Turkey 2023 General Election

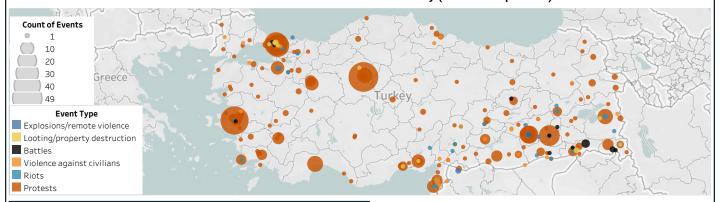
Source: ACLED (Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project)



Presidential and parliamentary elections will be held in Turkey on 14 May 2023. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his Justice and Development Party (AKP) face the stiffest challenge yet from a six-opposition party coalition. If defeated, Erdoğan is unlikely to leave without a fight, leading to speculation of a renewed assault on press freedom and a tense security situation ahead of the elections.

Around the elections, security will be elevated in major cities and Kurdish areas in the southeast. There is a heightened risk of attacks from the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) or Islamic State, which the government will use to restrict movement in some areas. The intense political competition raises the risk for political unrest during the election period.

Political Disorder and Demonstrations in Turkey (1 Jan - 14 Apr 2023)



Journalists Safety

Data from 1 Jan 2018 to 14 Apr 2023 show that journalists have mainly been affected by violence while covering protests.

Protest with intervention

Attack

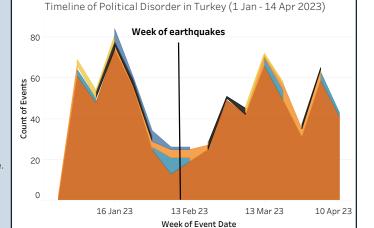
Mob violence

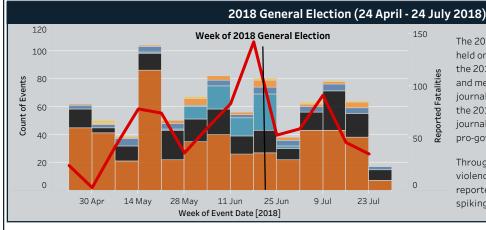
Excessive force against protesters

Looting/property destruction

Safety Tips

- $\,>\,$ Ensure you have the correct accreditation/press identification.
- > Have robust communications plan and necessary PPE.
- > Have an escape strategy and fallback location if a situation turns hostile.
- > Have a contingency plan in case of arrest/detention.
- > Avoid wearing any clothing with a political slogan or message.
- > Don't engage with hostile crowd or security forces where possible; stop taking pictures/filming.





The 2018 presidential and parliamentary elections were held on 24 June under a state of emergency, following the 2016 failed coup. Political campaigning, protests and media reporting was restricted, and several journalists have faced legal prosecution. At the time of the 2018 election, Turkey was the biggest jailor of journalists and 90% of the media was considered pro-government.

Throughout the election period, incidents of political violence involving the PKK were high with the number of reported fatalities (see red line in the chart to the left) spiking in June prior to election day.

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