

Turkey Parliament approves extending state of emergency by another three months

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Ankara (Turkey): Turkey's Parliament on Tuesday approved a government-backed motion to extend by another three months the state of emergency.

File pic - President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

The emergency was imposed in the wake of the July 15 failed coup against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The state of emergency "which has seen tens of thousands lose their jobs or be arrested on suspicion of links to the putsch" had already been prolonged once before and was due to expire on January 19.

Ankara said that the state of emergency is needed to eradicate the influence in Turkish institutions of the US-based Islamic preacher Fethullah Gulen, who it blames for the failed coup. Gulen has, however, denied the charges.

According to the latest figures published by the state-run Anadolu news agency, over 41,000 people have been arrested over suspected links to Gulen in the investigation.

The state of emergency gives the government special powers to fire state employees and close down associations, including media groups. It also extends the time that suspects can be held in jail without being charged.

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