PUBLICATION / EN

Abdullah Alp Ustyun: how ‘Don Vito’ was returned from the UAE to Turkey and what remains in the criminal case

Published 04.11.2026 · Updated 04.11.2026

The Turkish police have officially announced the return of Abdullah Alp Ustyun from the UAE. The story of the man nicknamed ‘Don Vito’ is interesting in that it illustrates how an international manhunt turns into a specific procedure of arrest and extradition – and what questions remain unanswered afterwards.

An active link to the original is required when reusing materials



Editorial illustration by ‘Kartel Khimprom’ based on a published photograph of Abdullah Alp Ustyun. The background and composition were created using AI; this is not a documentary photograph of the event.

The Turkish police have officially announced the return of Abdullah Alp Ustyun from the UAE. The story of the man nicknamed ‘Don Vito’ is interesting in that it illustrates how an international manhunt turns into a specific procedure of arrest and extradition – and what questions remain unanswered afterwards.

Key points in the case

Background	Details
Name in sources	Abdullah Alp Üstün
The region involved and international links	Turkey; UAE
Status based on verified reports	Arrested in the UAE and returned to Turkey on 11 October 2025; the outcome of the criminal case is unknown

An active link to the original is required when reusing materials
kartel-khimprom.com / EN

What is officially known about Abdullah Alp Ustyun

The Turkish Anti-Drug Crime Directorate has reported the arrest of individuals wanted in the UAE and their transfer to Turkey. In a report from October 2025, Ustyun is described as a suspect in a case involving an alleged criminal organisation and drug-related activities. [1][2]

Several individuals are named in a single report. Their roles must be distinguished: the fact of joint extradition does not imply identical charges and does not allow one suspect to be automatically attributed the financial offences of another.



Abdullah Alp Ustyun is the signed figure on the left in the original illustration from Yeni Bakış. On the right are other figures from the illustration and a still from the handover.

The suspect's file

> **Abdullah Alp Ustyun**
>
> Abdullah Alp Ustyun, known as Don Vito, is a defendant in a Turkish case concerning the alleged leadership of a criminal organisation and drug trafficking. The Turkish anti-narcotics police officially announced his arrest in the UAE and his return to Turkey in October 2025.

From a Red Notice to extradition

An international arrest warrant preceded Ustyun’s return. Following confirmation of his delivery, the correct point of reference is the handover to the Turkish authorities on 11 October 2025. Older records of the search in the Emirates cannot be taken as an up-to-date account of this stage. [1][2]

From an editorial perspective, this is an important distinction. An alert addresses the need to locate an individual. A report on extradition concerns international cooperation. A court hearing then determines which charges will stand. None of these stages replaces the others.

Why the nickname ‘Don Vito’ says little about the evidence

The striking nickname makes the story recognisable, but does not reveal the structure of the alleged group. For a substantive follow-up, individual details are needed: leadership structures, specific instructions, financial links and the nature of the charges. The brief official statement contains neither a detailed biography nor a complete picture of the evidence.

This is precisely why the article does not include a fabricated list of countries of operation and shipment volumes. The UAE–Turkey route merely confirms the repatriation procedure; it does not in itself prove the international route of every alleged consignment.

Which photograph was used and what to look for next

The Yeni Bakış publication features a captioned portrait of Abdullah Alp Üstün in a composite illustration. In the original image, his name appears beneath the portrait on the left. It is this caption, rather than any visual resemblance to other people, that serves as the basis for attributing the photograph to him. [3]

Neither a subsequent final sentence nor the current pre-trial detention order has been established in the sources consulted. The key document for the reader is the individual ruling by the Turkish court, which allows one to trace the developments following his extradition from the UAE.

Timeline of key events

Date	Event

An active link to the original is required when reusing materials

11.10.2025	Official statement on the return of wanted persons from the UAE.

Frequently asked questions

When was Ustyun returned to Turkey?

The official statement regarding his transfer from the UAE specifies 11 October 2025. [1][2]

Can extradition be regarded as a guilty verdict?

No. Extradition and the subsequent consideration of criminal charges are different procedural stages.

Other international cases in the archive

- Hakan Ayık
- Barış Boyun

This article was compiled on 4 November 2026 based on the publications listed. Allegations and suspicions are attributed to their sources; the final determination of guilt is a matter for the court.

Sources and documents

1. Narkotik Suçlarla Mücadele Başkanlığı — official statement on his return from the UAE
2. Anadolu – Minister’s statement on the arrest and transfer to Turkey, 11 October 2025
3. Yeni Bakış — a publication featuring a captioned portrait of Abdullah Alp Üstün

Sources

1. Narkotik Suçlarla Mücadele Başkanlığı — official statement on his return from the UAE
   https://www.narkotik.pol.tr/kirmizi-bultenle-aranan-sahislarin-ulkemize-iadeleri-saglandi
2. Anadolu – Minister’s statement on the arrest and transfer to Turkey, 11 October 2025
   https://f.aa.com.tr/tr/gundem/bakan-yerlikaya-uyusturucu-baronu-ile-suc-orgutu-uyesinin-baede-yakalanarak-turkiyeye-getirildigini-duyurdu/3714168

An active link to the original is required when reusing materials

3. Yeni Bakış — a publication featuring a captioned portrait of Abdullah Alp Üstün
   https://www.yenibakishaber.com/don-vito-lakapli-uyusturucu-baronu-abdullah-alp-ustun-kimdir

Use of materials

An active link to the original publication is required when using these materials.

Original publication

https://kartel-khimprom.com/en/article/abdullah-alp-ustyun-how-don-vito-was-returned-from-the-uae-to-turkey-and-what-remains-in-the-criminal-case/