

In this week's *Türkiye in Focus*:

- Parliament has begun debating the draft legislation underpinning the "Terror-Free Türkiye" initiative, a measure that the government sees as a key step towards completing the PKK's dissolution.
- Justice ministry steps up efforts to reopen high-profile cold cases.
- Trabzonspor's Signing of Egyptian Star Dominates the National Conversation.

A Legislative Framework for the Final Phase of Terror-Free Türkiye Process

The next phase of the "Terror-Free Türkiye" initiative has moved to Parliament, where lawmakers are expected to consider a 12-article bill establishing the legal framework for the PKK's disbandment.

Under the proposed provisions, sentence postponements will be introduced for individuals involved in PKK activities, with two key exceptions: those convicted of intentional homicide and those sentenced to life or aggravated life imprisonment before 1 June 2005. This framework serves a dual function. On one hand, it creates a viable legal pathway for members of the dissolving organisation to lay down arms and return to Türkiye; on the other, it explicitly excludes high-profile leadership figures, most notably Abdullah Öcalan, thereby preventing outcomes that could trigger public outcry.

The political backing for the proposed bill reflects a broad cross-party consensus within Parliament, with the İYİ Party standing as the sole notable exception. This widespread legislative support is significant, as it allows a historically delicate security issue to be addressed through national dialogue rather than partisan division. With the operational and organisational dissolution of the PKK approaching its final stages, the coming period is expected to shift the focus

towards broader political and social developments regarding the Kurdish issue, conducted outside the influence of armed conflict.

Beyond its domestic significance, the initiative could have wider regional consequences. If it succeeds in establishing a more durable framework for relations between the Turkish state and Kurdish communities, it may contribute to greater regional stability while reducing one of Ankara's most persistent security challenges. Such an outcome would free political and institutional capacity for other domestic reforms and foreign policy priorities.



(TBMM - Anadolu Agency)

The Justice Minister's Meeting with the Mumcu Family



(Adalet Bakanlığı - Anadolu Agency)

The family of Uğur Mumcu, the journalist killed in a car bombing in January 1993, recently met with the Minister of Justice to discuss the current status of the investigation file. Since taking office, the Minister has paid close attention to several previously neglected murder cases, drawing regular public interest.

The inclusion of the Mumcu file in this process carries significance not only for judicial procedures but also within a broader political context. The 1990s in Türkiye were marked by rapid shifts in political dynamics, rising social events, and several unsolved murders, with Mumcu's case being one of the prominent examples from that period. Although Mumcu held left-secular views, his investigative work covered a wide range of political and financial topics. Following his death, various interest groups, armed organisations, and intelligence agencies were considered potential suspects. However,

during the early 2000s, when pressure on religious groups in Türkiye was high, several well-known conservative figures were charged and convicted of leading or belonging to illegal organisations related to the case. Over time, the evidence linking these individuals to the murder proved unconvincing, leading to criticism that the case was used to pressure a specific social group, leaving the murder among the key unresolved cases of the era.

The Minister's direct engagement with this case points to two notable considerations regarding the executive's current approach. First, by addressing a murder case that holds significant value for the left-secular segment of society, the government aims to present an image of neutrality and fairness in its legal oversight. Moving forward on a case of this nature allows the administration to signal that legal processes apply equally regardless of political orientation. Second, this step suggests that the Ministry is not focusing solely on recent legal matters, but is also keeping complex historical crimes with political backgrounds on its operational agenda.

Whether this meeting will lead to tangible progress in the legal proceedings remains to be seen in the coming months. Re-evaluating older files with political aspects involves standard legal difficulties and procedural challenges. Nevertheless, opening a clear channel of communication between the Ministry and the Mumcu family provides a practical platform for assessing the file. If pursued with consistency, it offers a constructive approach to handling long-standing cases and maintaining confidence in the judicial process across different sections of society.

Trabzonspor's Signing of Mohamed Salah Draws Broad Attention

Football remains undeniably the most popular sport in Türkiye, engaging large segments of the population throughout the year, even when major sporting triumphs remain out of reach. During the summer months, public interest naturally shifts towards the transfer market, where supporters across the country closely monitor roster changes, debating their respective clubs' moves with considerable enthusiasm. This summer, one particular transfer narrative dominated headlines nationwide. Following initial reports suggesting that Egyptian star Mohamed Salah was in discussions with Beşiktaş, Trabzonspor completed a surprising and swift move last week, officially securing the high-profile attacker and bringing him to Trabzon.

The transfer holds distinct significance given Trabzonspor's unique positioning within Turkish football culture. As the flagship club of the Black Sea coastal city of Trabzon, Trabzonspor stands as the sole Anatolian club to have historically broken the decades-long dominance of Istanbul's traditional three major teams in the Süper Lig, consistently maintaining its position as a title contender. Deeply intertwined with the local identity of its home region, the club enjoys a uniquely strong bond with its local fan base.



(Hakan Burak Altunöz - Anadolu Agency)

Beyond its athletic impact, Salah's arrival sparked widespread celebrations across Trabzon, accompanied by creative social media activity from local supporters. Historically, Trabzonspor's ability to challenge the Istanbul clubs has also been embraced across many other parts of Anatolia as a light-hearted symbol of broader social rivalry. Ultimately, the event not only marks a major transfer move within Turkish football, but also highlights the vibrant and distinctive football culture associated with the city of Trabzon on both a national and international stage.

Highlights

- Decade-long search ends with arrest of final fugitive from the 37-member assassination squad targeting President Erdoğan during the 15 July 2016 coup. The culprit, a dismissed army captain and former helicopter pilot, was apprehended in Afyonkarahisar.
- The Supreme Military Council, chaired by President Erdoğan, approved a new round of promotions and retirements. Among the appointments, Özlem Karapınar became the first woman to attain the rank of general in the Turkish Armed Forces.
- Türkiye's indigenous KAAN fighter aircraft reached another development milestone by completing its first taxi test. Test flights are expected to continue as the programme advances towards its planned 2028 timeline.

Recent Publications by TRT World Research Centre

- [AI and the Politics of Humanitarian Prediction](#) Policy Outlook by Kübra Aktaş



Send us leads and feedback at:
turkiyeinfofocus@gmail.com