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Turkey

'Nobody announces that democracy ends now'

- Features -



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[1] Can Atalay was elected for Hatay in May 2023 while imprisoned in the Gezi Park prosecution. The Constitutional Court has found violations of his rights three times: in October 2023, in December 2023, and in February 2024, when it held that the termination of his parliamentary membership was null and void. The Court of Cassation's Third Criminal Chamber refused to implement the first two, declaring in January 2024 that the Constitutional Court's decision had no legal value. Parliament read the Court of Cassation decision into the record on 30 January 2024 and dropped his seat, and has not reinstated him. The European Court of Human Rights has not yet issued a judgment on the merits in his case; it requested the Turkish government's observations in September 2024 and the case remains pending. He is still in prison.

[2] Turnout in May 2023 was 88.92 per cent in the parliamentary election, 87.05 per cent in the first round of the presidential election and 84.15 per cent in the second round on 28 May, according to the Supreme Electoral Council (YSK decision 2023/1255).

[3] This is discussed (in Turkish) [here](#).

[4] The Mecca Joint Defence Agreement was signed on 7 August 2026 by Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan, and treats an attack on one as an attack on all. Its first Strategic Political and Defence Committee met in Istanbul on 31 August 2026. Contemporary reporting describes the pact as trilateral throughout.

[5] This references (in Turkish) [here](#).