mass purges, arrest opponents and expand his grip on state institutions.

JULY 19 2018

Turkey's two-year state of emergency ended. Introduced after the coup attempt, it enabled rule by decree, mass arrests and dismissals—and many expanded government powers remained afterward.



JULY 16 2025

Already jailed, Erdoğan's main rival Ekrem İmamoğlu received another prison sentence for criticizing prosecutor Akın Gürlek, adding to the mounting cases against him.



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IT'S BEEN...

16 DAYS since comedian **Deniz Göktaş** was arrested over jokes from his stand-up show, accused of insulting Erdoğan and religious values.

101 DAYS since the senior judge **Yüksel Kocaman** was linked in court documents to a payment from an aide to crime boss Ayhan Bora Kaplan. No investigation announced.

489 DAYS since **Justice Minister Gürlek** was shown to hold 452 million lira in real estate on a judge's salary. He hasn't explained it. Three officials who looked up his records were arrested instead.

399 DAYS since **İmamoğlu** was arrested the day he was named the CHP's presidential candidate.

1,551 DAYS since **Can Atalay** was elected to parliament from prison. The Constitutional Court ordered his release three times. He has never taken his seat.

2,403 DAYS since the ECHR ordered **Demirtaş**'s release.

2,413 DAYS since ECHR ordered **Kavala**'s release



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BBC

TÜRKİYE'S MAIN OPPOSITION FACES FORMAL SPLIT AS ÖZGÜR ÖZEL PREPARES NEW PARTY



CHP leader Özgür Özel is accelerating plans to form a new political party following a court ruling that effectively split the main opposition. According to reports, the party's registration documents are ready, with a final decision on the filing date expected on July 22. Meanwhile, Özel's camp will seek a court order to force an extraordinary party congress and challenge the legitimacy of the current party leadership.



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BBC

STAND-UP COMEDIAN SENTENCED OVER OTTOMAN SULTAN JOKE



An Istanbul court sentenced stand-up comedian Tuba Ulu to five months in prison, suspending the verdict, over a joke about 'Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent' during a performance. Prosecutors had sought up to three years on charges of "insulting the nation's historical and spiritual values." Ulu, who was briefly detained before being released under judicial supervision, apologized after the incident but denied committing any crime, telling the court she had never intended to insult anyone.



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BIRGUN

GOVERNOR FIRED AFTER “CYCLING TIGHTS” BACKLASH



Ardahan Governor Mehmet Fatih Çiçekli, who was criticized by a member of parliament İnan Akgün Alp for wearing cycling gear, was removed by presidential decree. Çiçekli said the outfit was professional cycling clothing, not tights. “I’ll keep pedaling,” he said, stressing he is a serious cyclist, rower, and sailor who wears sportswear only while exercising. He added that he has no intention of giving up sports and plans to spend even more time cycling in the future.



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BIANET

CHILD LABOR TRAGEDY: 852 CHILDREN KILLED AT WORK IN 13 YEARS



According to the Occupational Health and Safety Assembly (İSiG), at least 852 children have died in workplace accidents in Türkiye since 2013. A survey of 926 vocational education (MESEM) students in Gebze found many worked over 12 hours a day, seven days a week. Most reported workplace accidents without hospital treatment, while nearly all said they faced verbal abuse, physical violence, inadequate inspections, and were assigned jobs outside their field of training.



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BBC

AKUT CO-FOUNDER FACES DETENTION OVER COUP ANNIVERSARY POST



An arrest warrant was issued for Nasuh Mahruki, co-founder of the AKUT (Search and Rescue Association), over a social media post marking the July 15, 2016 coup attempt. Prosecutors accused him of "inciting hatred and hostility" after he claimed the coup had been detected in advance but was deliberately not prevented to facilitate a change of regime. Mahruki had previously been jailed over social media posts.



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BIANET

18 MONTHS AFTER DEADLY SKI RESORT FIRE, FAMILIES STILL SEEK ANSWERS



Families who lost loved ones in the Grand Kartal Hotel fire completed a 186-kilometer “Justice for 78 Lives” march from Bolu to Ankara, demanding that officials from the Culture and Tourism Ministry and the Labor Ministry face trial. The march, led by Oktay Akişli, ended at Ankara’s Atatürk Monument. Relatives criticized prosecutors for failing to file an indictment 10 months after the disaster, despite findings of serious negligence.



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BBC

ÇANKAYA MAYOR REFERRED TO COURT IN CORRUPTION PROBE



Çankaya Mayor Hüseyin Can Güner was referred to court with a request for pre-trial detention as part of a corruption investigation involving 36 suspects. Prosecutors allege offenses including forming a criminal organization, bribery, and bid-rigging. Güner, who was detained upon returning to Ankara on July 11, denied any wrongdoing, stating that he had done nothing that would betray the trust of the residents who elected him.



ÖZGÜR ÖZEL: COURT OF CASSATION MUST CORRECT “HISTORIC MISTAKE”



Özgür Özel said the CHP is fully prepared as it awaits the Court of Cassation’s decision in the “absolute nullity” case. Criticizing the referral of the case just before the judicial recess, Özel argued the delay was intended to prevent a ruling. He said the court must either correct what he called a “historic mistake” or postpone the case until autumn, adding that the party is determined to “either reclaim our party or find a new path.”



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GAZETE OKSIJEN

İMAMOĞLU'S LAWYERS SEEK RECUSAL OF JUDGES OVER FAIR TRIAL CONCERNS



Ekrem İmamoğlu's lawyers have requested the recusal of the judges overseeing the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (İBB) trial, arguing that his right to a defense and to a fair trial has been violated. The request follows a courtroom dispute over defense time limits, after İmamoğlu was removed from the hearing. Although he said he had not invoked his right to remain silent, the court record stated that he had, prompting a formal objection from his legal team.



CHILD RIGHTS ADVOCATES WARN AGAINST HARSHER JUVENILE SENTENCES



Türkiye's ruling AKP's proposed Child Protection Law would remove age-based sentence reductions for 15–18-year-olds, allow life imprisonment, and require sentences to be served in closed facilities. Lawyer Seda Akço argues that increasing penalties will not solve juvenile crime and distracts from deeper issues, including rehabilitation, inadequate public services, school dropout rates, and access to mental health care. She calls for solutions addressing root causes rather than harsher punishment alone.



FETÖ ALLEGATIONS REMAIN A POLITICAL TOOL, JOURNALISTS SAY



Veteran journalists Ruşen Çakır and Kadri Gürsel said accusations of links to the Gülen movement continue to be used as a political tool in Türkiye. On the 10th anniversary of the failed 2016 coup, they argued that the post-coup crackdown increasingly targeted people with no connection to the coup, leading to mass dismissals, expulsions of academics, pressure on the media, and the marginalization of political dissent under the presidential system introduced in 2017.



HEALTHY EATING BECOMES INCREASINGLY UNAFFORDABLE IN TÜRKİYE



According to BİSAM's (United Metal Workers) July 2026 report, a four-person family in Türkiye needs 36,324 TL per month just to afford a healthy and balanced diet. The report estimates the poverty line at 119,330 TL, including food, housing, healthcare, education, transportation, and other basic needs. Daily food costs reached 1,211 TL, with dairy products accounting for the largest share of food expenses, followed by fruits and vegetables, and meat products.



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RESOURCES

- <https://www.bbc.com/turkce/articles/c9q22p9pq3vo>
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