

December 2019

December 24 is the next hearing in the so-called [Gezi trial](#), in which 16 Turkish citizens—including a philanthropist and actors, journalists, and civic activists—are preposterously accused of attempting a violent government overthrow by organizing nationwide protests against Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in 2013. The case revolves around the fanciful claim that lead defendant Osman Kavala planned and led the 2013 Gezi Park protests in a Western-supported conspiracy with the other defendants.

The unjust trial, which began in June 2019, is part of Erdoğan's ongoing campaign to criminalize peaceful civic activism, to crush independent civil society, and to demonize his domestic opposition as puppets of the West. As "proof" of the alleged crime, which carries a life sentence, the 657-page indictment presents a data dump of financial records, media coverage, photographs, and telephone transcripts. But, as a recent European Court of Human Rights ruling [notes](#), the indictment lacks "facts, information or evidence" linking any of this to a plot to topple the government—let alone to criminal activity of any kind.

10 ACTIVITIES THE INDICTMENT ABSURDLY LISTS AS "PROOF" OF A PLOT TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT:

1. TRAVELING ABROAD

The indictment includes receipts for plane tickets for a defendant's 2012 travel to Belgium, Germany, and the United States.

2. STAYING HOME

The indictment alleges that one of the defendants "did not leave his home" during part of the protests.

3. BEING ASKED ABOUT GEZI BY EUROPEANS

The indictment references phone transcripts in which a defendant mentions to friends that Europeans asked him about the Gezi protests.

4. TALKING ABOUT A PHOTO EXHIBIT

The indictment presents phone conversations between two of the defendants about a photography exhibit on the protests.

5. EXPLORING THE POSSIBLE CREATION OF A MEDIA CHANNEL

The indictment publishes phone transcripts of one of the defendants talking with Turkish journalists about establishing a television channel.

6. PERFORMING A PLAY

The indictment mentions a play about a fictional dictatorship, in which three of the defendants participated in 2012.

7. DISCUSSING A POTENTIAL DOCUMENTARY FILM

The indictment states that one of the defendants showed 15 minutes of video footage of the Gezi events to a European filmmaker.

8. ORGANIZING DISCUSSION FORUMS

The indictment details two defendants' efforts to organize forums on peaceful activism during the Gezi protests.

9. SUPPORTING LGBTQ GROUPS

The indictment lists Turkish foundation grants to local LGBTQ organizations.

10. PROVIDING FIRST-AID

The indictment displays surveillance images purportedly showing one of the defendants giving first-aid kits to three protestors in September 2013.

TOP 10 "SUSPICIOUS" ACTIVITIES

