

In this week’s *Türkiye in Focus*;

- Two consecutive school attacks have ignited a wide range of intense societal debates across the country.
- Ankara has welcomed the appointment of a Turkmen governor in Kirkuk—the first in a century—viewing it as a step toward greater inclusivity, fair representation, and social stability in the province.
- The case of Gülistan Doku has expanded to include high-ranking officials, including a former governor.

Two Consecutive School Attacks Spark a Series of Societal Debates



(Sinan Doruk - Anadolu Agency)

The recent wave of school shootings began in Şanlıurfa, where a nineteen-year-old former student caused sixteen injuries and then died by suicide. Shortly afterwards, a separate and deadlier attack took place in Kahramanmaraş, with the fourteen-year-old son of a police chief using his father’s weapons to kill ten people and wound thirteen others. These consecutive incidents have generated widespread distress across Türkiye, leading to a national debate on youth violence, educational safety, and the psychological well-being of students.

In response to public outcry, President Erdoğan emphasised that the issue requires a multidimensional approach. This involves family structures, social circles, school environments, and digital exposure. The government’s perspective suggests that institutional intervention capacity must be strengthened. A more rigorous analysis of media content is also needed. In Türkiye, this debate has shifted the focus to poor intergenerational communication and the ease with which young people can access harmful online material. Meanwhile, there is a growing consensus that mental health support in education must be prioritised to identify at-risk individuals before crises manifest.

While the attacks involved firearms, the political discourse in Türkiye remains distinct from similar international debates due to the country’s already stringent gun control regulations. There appears to be a general consensus among political actors regarding the sufficiency of current ownership laws; instead, the scrutiny is directed at the enforcement of storage safety and the broader socio-cultural triggers of violence. The current analytical trend suggests that Türkiye views these events not merely as security breaches but as a complex societal challenge that requires a holistic approach to address the factors driving radicalisation and domestic instability among youth.

Appointment of a Governor to Kirkuk After 100 Years Welcomed by Ankara

The appointment of a Turkmen governor in Kirkuk after a century is a significant shift in the region. Ankara responded with approval. The Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: “The election of a Turkmen Governor for Kirkuk, which has a culturally diverse and pluralistic structure, is a very important and historic development in terms of inclusiveness, justice in representation, and the reinforcement of social peace.” This change is not just symbolic. It reflects Türkiye’s aim for stability through balanced representation.

Analysts link this change to several regional factors. Iran’s influence in Iraq is reportedly receding. This trend motivates the Baghdad administration and other local actors to improve ties with Ankara. Simultaneously, within the framework of the “terror-free Türkiye” process, relations between Ankara and the PUK in northern Iraq have stabilised. The PUK reportedly gave the green light to the appointment of a Turkmen governor. This suggests a shift toward pragmatic, inclusive governance rather than traditional ethnic competition.

Turkmen communities play a central role in Türkiye’s strategy



(Ali Makram Ghareeb - Anadolu Agency)

for Iraq and northern Syria. The Syrian Turkmen Assembly recently met in İstanbul, highlighting Türkiye’s support. Ankara promotes a “harmonic society” model for regional security. This model preserves multiculturalism rather than dismantling it. The new Kirkuk administration shows Ankara’s expanding diplomatic reach and its preference for stability and order.

Former Tunceli Governor Tuncay Sonel Arrested



(Hilmi Tunahan Karakaya - Anadolu Agency)

The investigation into Gülistan Doku’s disappearance in Tunceli six years ago has taken a significant turn after a series of high-profile arrests. The newly appointed Interior Minister,

Mustafa Çiftçi, ordered the probe to extend to the former Governor of Tunceli. This move aims to address long-standing suspicions of a cover-up. Justice Minister Akın Gürlek, also newly appointed, supported this direction, saying, “Cases that create sensitivity in society are being re-examined.” The mention of other well-known victim cases in his remarks has received widespread approval across Türkiye.

These judicial steps aim to address grievances that have strained the collective conscience. Beyond the Doku case, investigations into narcotics, municipal corruption, and corporate irregularities have increased. Pursuing influential figures and former state officials shows an effort to restore institutional integrity. By prioritising these cases, the government appears to be engaged in a domestic “cleansing” process. This approach targets systemic irregularities and reinforces the rule of law through newly appointed ministers.

Highlights

- The central bank kept the policy interest rate unchanged at 37% in its April rate decision.
- Minister of Treasury and Finance Mehmet Şimşek emphasised that, although regional developments have a negative impact on inflation, there has been no change in the downward inflationary trend.
- Türkiye delivered 360 tons of humanitarian aid to Lebanon, and officials stated that the aid will continue.

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No Edition for the Next Week

Please be informed that there won’t be an edition of *Türkiye in Focus* next week, as we take a short break. We’ll be back afterwards with fresh perspectives and updates on the latest developments in Türkiye. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.