

# Despite court verdict, YouTube remains blocked

ANKARA, TURKEY: Popular video-sharing site YouTube remained blocked in Turkey over the weekend despite the country's top court ruling that the blanket ban contravened the right to free speech.



Despite a ban on YouTube being lifted by Turkey's courts, the ban remained in force as Turkish Transportation Minister Lutfi Elvan has failed to lift it yet. Image: [Net Gazette](#)

Turkey's constitutional court ruled last week that the ban on YouTube violated individual rights and freedoms, clearing the way for access to the service to be revived following a two-month ban.

Transportation Minister Lutfi Elvan, who is also in charge of communications, said the court decision had not yet reached the relevant government agencies.

"What is needed will be done after the decision reaches the country's telecommunications authority," he was quoted as telling local media.

A government official said this week that access to YouTube would be restored once government agencies were informed of the court verdict.

YouTube has been banned in Turkey since March after the site was used to leak a top-secret security meeting, which featured top government, military and intelligence officials discussing war scenarios inside neighbouring Syria.

The government scrapped a similar ban on Twitter which was blocked in March after it had been used to spread a spate of anonymous leaks implicating Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his key allies in corruption.

The Internet bans ahead of March local elections, in which Erdogan's ruling party won decisively, have been criticised as a step backwards for Turkey's democracy.

Source: AFP via I-Net Bridge

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