

## August 2022 Report

### **General Evaluation:**

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According to the findings of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV) Documentation Center, in August 2022, a total of 33 interventions and 6 preventions were made by police officers against peaceful meetings and demonstrations. At least 196 people were detained with torture and other ill-treatment practices. 6 people were injured, 1 person had a heart attack.

Who were they? Workers and laborers seeking rights, defenders of life and nature, human rights defenders who wanted to draw attention to the situation of ill prisoners and violations of rights in prisons, Saturday Mothers/People asking about the fate of their relatives who disappeared in custody...

The police intervened harshly in the press statement made by the Saturday Mothers/People and Human Rights Association (İHD) in the Küçükçekmece Altınşehir Orphan Cemetery regarding the 30th of August International Day of the Enforced Disappearances. 14 people, including Human Rights Association (İHD) Branch Chair Gülseren Yoleri, were detained. The detainees were released after testifying, but the Public Prosecutor's Office made a decision to detain them again. As a result of the objections, they were released on the same day.

Another striking example of such interventions was the gas station owners who staged a sit-in protest in front of the Energy Market Regulatory Authority (EMRA) in Ankara on August 15, 2022 to protest the distribution companies that issued fake fuel bills. No one was detained during the intervention, but one person had a heart attack due to the turmoil.

The bans of the local authorities did not slow down in August either: All protests and demonstrations were banned in Mardin and Hakkari (2 times). In Batman, this was for 10 days. Istanbul Ataşehir District Governorate banned demonstrations around Emlak Konut Real Estate Investment Partnership for 1 month in order to prevent workers seeking rights. Likewise, entrances and exits to Mezeköy were banned for 7 days in order to neutralize the villagers and life defenders in Aydın who fought against the construction of Geothermal Power Plants.

The ban decrees in August mainly focused on cultural and artistic events such as festivals and concerts. The reasons for prohibition were especially interesting, even tragicomic. There were intense complaints from citizens about such activities. The Zeytinli Rock Festival was banned in Balıkesir, Burhaniye. The 15 August Virgin Mary Fair held in Gökçeada was cancelled. Reasons: Intense complaints from citizens, the protection of public safety and health, public peace, environmental protection.

The reason for the Fethiye Millionfest music festival, which was canceled by the Muğla Governorate, is even more interesting. The festival could have negative effects on the "ecological balance". For this reason, permission had to be obtained from the Provincial

Directorate of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change. Therefore, the festival was banned because the necessary permissions were not obtained. Despite a court decree to stop the constructions in Muğla, the Muğla Governorate sent law enforcement officers against the environmentalists who are opposing the reckless construction in the national park area and trying to protect the Akbelen Forests. Suddenly, the Governorate becomes an environmentalist when the matter is a festival...

Again, musician İlkay Akkaya's concert in Adana Ceyhan district due to 30 August and the concert in Mardin on September 24 were banned by the civil authorities.

In August, the pressure on the media continued with all its intensity. At least 4 journalists were attacked. Reporter Arif Kocabıyık, who made street interviews for the channel named "İlave TV" on YouTube, was attacked by 3 people in Kırıkkale, where he went to shoot videos. On August 14, Contemporary Journalists Association' Rize Branch Deputy Chair Ebru Uzun Oruç and the owner of the YouTube channel "Street Cat", was attacked by an armed group that was thought to be disturbed by the street interviews she posted on YouTube.

In August, access to the websites of at least 1 news agency and 2 magazines across the country was blocked 3 times. Access to at least 136 news and content has been blocked.

Hate attacks increased heavily against Alevis in August, and Selami Saritaş, the Federation of Alevi Foundations' 2nd President Selami Saritaş was attacked.

1 political party executive, 1 political party's work booth were attacked twice, 3 people were injured. 1 political party office was attacked and 1 MP was threatened.

Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Diyarbakır MP Garo Paylan was threatened via social media by Mehmet Sinan İnce, Abdullah Çatlı's former lawyer. Mehmet Sinan İnce, who was allegedly involved in an assassination plot against Garo Paylan in 2016, wrote on social media, *"If we were going to do it, we would. We didn't want to make you a hero. Otherwise, we had you in front of us twice while walking in the Parliament, don't make yourself a victim as if you survived by chance or something. This is Turkish land, know your place!"*

## **1. Administrative Bans, Police Interventions**

- 01: Ankara** The police prevented the vigil in front of the Republican People's Party Headquarters by the workers in Şişli Municipality, whose jobs were terminated.
- 01: Mardin** The Governorate bound all protests and demonstrations to permission for 15 days. The protest and demonstration ban, which has been applied uninterruptedly since October 17, 2019, fulfilled 1034 days.

- 02: Istanbul** The police intervened in the vigil against the demolition of a park in Çekmeköy, 9 people were detained.
- 03: Ankara** The police prevented the press statement that was to be made in front of Yediiklim Publishing House by the members of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP) on the allegations that the questions in the 2022 Public Personnel Selection Exam (KPSS) were leaked.
- 03: Ankara** The press statement to be made in front of the Constitutional Court by the members of the Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects (TMMOB) regarding those detained due to the Gezi Park trial was prevented by the police.
- 03: Izmir** The protest of the home care workers, who worked as a subcontractor in the Metropolitan Municipality and was fired, organized in front of the city hall was prevented by the police on its 8th day.
- 05: Manisa** Crystal-Labour Union Headquarters Management faced the prevention of Çimse-İş union members and the police in Manisa, where they came to hold a meeting with Serel Seramik workers.
- 05: Mardin** In Artuklu district, a group including children, were subjected to physical violence by the police on the grounds that they were wearing scarves depicting the imprisoned Furkan Foundation Chairma. 3 people were detained.
- 08: Urfa** Entry of Emine Şenyaşar and her son Ferit Şenyaşar, who have been on the "Justice Watch" in front of the courthouse since March 9, 2021, to the courthouse garden was prevented upon the order of the Governorate.
- 09: Istanbul** The funeral ceremony of Ulaş Alankuş, who was killed in a clash in Ağrı, was prevented by the police. 3 people were detained.
- 09: Istanbul** The police used physical violence to prevent Tuzla-ETF textile factory workers' protest to receive their unpaid compensation and bonuses.
- 10: Batman** As of August 10, the Governorate has bound all protests and events to be organized within the province to permission for 10 days.
- 11: Ankara** The Kemal Kurkut Football Tournament, which was intended to be organized by the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Youth Assembly and Ankara Free Student Initiative, was prevented by the police, who closed the sports facility.
- 11: Balıkesir** The "Zeytinli Rock Festival", which has been held in Burhaniye district since 2014 with the participation of many famous artists, has been banned by the District Governorate.
- 11: Çanakkale** The August 15 Virgin Mary Fair, which was intended to be organized by the İmroz Education and Culture Association in Gökçeada, was canceled upon complaints.
- 11: Denizli** The speech that DEVA Party Chairman Ali Babacan wanted to make to his party members and citizens at their booth on Denizli Gazi Mustafa Kemal Boulevard was blocked by the police on the grounds that permission was not obtained.
- 11: Istanbul** The police intervened in the press statement made in front of Emlak Konut Real Estate Investment building regarding the working conditions and other

- rights of the workers working in the construction of the Financial Center in Ataköy, 12 people were detained.
- 11: Istanbul** The police intervened in the press statement made in front of the Forensic Medicine Office to draw attention to the demands of death faster Gökhan Yıldırım, 2 people were detained.
- 11: Izmir** 20 members of the Socialist Party of the Oppressed were detained after they wanted to commemorate Ulaş Alankuş, who was killed in Doğubeyazıt district of Ağrı.
- 11: Tekirdağ** The police applied a criminal record check on the families of the detainees who wanted to go to the City hospital where Gökhan Yıldırım, who was on a death fast in prison, was taken for his medical report; 10 people were detained.
- 13: Istanbul** The police intervened in those who wanted to attend the commemoration of Ulaş Alankuş, who was killed in a clash in Ağrı, at the Gazi Cemetery; 23 people were detained.
- 13: Istanbul** The police intervened in the Justice Watch, which was intended to draw attention to ill prisoners, 40 people were detained.
- 14: Istanbul** Police intervened in the protest on the Bosphorus Bridge, which the workers working in the construction of the Financial Center in Ataşehir wanted to do about their working conditions and other rights; 4 people were detained.
- 15: Ankara** The police prevented the owners of the fuel stations, who were holding a sit-in protest in front of the Energy Market Regulatory Authority (EMRA) to protest the distribution companies that issued fake fuel bills.
- 15: Istanbul** Mesopotamia News Agency's Managing Editor Diren Yurtsever was detained at Sabiha Gökçen Airport on the grounds that she was wanted.
- 16: Ankara** The police intervened in the press statement made in front of the Human Rights Monument on Yüksel Street as part of the re-employment protests and the people who participated in the statement were dispersed from the area.
- 16: Konya** One person, who took the stage and shouted to the audience, "Konya, wake up, don't vote for the Justice and Development Party (AKP)," during the concert held as part of the 5th Islamic Solidarity Games, was detained.
- 18: Şırnak** The banner hung on the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Şırnak provincial building regarding the deaths of 55 people during the state of emergency in 1992 was taken down; HDP Central District Co-Chair Kamuran Demir as well as district administrators Ahmet Başak and Cihat Basan were summoned to testify.
- 20: Istanbul** The police prevented the justice watch to be held in Kartal to draw attention to ill prisoners.
- 21: Van** A person named Adem Yiğit was subjected to ill-treatment during house raids in the village of Boşan in Başkale district.
- 22: Aydın** The gendarmerie detained 5 villagers and human rights defenders who resisted against the Geothermal Power Plant to be constructed in Köşk Village with ill-treatment.

- 22: Istanbul** The police used tear gas and rubber bullets against those who protested against the demolition of their houses by the municipality, 16 were detained.
- 23: Ankara** 6 people were detained in a house raid on the grounds of their social media posts about the events in Northern and Eastern Syria.
- 23: Artvin** Three people, who participated in the protest regarding the problems experienced due to the dam under construction in Yusufeli district, were detained.
- 24: Mersin** The concert to be held by the Mersin Branch of the Human Rights Association (İHD) on September 2 at Yenişehir Municipality Atatürk Cultural Center as part of the September 1 World Peace Day was banned by the Governorate.
- 24: Ordu** The police intervened in Gökhan Gür's funeral by using tear gas, detaining at least 10 people using physical violence on the grounds that they were making propaganda for a terrorist organization.
- 25: Aydın** The way of Aydın Labor and Democracy Forces, who wanted to go to the village to support their struggle against the Geothermal Power Plant construction in the Köşk Village, was cut off with a gendarmerie barricade at the entrance of the village, on the grounds that the District Governorate had a 10-day ban on entry to the village.
- 25: Istanbul** Musician Gülşen Bayraktar Çolakoğlu was detained by the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office on charges of "inciting the people to hatred and enmity and humiliating" because of the words she used during a concert, and then she was arrested.
- 25: Istanbul** The protest of Tuzla EFT Textile factory workers was prevented by the police with the use of violence.
- 27: Istanbul** The police intervened in the justice watch held in Mecidiyeköy Square to draw attention to ill prisoners, 10 people were detained.
- 27: Mardin** After an argument in Taşlıburk village of Midyat district, villagers were subjected to physical violence by the village guards and 11 people were injured in various parts of their bodies.
- 29: Adana** The Ilkay Akkaya concert to be organized by the Ceyhan Municipality as part of the August 30 celebrations, was cancelled by the District Governorate.
- 29: Denizli** The police detained one person on the grounds that he was making PKK/KCK propaganda on social media.
- 29: Istanbul** Etkin News Agency reporter Elif Bayburt was detained during the criminal background check before the event for news follow-up, on the grounds of an investigation opened against her.
- 30: Ankara** Before the press statement to be made by the Private Sector Teachers' Union in front of the Ministry of National Education, the police intervened against the union members and administrators who wanted to march with tear gas, detained 9 people, including 2 lawyers, by using physical violence and with reverse handcuffs.

## **2. Investigations and Prosecutions**

- 01: Denizli** One person was detained on the grounds of making propaganda for PKK/KCK/PYD/YPG organizations.
- 01: Tunceli** Atılım Daily distributor Rıza Çime was detained while distributing newspapers in Ovacık district.
- 02: Kars** Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) member Gülcan Alp, who was detained during a house raid, was arrested on the allegation of "terrorist organization membership".
- 04: Hakkari** A person named Ali Rıza Fırat, who took his animals to the highland to graze in Bilindbasan (Güldalı) village of Yüksekova district, was subjected to ill-treatment by the soldiers.
- 06: Diyarbakır** 9 people, including 2 children, were detained on the grounds of the slogans they chanted after the rally held by the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) in the İstasyon Square.
- 07: İstanbul** An investigation has been launched against Swedish-based music platform Spotify on the grounds that the names of the playlists created on the platform were "insulting religious values and state leaders".
- 08: İstanbul** An investigation was launched by the Anatolian Public Prosecutor's Office against a group allegedly "insulting the President" in their cheers before the Fenerbahçe-Ümraniye match played in Kadıköy district.
- 09: Batman** Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Bekirhan Town Co-Chair Sezgin Yavuz and a person named Yusuf Şahin were arrested in house raids in Kozluk district.
- 09: İstanbul** After Boğaziçi University lecturer Can Candan, who was previously suspended from his duty, returned to duty in March 2022, Rector Naci İnci dismissed Can Candan, citing the disciplinary investigation that had been opened against him before.
- 09: Şırnak** Three people were detained in the house raids on August 9 in the Silopi district of Şırnak.
- 10: Diyarbakır** After the monthly file review of 16 journalists arrested on June 16, the court decided for the journalists to remain under arrest.
- 10: İstanbul** The indictment prepared against journalist Nazan Özcan on the charge of "public insult and slander through broadcasting" on the grounds that she covered the lawsuits filed against the President's lawyer, was accepted at the 34th Court of First Instance. The first hearing is on December 8.
- 10: Van** An investigation was launched against Libertarian Lawyers Association (ÖHD) Van Branch Co-Chair Atty. Ebru Demirtepe on the grounds that she "incited the public to hatred and enmity" in her social media post about Deniz Poyraz, who was killed in the armed attack against the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) İzmir provincial building.
- 12: İstanbul** An investigation was launched by the university administration for the students who participated in the Gezi Park commemoration. Scholarships of some students who received disciplinary penalties were cut off.
- 15: Hakkari** Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Central District Co-Chair Hasan Özek, who was detained on August 13, was arrested on charges of "terrorist organization membership" and "aiding a terrorist organization".

- 15: Istanbul** An investigation was launched against Republican Peoples' Party (CHP) Provincial Chair Canan Kaftancıoğlu on the charge of "insulting the President" for her words, "We will send a dictator away, through democracy" during a meeting.
- 17: Istanbul** An investigation has been launched against Kısadalga.net website's Editor-In-Chief Sezgin Kesim and Ersan Atar following the complaint of the President's former lawyer Mustafa Doğan İnal, regarding the news published in the website.
- 19: Aydın** A lawsuit was filed against 7 Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) member women on the grounds that they were making propaganda for a terrorist organization.
- 19: Manisa** Thirteen people, who were detained on charges of making propaganda for a terrorist organization, were sent to the courthouse.
- 22: Denizli** One person, who allegedly made PKK propaganda on social media, was arrested.
- 25: Ankara** The latest hearing of the lawsuit filed against Republican People's Party (CHP) Group Deputy Chairman and Manisa MP Özgür Özel at the 12th Civil Court of First Instance was held following the complaint of the President of the Republic, on the grounds that Özel had called him a "so-called dictator".
- 25: Istanbul** BirGün Daily writer İbrahim Varlı testified within an investigation launched against him on the grounds of a tweet he posted two years ago, in which he said, "Islamists are cruel, tyrants, etc."
- 31: Istanbul** The indictment prepared against Metropolitan Municipality Head of Village Headmen Department Chairman Yavuz Saltık was accepted by the 14th Assize Court on the charge of "terrorist organisation membership".

### **3. Other Violations**

- 01: Urfa** It was found out that air conditioners and fans in the wards of Type-T Prison No. 1 were confiscated by the prison administration; political prisoners cannot enjoy the right to video chat; the prisoners were not given Evrensel and Yeni Yaşam Daily newspapers; the meals provided to prisoners were inadequate and of poor quality; and that personal belongings of the prisoners were seized during the ward searches.
- 01: Urfa** It was learned that the medical treatment of 4 ill prisoners held in Type-T Prison No. 1 was not being made.
- 03: Diyarbakır** With the decision of the 4th Criminal Judicature of Peace, the website of Etkin News Agency was blocked from access on the grounds of protecting national security and public safety.
- 03: Mersin** With the decision of the 4th Criminal Judicature of Peace on August 3, the Kızıl Bayrak website of the Kızıl Bayrak magazine was blocked from access on the grounds of protecting national security and public safety.
- 04: Mersin** Access to the contents of the websites of Evrensel, Güney Gazete, BirGün, T24, Sözcü, soL Haber, Kronos News, Gazete Duvar, Cumhuriyet, Mersin Siyaset

Yönetimi websites regarding the use of illegal water by a member of the Mersin Metropolitan Municipality Council from the Justice and Development Party, was blocked by the decision of the 4th Criminal Judicature of Peace on the grounds of violation of personal rights.

**05: Ankara** Access to 23 news articles about Muhittin Palazoğlu, the brother-in-law of Ahmet Mahmut Ünlü, known as Cübbeli Ahmet Hoca, has been blocked.

**05: Diyarbakır** It was found out that in the High Security Prison No. 2, the prisoners could use 50 minutes of open meeting time, which should have been one and a half hours; their sports, conversation, social and cultural rights were restricted, the meals provided to the prisoners were inadequate and of poor quality, and high electricity bills were collected from the prisoners.

**05: Elazığ** It was found out that ill prisoner Fevzi Fidan, who was kept in a solitary cell in the High Security Closed Prison No. 2, was subjected to ill-treatment by the prison guards.

**05: Kırıkkale** Reporter Arif Kocabıyık, who made street interviews for İlave TV YouTube channel, was attacked by 3 people who got out of a vehicle in Kırıkkale, where he went for video shooting.

**06: Diyarbakır** It was found out that the prisoners in the Women's Closed Prison were threatened by the prison guards on the grounds that they were looking through the peephole.

**09: İstanbul** The Bakırköy 2nd Criminal Judicature of Peace imposed an access block against the news on Cumhuriyet, Diken, and t24 websites regarding the appointment made to replace a doctor who was dismissed from Bakırköy prison, on the grounds of "violation of personal rights".

**10: Van** It was found out that 2 prisoners held in High Security Prison were transferred to Erzurum Dumlu High Security Prison No. 2, and 3 prisoners were transferred to Ağrı Patnos Closed Prison against their will.

**11: İstanbul** Ataşehir District Governorate banned all meetings, press statements, demonstrations and events around the YDA Construction company building and Emlak Konut Real Estate Investment building for 1 month on the grounds of "the protection of national security and public order".

**12: Diyarbakır** It was found out that the meals given to the prisoners in the Women's Closed Prison were inadequate and of poor quality, that the prisoners had to pay high electricity bills, and that cleaning materials that they could use to protect themselves from the COVID-19 pandemic were not provided to them.

**12: İstanbul** Access to Sol Haber, abc newspaper and T24 websites, which reported the news about the luxury housing project of Muhittin Palazoğlu, the elder brother of the son-in-law of Cübbeli Ahmet Hoca, were blocked by the Anatolian 7th Criminal Judicature of Peace.

**15: Ankara** The Gölbaşı Criminal Court of Peace imposed an access block against the news on Sözcü, KRT TV and Miray Haber websites about the article of Sözcü Daily writer Serpil Yılmaz wrote on the "manipulation and speculative transaction" investigation in Borsa İstanbul, on the grounds of violation of personal rights.

- 15: Istanbul** 48 news articles and content on ifade.org.tr website regarding the former lawyer of the President was blocked from access by the Anatolian 9th Criminal Judicature of Peace on the grounds of "violation of personal rights".
- 16: Ankara** An unidentified person or persons attacked the Peoples' Democratic Party Keçiören district building.
- 16: Samsun** The news on the public TV website about the appointment and promotion decisions of the Gendarmerie General Command was blocked from access on the grounds of violation of personal rights, with a decree issued by the Samsun 3rd Criminal Court of Peace dated August 16.
- 17: Ankara** The Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) imposed administrative fines against Halk TV channel on the grounds of the Medya Mahallesi program, and against TELE1 channel on the grounds that it did not comply with the broadcast ban regarding the murder of Dr. Ekrem Karakaya in Konya, as well as against Habertürk channel.
- 18: Istanbul** The Anatolian 1st Criminal Judicature of Peace imposed an access block against 6 news articles on the website diken.com.tr about the cartoons depicting the President published in the foreign media.
- 18: Istanbul** Access to the websites of Birgün, Cumhuriyet and t24 was blocked by the Anatolian 1st Criminal Judicature of Peace and it was ordered that the news on the President's son, Bilal Erdoğan, be deleted on the grounds of "violation of personal rights".
- 18: Urfa** It was found out that the seriously ill prisoner Bazo Yılmaz (67), who was held in Type-T Closed Prison No. 2, passed away.
- 19: Ankara** Access to the news on the websites of Oda TV, Birgün and Yeniçağ Daily regarding the divorce case between Justice and Development Party Erzurum MP Zehra Taşkesenlioğlu and his wife was blocked with a decree issued by the Gölbaşı Criminal Judicature of Peace.
- 20: Mardin** A media blackout was imposed with the decision of the Derik Criminal Judicature of Peace regarding the traffic accident that occurred in Derik district and 21 people lost their lives.
- 21: Kilis** It was learned that 4 prisoners held in Type-L Prison were threatened by the prison guards on the grounds that they did not accept the imposition of a standing count in the military order.
- 22: Ankara** The Press Advertisement Institution (BİK) canceled the right of Evrensel Daily to publish official advertisements.
- 23: Istanbul** The Anatolian 3rd Criminal Judicature of Peace imposed access blocks against the websites of Sabah, t24 and Gazeteduvar due to the news about a judge who was given a suspension order on the grounds of "violation of personal rights".
- 26: Istanbul** Access to a content on the website eksisözlük.com regarding what Tansu Çiller wrote in the private notebook of Anıtkabir was blocked by the Anatolian 10th Criminal Judicature of Peace.

**27: Van**

It has been found out that the prisoners tested positive for COVID-19 in the High Security Prison were not treated and the necessary drugs were not given to the prisoners.

**30: Diyarbakır**

It was found out that Kurbanî Özcan, who was held in T-Type Prison No. 3 and was reported to have been ill-treated before, was subjected to ill-treatment by the prison guards and was later threatened by the prison director, to whom he reported the incident.