# Protests escalate in Turkey following mayor's arrest



Viewers of BBC Breakfast were presented with a significant news alert on Sunday, March 23, as presenter Emily Wither reported an urgent update on political developments in Turkey. The broadcast, hosted by Ben Thompson and Luxmy Gopal, provided viewers with the day's main stories as Sarah Keith-Lucas delivered weather updates and Gavin Ramjaun covered sports developments.

During the scheduled programming, Luxmy Gopal addressed the escalating protests in Turkey, which erupted following the arrest of Istanbul's mayor, Ekrem Imamoglu, on Wednesday. These demonstrations have marked a notable resurgence of public dissent in Turkey, being the largest seen in over a decade.

"Protests have continued in Turkey for a fourth night, following the arrest of the Mayor of Istanbul, who's seen as the main political rival to President Erdogan," Luxmy reported during the segment.

Continuing her coverage, she detailed Imamoğlu's charges, stating, "Ekrem Imamoglu was detained on Wednesday on corruption and terror charges. He was expected to be announced as a candidate in the next Presidential election in three years time." Luxmy then transitioned to Emily Wither, who reported live from Istanbul.

In a breaking news update, Wither announced crucial developments regarding Imamoglu's legal situation, noting, "I’ll just bring you some breaking news that we’ve had in the last couple of minutes while I’ve been waiting to come on air, which I think will mean that we’re going to see these protests grow a lot larger now." She revealed that the Istanbul mayor had been imprisoned pending trial, a decision that could significantly intensify the ongoing demonstrations.

"The detained mayor of Istanbul, Ekrem Imamoglu, has just been jailed pending a trial," Wither explained. She further elaborated on the serious nature of the allegations, citing Imamoglu's own characterisation of the charges as "unimaginable accusations and slander."

Wither indicated that Imamoglu's detention, which began on Wednesday, was the result of a lengthy questioning process, and she noted that tensions were palpable as the public awaited the outcome of the legal proceedings.

Back in the studio, Gopal summarised the breaking news, stating, "Just to reiterate, the Mayor of Istanbul, who's at the centre of these demonstrations in Turkey, he has just been jailed. That’s breaking news that’s come through from our reporter in Istanbul."

Imamoglu's incarceration is widely perceived as a politically motivated strategy to undermine a prominent contender ahead of the presidential elections scheduled for 2028. While he remains detained, his political party, the Republican People's Party (CHP), is advancing its primary election process. The CHP aims to nominate Imamoglu as its candidate, bolstered by the establishment of "solidarity boxes" throughout the country, which allow supporters to demonstrate their backing for the jailed mayor.

BBC Breakfast, a daily programme airing at 6 am on BBC One, continues to cover the evolving situation in Turkey, amidst a backdrop of heightened civil unrest and political manoeuvring.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025_Turkish_protests> - This link corroborates the protests in Turkey following the arrest of Istanbul's Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu and provides details on the ongoing demonstrations and their causes.
* <https://news.sky.com/story/fourth-night-of-protests-turkey-after-arrest-of-key-opposition-figure-and-challenger-to-president-erdogan-13333798> - This article confirms the continued protests across Turkey, Imamoglu's questioning over corruption and terror allegations, and the perceptions that his detention is politically motivated.
* <https://noahwire.com> - This source likely provides the original context for the article about BBC Breakfast's coverage of the Turkish protests, although specific details of the broadcast are not available from this URL.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcone/programmes/b006p2z8> - This URL would typically contain information about BBC Breakfast, a daily program that covered the developments in Turkey, but actual details on the specific broadcast are not directly available here.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-65181756> - The BBC's coverage often includes reports on significant international events like the Turkish protests. This URL might provide relevant news articles, although it is not directly linked to the article in question.