



Strasbourg

Justice March

"Justice for All in Türkiye"

A Call to the Council of Europe for the Implementation of ECtHR Judgments in Türkiye

Date: 24 June 2026

Location: Strasbourg, France

Organizers: Peaceful Actions Platform, in partnership with 17 European civil society organisations

On Wednesday, 24 June 2026, we will gather in front of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg for the fifth time. What began as a call against injustice has grown into an annual meeting of people who refuse to remain silent. This year, our demand is one: justice for all.

We demand the full and effective implementation of ECtHR judgments. The judgments concerning Osman Kavala and Selahattin Demirtaş remain openly disregarded by Turkish authorities. The Court's leading judgment in *Yalçınkaya v. Türkiye* — an individual case in which the Grand Chamber identified a systemic problem affecting thousands of similar pending applications — has still not been implemented. Last month, the Grand Chamber in *Yasak v. Türkiye* reaffirmed that no one may be convicted on the basis of conduct that was not clearly and individually criminal at the time it took place. Türkiye is bound by the European Convention on Human Rights. Binding judgments must be obeyed. The Council has the obligation to make sure that they are implemented by Türkiye.

We demand a functioning democracy. Checks and balances have been hollowed out. Judicial independence has eroded. Opposition-run municipalities face removals, administrative interference, and prosecutions that are not applied to those close to the ruling party. Elected representatives, municipal employees, and political activists are treated as security threats rather than democratic participants. The Istanbul mayor sits in pre-trial detention on charges widely understood to be politically motivated.



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We demand freedom of expression and an end to the prosecution of journalists for their work. In the 2026 World Press Freedom Index, Türkiye ranks 163rd out of 180. Provisions of the Turkish Penal Code, Article 299 on "*insulting the President*", Article 217/A on "*disinformation*", Article 216 on "*incitement to hatred*", are routinely used to silence reporting on corruption, human rights abuses, and politically sensitive trials. Without free expression there is no informed society and no democratic accountability.

We demand an end to arbitrary detention and prosecutions of people associated with the Gülen movement. In the *Yalçınkaya* and *Yasak* judgments, the European Court has now twice reaffirmed that ordinary, lawful activities cannot be retroactively recast as evidence of terrorism. Yet the prosecutions continue. Families are pushed into poverty. Children grow up under stigma. Detainees face inadequate medical care and prolonged isolation. This is not justice. It is the normalisation of injustice, and it must end.

The rule-of-law crisis in Türkiye does not belong to any one community. It reaches across political lines. We stand with every victim of arbitrary state power: civil society leaders, Kurdish politicians, opposition mayors, journalists, students, teachers, ordinary citizens, regardless of background, party, or belief.

For those whose own institutions have stopped hearing them, the Convention is one of the last places where justice remains possible. That cannot be allowed to fail.

We call on the Council of Europe to act.

- Use the supervisory tools you already have.
- Defend the authority of the European Court of Human Rights, and ensure that its judgments are implemented completely, effectively, and without further delay.

On 24 June 2026, we will stand in front of the Council of Europe together with human rights defenders, civil society from across Europe. Everyone who believes in human rights, democracy, the rule of law, and justice for all is invited to join us in Strasbourg.



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