

A Political Crisis Escalates in Türkiye!

(Translated)

Al-Rayah Newspaper - Issue 603 - 10/06/2026

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Türkiye has recently been experiencing one of its most turbulent political periods, following unprecedented legal developments targeting the leadership of the largest opposition party, and the subsequent rapid repercussions in the financial markets. The political conflict has shifted from the corridors of parliament and local elections to the courts, a move considered by observers to be a turning point in the nature of political competition within the country. Coinciding with economic measures aimed at reassuring foreign investors, widespread questions have arisen regarding the future of politics and the economy in Türkiye, and the limits of the relationship between the judiciary and politics at a time of escalating tensions ahead of the upcoming elections.

What is happening in Türkiye now is one of the most serious political crises in years, because it not only involves the arrest of opposition mayors, but has also reached the heart of the largest opposition party, the Republican People's Party (CHP).

Court rulings in Ankara effectively nullified the results of the party congress that brought Özgür Özel to the party leadership in 2023, temporarily reinstating the previous leadership under Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, according to Al-Araby Al-Jadeed (The New Arab) news outlet on May 22, 2026.

Officially, the case revolves around accusations of bribery and irregularities in internal party elections. However, the opposition views the matter as purely political, arguing that the government is using the judiciary to reshape the opposition after the party's significant losses in the 2024 municipal elections, particularly following the rise of Ekrem İmamoğlu and his subsequent arrest. The opposition believes that what is happening is not merely a legal investigation, but a political manipulation of the judiciary aimed at weakening the party by challenging the legitimacy of its leadership—an attempt by the state to dismantle the opposition before the upcoming elections.

The government and the judiciary, however, maintain their commitment to judicial independence and freedom from political interference, asserting that the cases pertain to corruption charges, administrative violations, and internal financing within municipalities or the party. The government adds that no political party is above the law, even opposition parties. The timing of opening and expanding these files at a moment of rising opposition is noteworthy. Furthermore, in a country like Türkiye, the judiciary is not entirely separate from the political context, nor is it a purely political tool. Instead, the judiciary operates in a gray area. Even if the primary objective is not political, the political outcome is clear: weakening the opposition, discrediting its leadership, and creating instability within it.

This upheaval at this particular time will inevitably have consequences, including:

1- Domestically, sharp political polarization; we will witness increased divisions between supporters of the government and the opposition, and a loss of confidence in the independence of the judiciary among a segment of society, which could lead to an escalation of political protests or social unrest in the near future.

2- The potential for internal division within the Republican People's Party (CHP); a conflict may arise between the old and new leadership, thus weakening its readiness for the upcoming elections.

3- Economically: The Istanbul Stock Exchange was affected by a decline of approximately 6%, bank stocks came under severe pressure, and the government attempted to support the Turkish lira. The Turkish Minister of Economy appeared in London acutely sensitive to investors' concerns, as the government attempts to reassure foreign investors that economic policy will remain unchanged, the central bank will continue its monetary tightening, and there will be no financial collapse despite the political turmoil. Unfortunately, the markets are already suffering from high inflation, a depreciating lira, and other economic crises.

The debate between the judiciary and politics remains open, one of the most sensitive issues. Domestic and international interpretations of the independence of judicial institutions from political pressures vary, and the line between law and politics has become blurred, especially when judicial proceedings coincide with electoral shifts.

The country is experiencing sharp polarization between the ruling and opposition camps, and what is happening may be a legal readjustment of the political landscape, or the beginning of a new phase of reshaping the balance of power, before the upcoming elections.

This is what capitalism has produced in Türkiye, a Muslim country: division over secular law and a struggle for control and influence. Yet, the guardianship of the affairs of the Ummah must not generate a power struggle in the first place. Instead, public office must be a responsibility, not a coveted prestige. Unfortunately, we, as Muslims, possess a complete divinely revealed Shariah Law in our way of life, yet we cling to Western laws that only increase our weakness!

O people of Türkiye, overcome all obstacles that prevent the resumption of the Islamic way of life and return to the era of the Khilafah (Caliphate), for in it lies our glory, and in it lies our salvation in this world and the hereafter. The heroes of Türkiye are capable of turning the tables towards a new era that pleases Allah (swt) and His Messenger (saw). Allah (swt) says, ﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن تَنصُرُوا اللَّهَ يَنْصُرْكُمْ وَيُثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَكُمْ﴾ “**O you who have believed, if you support Allah, He will support you and make your foothold firm**” [TMQ Surah Muhammad: 47].