



Notification to the Government of Türkiye of case brought by Ekrem İmamoğlu

The European Court of Human Rights has given notice¹ to the Government of Türkiye of the application **İmamoğlu v. Türkiye** (application no. 37204/25).

The case concerns Ekrem İmamoğlu's pre-trial detention on suspicion of establishing and leading a criminal organisation, accepting bribes, interfering with public tenders and unlawfully obtaining personal data.

A [statement of facts](#) submitted to the parties, with questions from the Court, is available in English on the Court's website.

Notification of a case is a stage in the Court's proceedings when a Government is informed that an application against it is pending and that the Court is requesting more information. The Court does not take up cases or issues by itself; it examines possible human-rights violations when people or States submit a complaint to it. Notification (often referred to as "communication") does not mean that a case is admissible or that there has been a violation of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court's ruling in the case is made at a later stage.

The applicant is a well-known Turkish politician, who was born in 1970 and is currently detained in Istanbul. He is a member of the main opposition party, namely the Republican People's Party (*Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi*). He was elected Mayor of Istanbul in the local elections held in 2019 and was re-elected in 2024. While serving his second term of office as Mayor, he was designated as a candidate in the next presidential elections.

On 19 March 2025, in the context of a criminal investigation, Mr İmamoğlu's residence was searched and he was taken into police custody. Subsequently, a confidentiality order was imposed on the investigation file. On 23 March 2025 his pre-trial detention on charges of establishing and leading a criminal organisation, accepting bribes, interfering with public tenders and unlawfully obtaining personal data was ordered.

Mr İmamoğlu's various objections against the pre-trial detention order and the continuation of his detention were all dismissed in turn. His objection to the confidentiality order is still pending, as is an individual application with the Turkish Constitutional Court, lodged on 13 May 2025, raising substantially the same complaints as those submitted in this application.

The application with the European Court of Human Rights was lodged on 10 November 2025.

Relying on Article 5 §§ 1 (c), 3 and 4 of the European Convention (right to liberty and security/right to have lawfulness of detention decided speedily by a court), Mr İmamoğlu argues that there can be no evidence in the case file for the charges against him, and brings a number of complaints about his pre-trial detention, the restrictions on access to the investigation file and what he alleges to be a lack of effective judicial review. Relying on Article 18 (limitation on use of restrictions on rights) of the Convention, as well as on Article 3 of Protocol No. 1 (right to free elections) to the Convention, he also alleges that he was placed in pre-trial detention for political purposes after having announced his candidacy for the presidential elections, and that his pre-trial detention and the institution of criminal

¹ Under Rule 54 § 2 (b) of the Rules of Court: "the Chamber or the President of the Section may decide to give notice of the application or part of the application to the respondent Contracting Party and invite that Party to submit written observations thereon and, upon receipt thereof, invite the applicant to submit observations in reply."

proceedings against him prevented him from actively campaigning for those elections, placing him at a disadvantage.

On 23 March 2026 the Government of Türkiye were given notice of the application, with questions from the Court. The [statement of facts](#) submitted to the Government is available in English on the Court's Internet site.

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Press contacts

echrpress@echr.coe.int | tel: +33 3 90 21 42 08

We are happy to receive journalists' enquiries via either email or telephone.

Jane Swift (tel: + 33 3 88 41 29 04)

Tracey Turner-Tretz (tel: + 33 3 88 41 35 30)

Denis Lambert (tel: + 33 3 90 21 41 09)

Inci Ertekin (tel: + 33 3 90 21 55 30)

Claire Windsor (tel: + 33 3 88 41 24 01)

The European Court of Human Rights was set up in Strasbourg by the Council of Europe member States in 1959 to deal with alleged violations of the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights.