

Constitutional court rejects presidential candidate's release

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Constitutional Court has rejected pro-peace Peoples' Democratic Party's (HDP) imprisoned presidential candidate Selahattin Demirtas's request for release.

The request for Demirtas's release was rejected by Ankara 19th Heavy Penal Court on May 21.

Demirtas's lawyers took the case to the upper court, Ankara 20th Heavy Penal Court but the request was rejected again on May 24 and upon the rejection, lawyers appealed to the Constitutional Court on May 29.

In the individual application petition, it was stressed that Demirtas has been behind bars since November 4, 2016, and asserted that the detention is a gross violation of the applicant's right to elect and be elected.

In the petition where Constitutional Court's verdict of "rights violation" of main opposition party Republican People's Party (CHP) Izmir MP Mustafa Balbay in 2013,

it was advocated that Demirtas's detention will cast doubt on the legitimacy of presidential election considering that the other five candidates make use of all sorts of propaganda means, and it was demanded that Demirtas be released.