

In this week's *Türkiye in Focus*;

- President Erdoğan emphasised the genocide unfolding in Gaza as a central concern in his speech at the United Nations.
- The Turkish President carried out a busy week of diplomatic engagements in the United States.
- The CHP held an extraordinary congress while legal disputes over its previous congress continue.

President Erdoğan Puts Gaza at the Top of the UN Agenda

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan devoted a significant part of his speech to Israel's genocide in Gaza, urging the international community to take a clear stance. He welcomed recent moves by several countries to recognise the State of Palestine, framing them as positive steps toward justice. In one of his strongest remarks, Erdoğan declared: "Those who don't raise their voice and don't take a stance against the barbarism in Gaza are complicit in this savagery."

During his UN speech, Erdoğan went further by displaying graphic images from Gaza, a move that underscored both the urgency of the humanitarian crisis and his determination to keep the issue front and centre on the global stage.

Erdoğan's engagement on Gaza was not confined to the UN podium. He also attended a meeting hosted by U.S. President Donald Trump with leaders of Muslim-majority countries, which he characterised as "productive and positive."

The spotlight on Gaza was not limited to the president. First Lady Emine Erdoğan also added her voice, delivering remarks



(Celal Güneş - Anadolu Agency)

at the Turkish House in New York, where she called for global action to end the suffering in Gaza. Together, the Erdoğan's messaging signalled a concerted effort to amplify Türkiye's role as a vocal advocate for the Palestinian cause, positioning Ankara as both a critic of silence and a rallying force for international accountability.

Türkiye's Intense Week of Diplomacy in the United States

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the Turkish delegation pursued an exceptionally busy diplomatic agenda during their visit to the United States for the 77th session of the UN General Assembly. Erdoğan's series of bilateral meetings included conversations with UN Secretary-General António Guterres, U.S. President Donald Trump, and the leaders of France, Syria, Vietnam, and the Presidential Council of Libya. These exchanges touched on a wide range of issues, from conflict resolution in the Middle East to broader questions of global stability. In his meeting with Trump, Erdoğan emphasised deepening economic ties and revisiting defence cooperation, raising matters such as a prospective Boeing purchase, Türkiye's potential reintegration into the F-35



(Tur Presidency/ Murat Cetinmuhurdar - Anadolu Agency)

program, and the lifting of CAATSA sanctions that have strained relations between Ankara and Washington.

On the multilateral front, Erdoğan also addressed climate policy at the UN Climate Summit, reaffirming Türkiye's 2053 net-zero emissions pledge. He presented it not only as a national goal but also as part of a broader contribution to the international fight against climate change. By linking Türkiye's domestic sustainability agenda with global initiatives, Erdoğan sought to frame Ankara as a proactive stakeholder in shaping solutions to one of the most pressing challenges of the century. This messaging complemented his broader diplomatic push in New York, where Türkiye worked to highlight its role as both a regional power broker and a responsible global actor.

Meanwhile, First Lady and UN Zero Waste Advisory Board Chair Emine Erdoğan inaugurated the "Zero Waste Blue—Drop by Drop" exhibition in New York, drawing attention to the global water crisis in her address. She also participated in the event "Better Together: Global Solidarity Starting from the Family," where she called for the establishment of a dedicated UN unit focused on strengthening families.

The week's agenda underscored the breadth of Türkiye's diplomatic engagement in the U.S.—stretching from high-stakes geopolitical negotiations to cultural initiatives and pressing global challenges.

CHP Holds Another Extraordinary Congress Amid Legal Uncertainty

The Republican People's Party (CHP) convened an extraordinary congress last Sunday, reflecting an effort to safeguard the legitimacy of its current leadership. The move comes against the backdrop of an ongoing legal case concerning the party's 38th Ordinary Congress, in which opposition delegates alleged procedural irregularities and demanded annulment. Such an outcome could have paved the way for former chairman Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu's return to the helm, an ambition his circle had been signalling. With the court postponing the hearing to October 24 and requesting official records from Sunday's congress, many observers interpret the latest gathering as a legal shield that strengthens the current leadership's position.

Notably, Kılıçdaroğlu and his close allies chose not to attend the congress, a decision that has fuelled speculation about the waning influence of the former leader within the party. Analysts argue that his absence underscores a gradual weakening of the faction still loyal to him, further consolidating the authority of the current leadership. The congress thus served not only a legal purpose but also carried strong symbolic weight in illustrating the shifting dynamics within the CHP.



(Güven Yılmaz - Anadolu Agency)

The party's legal battles have also extended to its Istanbul provincial branch. A court had appointed a delegation to organise a new congress, but the existing leadership went ahead with its own schedule. When the court validated that decision, the Istanbul congress was held on Wednesday, resulting in the re-election of Özgür Çelik as the sole candidate. After having been temporarily removed, his return to the post indicated a restoration of stability in the city's organisation and reflected the broader effort within the CHP to resolve disputes and consolidate its ranks.

Highlights

- Türkiye and Egypt are conducting a joint maritime exercise in the eastern Mediterranean. This move is viewed as a significant step for both Mediterranean security and the development of bilateral relations between the two countries.
- Spain to purchase 45 Turkish Hurjet jets in €3.5B defence deal. The country will acquire these advanced trainer aircraft from Türkiye's Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI), up from the previously announced 25–30, according to government financing documents in Spain's Official Gazette.
- 13 employees of Ankara Metropolitan Municipality were taken into custody over allegations that they caused public loss through financial irregularities in organised concerts.

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